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TCJGA begins 20th season More than 600 golfers take part

The Traverse City Junior Golf Association (TCJGA) is entering its 20th season of instruction and tournament play.

More than 600 juniors participated in 2002. Most of the players come from northwestern Michigan.

The association helps young golfers 5-over develop their game, learn etiquette and gain self-confidence while playing and practicing on some of the finest golf courses in the state.

The TCJGA has seven divisions of competition: 1) Instructional Tournament Program (for players 14-under who are not ready for nine-hole tournament competition); 2) Division I (nine-hole tournaments for boys and girls 11-under); 3) Division II (nine-hole tournaments for boys and girls 13-under); 4) Division III (nine-hole tournaments for boys and girls 16-under); 5) Tour Division (18-hole tournaments for boys and girls 18-under); 6) Northern Michigan Junior Tour (highly competitive 18-hole division for elite golfers 18-under); 7) Collegiate Division.

The TCJGA has scheduled 54 junior tournaments in the various divisions this summer. Within each division, there will be age level competition. Players will accumulate points for their order of finish in each tournament. Points will be totaled and awards presented at the end of the season.

The Instructional Tournament Division will be held at Bay Meadows, starting June 18. Division I play begins June 17 at Interlochen while Division II and Division III start June 19 at Mitchell Creek. The Tour Division begins June 17 on the Wolverine at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. The Northern Michigan Junior Tour and

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Diverse Courses

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click on www.lochenheath.com.

Shanty Creek has a new head pro at the Tom Weiskopf-designed Cedar River Golf Club. Jason Kempfer joins Shanty veterans Roger Bliss at The Legend and Summit courses, and Roger Gieseck at the Schuss Mountain Golf Club. Longtime popular Director of Golf Rodger Jabara moved over to Crystal Mountain over the winter, where he will be involved in all phases of their golf operation.

Shanty will once again host the popular Shanty Creek PGA Classic as well as the Michigan Section PGA Championship. The Classic takes place on the Legend course July 6-8, and the PGA tournament will take place from Aug. 16-20 on the Cedar River course. To book tee times on either of these two premier courses or the resort's other two courses, call (800) 678-4111 or click on www.shantycreek.com.

On the west side of Grand Traverse Bay the Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms and Sleeping Bear Golf Club, which includes Arnold Palmer's King's Challenge Golf Course, have joined forces with The Homestead Resort, home to the Mountain Flower's Par Three, to offer the Links of Leelanau play and stay packages.

"Starting at \$89 per person the package includes 54 holes of golf and lodging," said Chuck Olson, part owner of the Leelanau Club and head pro at King's Challenge. "We think it offers some great golf and exceptional lodging packages. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Lake Michigan and nearby quaint villages offer lots of choices for the family."

A new practice facility and driving range will be ready at the Leelanau Club this summer, and, back by popular demand, the Steak-Haus at King's Challenge will again be offering Steak and Play nights.

For more information on the Leelanau golf packages, call (231) 228-7400 or click on www.kingschallenge.com.

You could call Crystal Mountain the "king of golf schools." It's been one of the fastest growing learning academies in the nation. What began as a seven-session program in 1994 with two and three-day programs has since grown to 80-plus sessions, which in addition to the multi-day sessions now includes several women-only schools and junior camps.

It all starts with Brad Dean, two-time Michigan PGA Teacher of the Year and the 2002 Michigan PGA Professional of the Year, who holds center court as Director of Golf. LPGA tour player Elaine Crosby will once again be back at Crystal, along with Dean, overseeing the women-only golf schools.

Crystal is hosting the Fifth Third Bank Michigan Women's Open July 14-16. Crosby has won the last two tournaments, which were held in different locations. For more information on the golf schools or to reserve a tee time, call (800) 968-7754 or click on www.crystal-mountain.com.

The first phase of residential development at Lee Stone's Champion Hill, highest golf course in Benzie County, is underway. The first phase places 25 lots, all golf course frontages, on the market this season with the second phase, which includes 33 more home sites, coming on board next season. The links-style course sits on one of the highest points of land in the country offering views of Crystal Lake, Lake Michigan and distant Sleeping Bear Dunes.

For more information on the home sites or to book tee times at the Hill or its sibling course, nearby Pine Croft, call 231-882-9200 or click on www.championhill.com.

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