

Eye on the sky

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Elmbrook, is recovering from the recent vandalism that destroyed one of its greens when someone drove over it ripping out pieces of sod and turf.

"It was a real downer, but we're bouncing back," said head pro Roger Putman. "We're Traverse City's oldest course and still a favorite place for locals to play."

Elmbrook will be conducting the third annual Haig Hickory Shaft Tournament in mid-June, which benefits the Heritage Center in Traverse City. The tournament is played in knickers with hickory shafted clubs — a salute to the great Walter Hagen, who spent the last few years of his life living in the area. For more information on the tournament, to book a tee time or check the daily rate, which Elmbrook doesn't like to publicize, call (231) 946-9180.

~ At Crystal Mountain, the makeover of the resort's old Betsie Valley course is nearly complete. They have spent nearly \$1 million on the renovation thus far with a complete makeover of the back nine. The front nine is also slated for some work, but not nearly to the extent that the back nine was renovated. The full 18 is open and yields a new and improved golf experience.

Junior and beginner golfers now have their own set of tees on the Betsie Valley course. A "green" set of tees is nestled well down the fairway from other tee boxes. Score cards are set to accommodate the forward tees with their own line, actual yardage and par so players using these tees can track their progress.

"It allows juniors and beginners a chance to play a 'real' game, but avoid the frustration of having to play from the established tees, yardages and pars," said O'Neill. "It makes the game much more playable and enjoyable for them, and they can move back to the regular tees when they feel comfortable doing so."

You can play the Betsie Valley Course through May 5 for \$33 midweek and \$35 on the weekend, which includes a cart for the 18 holes. For tee times, call (800) 968-7686. The Mountain Ridge Course is \$50 midweek through the same time period.

~ In Leelanau County you can play the Arnold Palmer King's Challenge course through April for \$35 midweek. Its sister course, Sleeping Bear, is available for \$25, seven days a week, through the same time period. The price, of course, includes a cart for the 18-holes.

King's Challenge is also bringing back its famous Steak 'n Play pairing, which has been written about in *Golf Magazine*. The cost is only \$42 midweek — Sunday afternoon through Thursday — and that's

good for 18-holes with a cart and a steak dinner afterwards in the club house. For tee times and a dinner reservation, call (231) 228-7400.

~ Get a foursome together and head up to the Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms, which is located in the highlands above Suttons Bay. Midweek through April 30 it's just \$99 for four people to play 18 holes of golf with carts. Call (231) 271-2020 for a tee time.

~ The Crown, which is looking forward to the opening of its new Mulligan's Pub and Grill on Memorial Day weekend, is off to a great start this season, according to Taberski.

"Business has been good since opening day with spring rates now in effect through the rest of the month," he said. "I've already booked more small outings with groups from downstate than previous years."

The new Irish-themed Mulligan's Pub will be open year round for lunch and dinner. It will be managed by Chamberlain's.

~ The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa will once again be hosting the Michigan Open at the end of June on The Bear. Prior to that event they will be hosting a Summer Solstice event called Golf Your Daylights Out on June 21-23 at the resort, according to public relations manager J. Michael Deagostino.

"It is \$95 per day for as many rounds as you can play each day," he explained. "You play your first round on the Spruce Run Course and follow up with The Bear and Wolverine. With all the daylight we have that time of year; it's conceivable to play all three."

The Jim McLean Golf School will be returning to the resort for its eighth season. For more information on the school or to book tee times, call (231) 534-6000.

~ The Chief and Hawk's Eye golf courses, located across the road from Shanty Creek in Antrim County, are offering a couple of spring specials, according to head pro Dave Hill.

"Before Memorial Day you can play both courses on the same day for just \$119," he explained, "and, all season long, we have what we're calling Twilight Tuesdays. Twilight rates at both courses will be in effect all day long."

For tee times at The Chief call (231) 533-9000, and for Hawk's Eye call (231) 533-4295.

~ At Shanty Creek, the resort's Bonus Value Season is in effect through May 19. You can play the Legend and Cedar River golf courses for respectively as little as \$70 and \$75 midweek, and the Schuss and Summit courses are \$50 and \$25 for an 18-hole round of golf with cart midweek

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