Rypien wins Tahoe celebrity golf tournament



Charles Barkley bought drinks for friends at Flight Deck before boarding his plane at Lake Tahoe Airport. Photo/Cathy Vogelgesang

In a weather-delayed finish, Mark Rypien emerged the winner of the 25th annual American Century Championship on Sunday.

“Every 25 years. I hope they still have this around in 2050. This is surreal. To go eagle-birdie-birdie after the rain. There is a reason why I live in Washington State. We are used to playing in this weather,” Rypien told NBC. Rypien’s only other ACC win was the first year.

The last golfers at Edgewood Tahoe on July 20 had to endure a two-plus-hour delay as a thunderstorm rolled through the basin.

Annika Sorenstam, who was favored to win, finished tied for second with Jeremy Roenick.

Chad Pfeifer, the Iraqi war vet who was in the lead after the first day, finished fifth.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Play suspended at ACC

Today’s final round tournament coverage of the American Century Championship has moved to NBCSN and will continue until the tournament’s conclusion this evening.

The tournament is currently experiencing a weather delay because of thunder, lightning and rain.

Mark Rypien and Jeremy Roenick currently share the lead with 64 points, with Annika Sorenstam in third place with 62 points. Play will resume with the leaders playing the 16th hole at Edgewood Tahoe.

Device could change communication in backcountry

By Axie Navas, Outdoors

Wouldn’t it be nice to communicate directly with the other members of your party without having to rely on shaky cell service or WiFi?

Thanks to goTenna, a new communications device that launched Thursday, you can. The rugged off-the-grid tool pairs with your iPhone or Android via BlueToothLE to enable users to send and receive text messages (160 characters max) and share their GPS locations. It’s a bit like a super walkie-talkie with a range of up to 50 miles, depending on terrain.

The big bonus: it only costs $150 per pair, with no subscription fees. Field radios or sat phones can cost 10 times that.

Read the whole story

Star gazing event at Spooner Lake

There will be a laser-guided tour of starry wonders with professional star gazer and astronomy instructor Gigi Giles at Spooner Lake.

Participants will be able to peer through high powered telescopes and astronomical binoculars at an elevation of 7,000 feet while learning various aspects of astronomy and space science.

The event is July 25 from 8:30-10pm. Meet in the upper parking lot. Spooner Lake is located at the intersection of highways 50 and 28.

The event is free, but there is a $10 parking fee; Nevada residents receive a $2 discount.

Tahoe Show brings elite

bodybuilders to Stateline

The Tahoe Show, the largest amateur body building championship in Nevada, is Aug. 23 at MontBleu.

The NPC/IFBB (National Physique Committee & International Federation of Bodybuilding) sanctioned bodybuilding and fitness championship includes bodybuilding, bikini, physique, figure and fitness.

Those who cannot make it to the show may watch it live on the Internet thanks to the coverage provided by Tahoe Production House.

There are several new features or the 2014 Tahoe Show. The number of vendors has doubled allowing attendees to sample an array of fitness products. A digital set design will bring the stage to life. The show is now designated as a national qualifier allowing top athletes to compete for professional status.

There will be more than 350 competitors. The pre-judging starts at 10am and finals are at 6:30pm.

For tickets, information, registration and a full event schedule, go online.

Color Blast run benefits TY&FS

Tahoe Youth & Family Services' annual Color Blast fun run in Genoa is July 26.

This fundraiser will directly benefit TYFS’ programs and services for youth and families in the South Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley communities.

Runners will get a color blast from head to toe in different colors at designated distances. Each section of the run adds a new explosion of color to their clean T-shirt, shorts, socks, hair, and skin until they cross the finish line into a final blast of color.

This event is meant for all ages and families.

For more info, go online or contact Emily Bennett at emily@tahoeyouth.org.

NBC’s Lake Tahoe celebrity golf coverage a whirlwind of controlled chaos off-camera



Producer Tom Randolph, center, controls NBC's coverage of the American Century Championship. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Watch the American Century Championship on television and it's like the coverage is choreographed. Watch it from the control room and one wonders how the end product is so smooth.

"Sunday it will be even more hectic. People will be screaming and yelling. But people say they know what they have to listen to," Gary Quinn, vice president of programming for NBC, told *Lake Tahoe News* as he watched Friday's tournament from the control trailer.

So many of these men and women have been working together for years that there is a rhythm even though to the outsider is looks and sounds a bit chaotic.

One wall is covered with video monitors and each monitor has more than one video feed.

Producer Tom Randolph is at the center of the action.



The camera on 18 provides aerial views.

“He is the storyteller,” explains Quinn. “The talent follows his direction.”

Randolph picks which camera will be shown to viewers, gives a bit of introduction to Bob Papa, who then tells viewers what they are seeing. It’s not exactly like “Broadcast News”, but witnessing the control room conjures up that movie.

The talent, as the broadcasters are called, have plenty of support staff as they deliver the telecast from hole 18.

Two people are walking the grounds. Interviews are being conducted at the end of some holes. Chad Pfeifer, the Iraqi war vet who has a prosthetic leg, talks about how nervous he is. He finished the day in first place.

Spotters on each hole report back to Assistant Producer Jeff Jastrow about what is going on, who is coming up and if the action is worth showing the world.

“There is constant contact with each hole,” Quinn says.

Electronic scoring keeps the control room up-to-date in real time.

A camera on hole 18 is like having a blimp in place as it provides aerial coverage. Hole 16 has a tower. Cameras are on each hole, though most are on the back nine. Concentrated coverage is on holes 17 (the party-boat scene) and 18.

One person is in contact with New York. She counts down when it's time to go to commercial as well as when they are live.

The technical director says when various promos for the key sponsors – American Century, Korbel and Harrah's – need to be inserted into the coverage. A spot showing Harrah's hotel rooms and the casino floor pops up on the center screen.



NBC needs a compound of trailers to deliver three days of ACC coverage.

Rolling out of that segment Papa adlibs, talking about that night's Carrie Underwood concert at Harveys, before going into the golf action.

It takes 106 people and 22 cameras to deliver the nine hours of coverage during the three-day tournament at Edgewood Tahoe. It will be live from noon-3pm today and Sunday.

NBC hauls multiple trailers all over the country for its coverage of various sporting events. They are parked at the end of the driving range. Last week they were in Oklahoma last for the U.S. Senior Open. They are the same ones used Sunday

nights for NFL games.

Sand Harbor boat launch closing

Sand Harbor’s boat ramp will close for the season starting July 28.

The low lake level is forcing the closure. This closure will prevent watercraft from being damaged during a launch and protect the end of the launch lanes from damage.

The parking lot will remain open for carry-in boat access only.

All other boaters will be directed to use the Cave Rock boat ramp facility.

Running with dogs depends on fitness, personality

By Nora Krug, Washington Post

One of the most important things a running partner can provide is conversation. Many runners are looking for a kind of coach, to push them to go faster or longer; others want a confidant or a gossip or someone to swap the latest tips from Runner’s World with. But for some, the best running partner is one that

says only one thing: woof.

Human and dog have been running for millennia. But is it always a good idea for them to run together? The answer depends on weather, fitness level and, yes, personality – of both species.

Beth Slotman, a 36-year-old health-care contracts researcher in Germantown, says she runs with her dog as much for the dog's benefit as her own. "I mainly do it because it makes her so happy," says Slotman, who has taken her pit bull-Lab mix, Abbey, on runs as long as 11 miles. "She knows on Saturday mornings when we get up and I get dressed that it's a running day, and she dances around with such excitement that it's hard to say no."

Read the whole story

Thunderstorms expected to linger in Tahoe

The storm that rolled through the Lake Tahoe Basin on Thursday afternoon isn't over for some people.

- For only the second time in the American Century Championship tournament's 25-year history play stopped because of weather.
- The California Highway Patrol is warning motorists that boulders have tumbled onto Highway 89 near Squaw Valley.
- Power is not expected to be restored to Nevada Energy customers in Incline Village until midnight.
  The Clear Creek Fire is 35 percent contained, no evacuations and roads all open; however, lightning on

> July 17 started two fires in the general area. One is near Old Clear Creek Road and Golf Club Drive, and the other is near Genoa Peak.Heavenly Mountain Resort’s gondola stopped taking people up about noon because of the threat of lightning.

The National Weather Service in Reno is calling for afternoon thunderstorm through Saturday that could produce flash flooding. A flash flood watch is in effect until 9pm July 19.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report