

# GOLF GUIDE

## Will it stay or will it go?

*GT Resort, PGA officials discussing future of Michigan Open location*

BY MIKE TERRELL

Special to the Record-Eagle

TRAVERSE CITY — The Michigan Open, one of the oldest and most prestigious state golf championships in the nation, returned to the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa this month.

The Open has had a successful run at the resort, but with the recent change of ownership — the resort's now a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians property — will the tournament continue to be a mainstay on The Bear?

"It's just too early to tell you anything," said Mike DeAgostino, the resort's public relations director. "The tournament is locked in for

next year, and we haven't sat-down with Michigan PGA officials to discuss the future yet. We've been very happy with the event in the past. There's a sense of history and tradition with this event."

The tournament is conducted under the auspices of the Michigan Section PGA, and from its point of view the relationship with the resort has been positive.

"We've been extremely happy with the relationship in the past and look forward to sitting down with the new owners and discussing the future," said PGA spokesperson Ken Devine.

"We would look forward to keeping the Michigan Open at the resort."

Scott Hebert, a multiple Open champion, said he would like to see the tournament continue at the resort.

"I hope the tournament stays there," he said. "It's a great venue, it works well for the pro-am and it's just a great test of golf."

The \$110,000 tournament

has been held at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa since 1981. The four-day tournament is played on The Bear, where it has held center-court since 1985.

The resort's also played a major role in the development of junior and high school golf in the area. The resort hosts numerous junior and high school tournaments and is a presenting sponsor this year of the Traverse City Junior Golf Association.

"The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa has been very supportive of junior golf," said Bob Lober, executive director of the junior golf program. "They have bent over backwards to help our kids and to help our program.

"I'm excited we have a local owner. We've already had two tournaments there (since the change in ownership) and everything's been first-class.

"I think they are committed to having a world-class golf facility and they're committed to junior and high school golf in this area."



Record-Eagle file photo

Jim Peterson of Colleyville, TX putts as the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa towers over The Bear Golf Course in Acme.

## Marinas

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### TRAVERSE CITY

**Clinch Park Marina** 922-4903,  
Access at Union St. and  
Grandview Pkwy.


**Elmwood Township Marina** 946-  
5463, North of Traverse City off M-  
22 on West Bay.

**Harbor West Yacht Club** 922-  
3017, 12719 S. West Bay Shore  
Dr.

### WALLOON LAKE

**Si's Marine Service Inc.** 535-  
2461, 4069 South State M-75.

**Triton Marine & Maintenance  
Service Inc.** 535-2106, 4036  
State Rd.

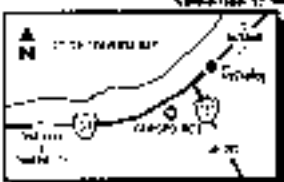


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