Youth soccer camp at Kahle

Douglas County Parks & Recreation along with Steve Maltase of Whittell High School will be offering a weeklong soccer camp from July 29-Aug. 2.

The camp is open to everyone ages 4-14. Participants ages 4-6 (Lil Kicks) will have camp from 10am-1pm each day and the cost is $125.

Kids 7 and up will have camp from 10am-3pm, with Friday ending at 1pm and the cost for that age group is $145.

Each player needs to bring a lunch, water bottle, shoes and shin guards and have sunscreen applied.

For more information and to register, call Kahle Community Center at (775) 586.7271.

Class to focus on native plants, good bugs

Get Wild in Your Garden: Native Plants and Beneficial Insects is the name of the lecture being hosted by the Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners.

The free event is July 29 at 5:30pm at Lake Tahoe Community College’s demonstration garden.

Learn how to welcome wildlife and beneficial insects through the use of native plants.

Novice and experienced gardeners are welcome.

2-day relay to be staged at Sierra-at Tahoe

The two-day Ragnar Trail Tahoe is July 26-27.

More than 1,000 runners are expected to participate in this relay event. The 17.6-mile course consists of three loops of varying length and difficulty at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

Ragnar Relay Series has also partnered with TAMBA (Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association) to continue improvements to the local trails in and around Lake Tahoe and Eldorado National Forest.

Tolliver wins ACC in 3-hole playoff



Billy Joe Tolliver on July

21 won his fourth ACC tournament. Photo/LTN

It took a three-hole playoff Sunday to determine the winner of the American Century Championship golf tournament.

Two former NFL quarterbacks Mark Rypien and Billy Joe Tolliver vied for the title, with Tolliver coming out on top on the third hole. Each has won the celebrity golf event before – Rypien in 1990 and Tolliver in 1996, 2005 and 2010.

“He is pretty good around the greens. He is pretty good with the wedges. He is just streaky with the putter. But when he is good with the putter, he contends, and he did that this week,” Roger Maltbie with the Golf Channel said of Tolliver.

This is first time since the tournament went to the Stableford scoring in 2003 that a playoff was necessary and the first time in the 24-year history that a playoff needed more than one hole.

Rypien finished second last year, too.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Glacier Park’s majesty slowly melting away



Many Glacier Valley
Photos/Robert S. Wood

By Robert S. Wood

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK – It was shocking to learn that the last of famous Glacier Park's hundreds of glaciers will be dead and gone in as little as seven years. With an extra month of summer on our hands, it seemed a good time to go up and have a look at the mere 25 moving ice fields that remain in the park. My wife Deanne and I were also curious to see how the northern Rockies stack up against our home mountain turf of Tahoe, Desolation and Yosemite.

Cruising the Web, then following up by phone, we discovered that would-be visitors customarily make Glacier reservations a year in advance at the few big old lodges inside the park. All we could unearth on short (two week) notice were three nights at Lake McDonald on the southwestern side of the pass and five nights at Many Glaciers – now more aptly nicknamed "Few Glaciers"– on the northeastern side.

But we were warned that snowplows were still working on Logan Pass and it wasn't scheduled to open until the day we arrived.

It was a gamble, but nothing else was available this year. Basically, the short summer season up in northern Montana's high Rocky Mountains is just July and August, as snow returns in September. At least we'd see the peaks at their prettiest, under a full mantle of snow. So we booked the rooms starting June 21 and consulted our maps, wondering how best to sample and hike a million-acre park, called the "Crown of the Continent," in just nine days – some of it still under snow.

Snowmelt on towering Triple Divide Peak, we learned, can drain to the Pacific, the Arctic and the Gulf of Mexico.

Further research revealed that four of Glacier's lakes offered inexpensive boat trips in ancient launches that ended at multiple wilderness trailheads on the lake's far shore – and all of them were just beginning operation – reminding us of boat access to Desolation Wilderness via the Echo Lakes water taxi.

So we pre-booked trips on three of these launches to form the core of our park explorations, hoping we could get over the snowy pass to reach them. Otherwise, we'd have to circle around outside the park. We also allotted half a day to visiting Glacier's adjoining sister park just across the Canadian border. Jointly the two comprise the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the first of its kind.

Our next consideration was how to get to Glacier from Tahoe. Highway maps revealed that it looked like three days driving – each way. That would double the length of the trip, with all the substantial attendant costs of gas, motels and food. But air connections on Delta turned out to be excellent, so we decided to spare the old Subaru and fly and rent a car, arriving fast and fresh. Using past accumulated air miles – even with a $350 Dollar rental car bill – for us it was also

cheaper.

After spending the night in Reno, we took a 6:30am flight to Salt Lake City, then transferred to a flying cigar that took us to Kalispell, Mont. There we got upgraded to a new Subaru and were driving into the park before noon, with the afternoon still before us. At the visitor center we learned that Logan pass had just opened and people were happily skiing and snowboarding on the high trails of the famous "Going to the Sun" pass road. Though the pass was a mere 6,600 feet in elevation, it commonly was buried under 50 feet of snowpack — quite a change from the central Sierra.

The detailed one-page park trail map, with good directions, revealed a nearby network of forest trails that looked inviting, part of it ascending the booming McDonald River above the misty lake, so we dropped our bags at our cabin and hit the trail, hoping to get in a walk before threatening clouds unloaded. The thick forest was primarily Englemann spruce and so mossy (and muddy from recent rain) that it reminded us more of Muir Woods in the coastal redwoods than the Sierra, with Spanish moss festooning conifers. The other Glacier forest trees are Arctic fir, quaking aspen and the familiar lodgepole pine. Spectacular wildflowers, featuring the white plume of native Bear Grass, emerged just days after the snow melted.

The thundering river, dwarfing most Sierra streams, was bank-to-bank white water. At every trailhead was a sign solemnly warning "You are entering Grizzly Bear country" mentioning danger, no guarantee of safety, and that hikers had been killed by bears, etc. Many of our fellow walkers wore little bells in hopes of warning wandering bears of their presence. Startling or surprising Grizzlies was severely warned against. Other hikers made a practice of frequently yelling variations of "Hear bear, bear, bear" and loudly clapping their hands.

Returning to our cabin by the lakeshore just before it started

raining, we found ourselves in one of six tiny cubicles with paper-thin walls and two single beds jammed against the walls. No radio, TV, WiFi, phone, frig or microwave, just a basin, toilet and steel stall shower. Primitive, but functional. Apparently we were lucky to have it on short notice. We spent the rainy evenings visiting in the lodge by the blazing fire.

The next day we took the No. 1 rated wilderness hike in our area – along with probably 100 other visitors. From a vast jammed parking lot we mounted a boardwalk leading through mossy groves and up a splashing creek past beautiful waterfalls to Avalanche Lake in a snowy cirque, where we ate our lunch on the beach, passing several tame deer on the way. Hikers on the beach with a spotting scope claimed to see a grizzly and bighorn sheep high on the distant snowfields, but we couldn't see them.

After completing the 5-mile roundtrip walk with 500-foot elevation gain, we decided it might be smart to drive up to Logan Pass on Going to the Sun road, since it was a fine afternoon with big cumulus clouds in baby blue sky. But there was a 90 percent chance of rain forecast for the day we were scheduled to drive it.

The drive was absolutely gorgeous on the narrow two-lane road with no shoulders, but numerous turnouts. We stopped often to take pictures and savor the dramatic alpine vistas before reaching the pass and its 8-foot deep drifts. The peaks of Glacier are not high, only six of them top 10,000 feet, but timberline is only 6,000 to 7000 feet, so the country looks like 12,000 to 14,000 feet in the Sierra.

Unlike the Sierra's long rounded ridgelines, the Glacier peaks jut straight up in individual cliff-faced blocks of dark rock that soar steeply. Big cirques open between them, often containing as many as three glaciers. A distinctive cross-hatched pattern of snow etches the flat faces of these dark steep pyramids, anvils and glacially-carved aretes.

When the park opened a hundred years ago, there were more than 150 certified glaciers, often three or five on a single mountain. By 1967 the number had dropped to 50; and now only 25 remain active and alive. Living glaciers are moving bodies of ice that creep downhill due to their weight on steep rock and the forces of gravity. When more ice melts in the summer than is replaced by winter snow, the glacier loses needed weight and grinds to a halt, becoming a dead glacier, a mere motionless ice field.

Once we had moved to the many Glaciers Motor Lodge on the drier northeast side of the pass, we were ready for our three boat-assist hikes. We found our way to the docks at the end of the roads and climbed aboard ancient classic motor launches, not unlike the graceful historic varnished wooden yachts that plied Tahoe waters a century ago. On the northeast side of the park the country was much drier, as in the eastern Sierra. The boat trips, except on stormy days, were on serene narrow lakes that often yielded reflections of the surrounding peaks, unlike rarely reflective larger Tahoe.

Enclosed launches held 20 to 40 trippers, a majority of whom were prepared to hit the trail at the far end of the lake. Each trip offers several trail hikes, one of which is usually led by a boat captain or a park ranger. Mostly the trails lead to backcountry lakes, waterfalls, glaciers or glacier viewpoints. Walkers like us allergic to group hikes had other trails to choose from. Even on the dry side of the mountain, the country was wetter and more lush than on the west side of the Sierra crest, with little bare ground. We were well satisfied by our decision to take narrated boat trips to trailheads for hikes into more remote parkland, where the country was wilder and the chances of seeing animals was greater.

While in Glacier we saw grizzly and black bear, bighorn sheep, mule deer, moose, mountain goats and marmots, but none of the elusive wolves, mountain lions and wolverines. Park Service

scopes in the parking lot helped visitors spot wildlife high on the cliffs above. We joined others by driving slowly at dusk along the park roads, when big animal viewing was at its best. Campers were always ready with tall tales of the giant grizzly that just crashed through their camp. Though black bears were vastly far more common, the sightings reported were somehow always of massive threatening grizzlies.

One day we took an open-roofed, vintage 1936 Red Bus touring north through the prairie across the Canadian border into Waterton Peace Park to the stately Prince of Wales Hotel, on a half day amusingly narrated trip. I had to go to Canada to get Mexican beer, which went well with Canadian style featuring a fried egg on top. The dramatic view across the lake from the hotel was similar to the famous one at Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies, less than two hours away to the north.

Accommodations in the park are nothing likes those in the Sierra. Gigantic stately old hotels, not unlike the Ahwahnee in Yosemite Valley, built 80 to 100 years ago by the railroad, supply most of the park beds, with small spare basic rooms. Hotels are built around a huge cavernous lobby featuring a giant fireplace, with rustic, handsome old-fashioned dining rooms, where waiting in line was common. The menus seemed as old as the hotels, poor, dated and expensive, limited and identical. We soon grew sick of the park food and lack of choice, and were happy to drive east out of the park to eat our dinner at the cafes and roadhouses on the edges of the rolling green prairie. Park Café, Two Sisters and Luna’s are recommended.

The dividing line between steep and forested mountains and treeless rolling green prairie was sharp, distinct and delightful. On our return three-hour trip to the Kalispell airport, we were happy to circle east around the park through the Blackfoot reservation’s empty prairie, where Indians once lived off the teeming buffalo, and down the booming Flathead River, instead of driving back over busy Logan Pass.

Overall, our Glacier visit was a huge success, despite rain on five consecutive days and some clouds and wind. We loved the sheer soaring snow-etched cliffs, deep slender lakes, the abundant wildlife, big rivers, historic hotels, launches and buses, the country quiet and lack of glitz, though it's clear that America is "loving its parks to death." And it was fun to compare beautiful Glacier to our familiar Sierra home and take a last look at the park's handsome, but dying glaciers before the last of them are gone.

Robert S. Wood and his wife spend half the year in Lake Tahoe and the other half in Sedona. He is the author of a dozen books, including the original trail guide to Desolation Wilderness.

ngg_shortcode_0_placeholder (Click on photos to enlarge.)

Curry takes the lead into final day of ACC



Fans stake out a spot to seek autographs. Photo/LTN

One round is left in the annual American Century Celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe.

After two days, Stephen Curry, guard with the Golden State Warriors, has the lead. He is one point ahead of Chris Chandler and Jeremy Roenick.

This tournament uses the Stableford scoring system. The person with the highest score wins.

Here are the Sunday pairings.

Studying Tahoe may help with Antarctic exploration

By Mike TeSelle, KCRA-TV

Gordon Seitz, an earthquake expert with the California Geological Survey, expressed excitement about a first-of-its-kind exploration that took place below the surface of Lake Tahoe on Thursday.

“Oh yeah, there’s not too many chances to get that new discovery,” Seitz said.

Seitz said a specially designed submarine, equipped with a high definition camera, is being used to take the first close-up video ever recorded of the submerged section of Tahoe’s most active fault line.

“The west fault runs along the entire west side of the lake,” Seitz said.

Researchers from Northern Illinois University and the

California Geological Survey are using a floating platform to control the submarine which will dive to depths more than 1,000 feet.

“We hope to use this information to learn more about future earthquake hazard and to learn about potential tsunami activity that could be triggered by a shift,” Seitz said.

Thursday’s mission was also proving as a test for a potentially bigger first in underwater exploration, Seitz said.

If the Tahoe mission is successful, Northern Illinois University researchers plan to drill a 3,000-foot-deep hole in an Antarctic ice shelf to drop the submarine into an aquatic environment that has never been explored before, Seitz said.

“They are focused on how climate change is impacting the ice shelf to see if it will detach as the ocean warms,” Seitz said.

For now, Seitz is eager to see what the Tahoe mission reveals.

“We know we’ll learn something. We just won’t know what that is until we get our eyes on the bottom of the lake,” said Seitz.

Injury puts Barkley on the sidelines at ACC



Charles Barkley hurt his shoulder and is unable to play in the Tahoe celebrity golf tournament. Photo/LTN file

Perennial fan favorite Charles Barkley has pulled out of the American Century Championship golf tournament.

An injury forced the withdrawal. He was lifting weights and felt something snap. Barkley tried to play on Wednesday, but his right shoulder said no.

Barkley had played at the Edgewood Tahoe event since 1993.

But he’s not leaving. Barkley is now the unofficial ambassador for the three-day tournament that starts today in Stateline.

— Lake Tahoe News staff report

S. Tahoe basketball tourney features 19 teams

The 29th annual South Tahoe Girls Basketball Jamboree is June 18-20.

The 19 teams will each play five games.

South Tahoe girls play Sonora High School at 8am on Thursday in the Blue Gym at South Tahoe High. Their second game against Live Oak from Morgan Hill and is at 11:20am in the Blue Gym.

Admission is free.

As the schedule unfolds, it will be posted online.

Race benefits Squaw, Alpine athletic teams

The Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows Foundation hosting its first fundraiser Aug. 24 to raise scholarship funds to support athletes on the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows snow sports teams.

The Alpine 2 Squaw 10K Challenge consists of a 10K run from Alpine Meadows to Squaw Valley. The challenge is open to runners and walkers, as well as to dogs for those who register in the “Pets and People” category. All proceeds from the race will benefit SAF as well as the Humane Society of Truckee Tahoe.

The Alpine 2 Squaw 10K Challenge will start in the Alpine Meadows parking lot and will follow the U.S. Forest Service fire road until it joins up with the Western States trail. Following the final descent down Squaw’s Red Dog Face, the race will finish at the base of KT-22.

Registration for the 10K Challenge is $30 at the early bird rate (valid though Aug. 9), or $40 starting Aug. 10. Day of race registration is $50. Pet registration is $5, with all

proceeds benefiting the Truckee Tahoe Humane Society. Registration is online.