

Tahoe City to host national sailing race

More than 120 people representing five countries will be in Tahoe City July 19-23 for the U.S. Laser National Championships.

More than 25 local Tahoe Laser sailors will be competing in the event.

There are two divisions: the original more powerful standard rig for bigger sailors, and the smaller sail Radial rig for youth and lighter sailors.

The Laser is the most popular sailboat in the world. It is a single-handed, one-design class, which means that all of the boats are identical and cannot be modified. With every boat the same, it comes down to the sailors' skill and athletic ability to win regattas.

The Pacific Crest Trail's shadow hikers

By Caroline Benner, High Country News

Against the backdrop of a desert sunrise, two human silhouettes exchange double high-fives. By 8am, a bouncing crowd of a couple dozen has gathered around a group of wooden columns emblazoned with the crest of the Pacific Crest Trail – the monument that marks the start of the 2,650-mile path.

These are “through-hikers,” people who intend to hike from the fence on the California-Mexican border, all the way to Canada. They hug, take pictures and scrawl breathlessly in the logbook: “Wow!! Wow!! Wow!! Let’s do this!” “Dreams come true!” On this spring day, up to 50 would-be through-hikers set out, focused on the hike’s first leg, 42 miles to the town of Mount Laguna.

On the other side of the monument, just across the border, other hikers are assembling, unseen by the recreationists. Every day, up to 50 people wait until the Border Patrol agent’s truck peels away from the border fence. Once the truck is out of sight, they’ll slip through and begin their own journey north. These are border crossers, and they are focused on simply getting to a road, where a driver will take them deeper into the U.S. Some dash 1,200 feet to where Highway 94 swings close to the border. Some hug the Pacific Crest Trail, making occasional short forays across it; others quietly join the hoopla at the monument and try to blend in with the through-hikers. And some hike a route that echoes the trail’s first leg, heading toward a pick-up point near Mount Laguna.

Read the whole story

Golf not the only sport being played at ACC



Steph Curry doesn't worry about a foul being called as he goes to block Joe Pavelski. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Multi-sport athletes used to be the norm in high school; not so any more. But the pros, well, they are showing that they aren't single sport wonders. Baseball, tennis, hockey and football players are in the top six spots after the first day of the American Century Championship.



It's a who's who of quarterback greats with Tony Romo, Alex Smith and John Elway. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

The three-day celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe saw some familiar names in the running, with some newbies as well on July 14.

Former Major League pitcher Derek Lowe took top honors on Day 1 with 25 points. (The ACC uses a Stableford format for scoring.)



Mardy Fish sizes up his putt on hole 10. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Right behind him are Mardy Fish (24) and Joe Pavelski (23). Tied for fourth are Aaron Rodgers, Mark Mulder and John Smoltz, each with 22 points.



It's like a receiving line between the holes 17 and 18 for ex-linebacker Brian Urlacher. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Pairings on the first day are usually based on some commonality the players share. It was a multi-generational quarterback trio with John Elway, Tony Romo and Alex Smith. Former Braves' pitching stars Greg Maddux, John Smoltz and Tom Glavine are a regular threesome. The Bay Area was represented by Steph Curry, Aaron Rodgers and Pavelski playing together.



With the Broncos quarterback situation not solidified, maybe John Elway, left, would like to lure Aaron Rodgers away from Green Bay. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Deborah Edwards of Scottsdale, Ariz., was cognizant of where Elway was – she got hit by a ball two years ago at this tournament by an errant drive of his on the 17th hole. To this day she can feel where it hit her on the right side of her head.

On Friday, it was *Lake Tahoe News* photographer Carolyn Wright who walked off the course with a shiner thanks to Curry. He went up for layup on the 17th hole and ran into her.



For the uninitiated, it would be hard to know Steph Curry and Aaron Rodgers are in a golf tournament. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Curry, Rodgers and Pavelski were having fun shooting hoops before teeing off. Rodgers was much better at throwing passes to the throng of spectators in boats lining the course than he was with sinking that large round ball into the net.

After teeing off, Curry ran a pattern resembling a wide receiver, with Rodgers stepping back in the pocket to deliver a perfect spiral to a sliding Curry. It's not every day you get grass stains playing golf.



Charles Barkley replaces dad in the family portrait. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Charles Barkley, who is well known for his anti-Warriors rhetoric, is well beyond his prime as a basketball star. Still, he was sauntering a bit after teeing off from the 10th hole. This is a huge change from a few years ago – pre-hip surgery – when he could barely get around.

On Friday he was playing to the crowd; “stealing” hats of young fans and posing for family pictures. Even though he is a perennial cellar dweller, the crowd loves him.



NBC sportscaster Kathryn Tappen signs an autograph as Charles Barkley takes the boy's hat. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Barkley was recognized on the 10th hole by the firefighting community for his generosity to the Angora Fire relief efforts. In 2007, he gave \$100,000 and toured the burn area; two years later he donated \$90,000. Last month marked the 10-year anniversary of the fire that leveled 254 houses on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe.



Large galleries follow the more popular players. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Today most of the pairings are based on how the players did Friday. One notable exception is that Curry (23rd place) and Romo (20th) will be playing with Justin Timberlake (53rd). Curry and Timberlake are two of the players who get special security provided by Douglas County sheriff's deputies. Some of these superstars come with their own security and have an entourage of people.

Deputy Chris Wiggins was with Timberlake on July 14; standing guard making sure fans behaved themselves.



Entertainer Justin Timberlake, center, is playful on the course. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

"He usually doesn't need us. He has his own people," Wiggins told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We walk every hole with them."



Marshall Faulk chips the ball out of the sand on hole 18.
Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Fans do the same thing – some following a particular player on all 18 holes, others are perched in one spot waiting for everyone to come through.



Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux on their way down the fairway of hole 17. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Hole 17 is the busiest, with the crowd several people deep on the sand and grass. This is party central. While golf is usually a quiet sport, not so on this hole. It was almost comical as the official put his hands up for the spectators to hush as the players tee off only to have the music blaring from the speakers.



Ex-Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo is favored to win the tournament. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

The American Century Championship – it's not your ordinary golf tournament.

DraftKings, FanDuel cancel planned merger

By Philip Marcelo, AP

BOSTON – The two leading daily fantasy sports companies DraftKings and FanDuel have scrapped their proposed merger about a month after federal regulators sued to block it.

The two companies said Thursday they were moving forward separately in the best interests of their customers, employees, and investors. Neither directly addressed the federal government's concerns with the deal.

FanDuel CEO Nigel Eccles said in his statement that his company still believes the deal would have increased investment and product development, benefiting consumers and the broader industry.

Read the whole story

Al Tahoe bike project to start next week

The Al Tahoe Safety and Mobility Enhancement Project, also known as the Safe Routes to School project, will begin with striping bike lanes on Al Tahoe Boulevard the week of July 17.

The pilot project will be the first step toward the full project planned for 2019. As part of the project class 2 on street bike lanes and a class 1 off street multi-use path will be added in conjunction with vehicle lane restriping.

To test of the concept plan, the pilot project introduces the bike lanes now by reconfiguring two of the four vehicle travel lanes and keeping the two-way center turn lane. In the interim, the extra width will be striped as a "buffered bike lane" which is roughly 6 feet of bike lane and a 5-foot-wide striped buffer between the traffic.

While the City of South Lake Tahoe is the lead on the project

and is contributing roughly 13 percent in funding for the project, this project would not have come to fruition without the On Our Way grant funding from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The majority of the planning, permitting, design and construction costs are covered by grant funding from the state through the Active Transportation Program.

Coast Guard Auxiliary adds layer of safety at Tahoe

By Susan Wood

When it comes to those who venture out into a vast and cold Lake Tahoe, it's good to know the ones who provide backup for emergencies have backup of their own.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary achieved its 50th year in service to the Lake Tahoe region on April 20, serving as support for the station located in Tahoe City.

The service is much-needed, especially in years like this one in which the banner snowfall is resulting in a deluge of runoff that has raised the lake level so much the beaches have all but disappeared.

High water mixed with high temperatures in the two valleys east and west of Lake Tahoe usually equate to increased boating, swimming and even debris floating around. The latter can place even the most cautious boater in hazardous conditions.

In the last decade, the lake has averaged two to three drownings a year. But in the wake of stand up paddleboarding's

immense popularity over the last few years, that number has at least tripled.

“The problem is, when something goes wrong, it goes terribly wrong,” said Bruce Martin, who has volunteered in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in this district for five years.



Mort Meiers and Bruce Martin stand guard at Ski Run Marina during windy conditions. Photo/Susan Wood

The district has 21 South Lake Tahoe volunteers working the sidelines. Nationally, there are more than 30,000 men and women who have volunteered over the last 75 years. The Auxiliary is under the wing of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The volunteer organization has played a role in every major conflict since World War II. Most notably in recent times the Auxiliary helped with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The Coast Guard itself is 226 years old, under the same U.S. cabinet – but can be transferred to the U.S. Navy by the president or Congress during times of war.

“Our main focus is recreational boating safety,” Martin told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The retired South Shore fire chief, whose father served in the U.S. Navy, knows the hazards that can occur in an emergency.

Hypothermia can set in less than 15 minutes in the most extreme of cases as in lake temperatures at 32.5 degrees. When it rises to double that, a victim may not even survive two hours. The cold water renders the muscles useless when hypothermia takes over, causing the swimmer to stop paddling. Some drowning cases happen when the swimmer dives in and gulps water during the shock of the temperature. Without a life jacket, the body may never surface. People have drowned close to shore.

That’s why in the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s role to be proactive in water and boating safety education it’s all about water adventure seekers wearing their life jackets.

Many paddleboarders have not been wearing them.

In its duties as the civilian volunteer arm for the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary will put on events aimed at teaching safety, as well as conduct vessel examinations, patrols, drills and even monitoring the buoys to ensure they don’t get blown off.

One drill involved the Coast Guard chief being dropped off in the middle of the lake in a dry suit, with auxiliary patrollers plotting where to find him. The chief was out there for an hour.

“I was impressed,” Martin said of the commitment.

Auxiliary volunteers must be certified, and it takes all

summer to complete crew training, but the South Shore district welcomes more. One may be asked as a “first aider” to rescue dummies and navigate lake waters.

Volunteers are responsible for a number of duties – even if they just want to cook for others at events.

“We need all hands on deck,” Martin said of the demands of boating safety on Lake Tahoe.

Auxiliary members may see the gamut of disasters or near misses.

“In the times I’ve been out on patrol, I’ve seen people going too close to shore and hitting a rock. We inform Vessel Assist,” said Mort Meiers, a longtime South Shore resident, boating enthusiast and 27-year Auxiliary member.

Meiers recalled how a man operating a Jet Ski near the Tahoe Keys found it hard to reach his watercraft with no leash while it continually made circles.

As it turns out, fires on board prove to be life threatening.

Then there’s the drinking that’s often associated with boating, a misfortune Coast Guard auxiliary members can only attribute to the planet’s “pirate history.”

The hazards are such that in 2018 California law will require a boating license. The Golden State is one of the last to mandate the license. Alaska is another.

To the Coasties, the Auxiliary team is “indispensable.”

Tahoe City Executive Petty Officer Josh Fennell called the team “a force multiplier for us,” meaning an “extra set of hands and an extra set of eyes.”

“We only have two boats and can only be in so many places. It’s nice to have reinforcements in South Lake Tahoe,” Fennell

told *Lake Tahoe News*, adding that having Auxiliary members conduct the vessel inspections helps substantially.

Other law enforcement agencies such as El Dorado County, Douglas County, South Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency also have boats patrolling the South Shore waters alongside the Coast Guard.

“The Coast Guard Auxiliary is one of the Coast Guard’s greatest hidden gems. Without their countless volunteer efforts, Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe wouldn’t be able to operate safely and efficiently,” said local Cmdr. Dustin Finkelson, who just reported to duty last month from the station in Galveston, Texas.

It’s a welcome sign to longtime residents who have gone boating on Lake Tahoe – especially those who are familiar with the lake’s treacherous history.

“I’ve been here almost 60 years, and I had a boat for many years. Of course, if we’re going to provide amusement for people on the lake, at least we should be responsible to advise of what’s available to help them,” said Betty Mitchell, longtime Lake Tahoe Historical Society volunteer. She and her late husband owned a sailboat together. Sailing on the lake can be tricky enough with its bowl-like geography and wind spurts.

So to Mitchell, a life jacket should just be considered an appendage to a swimmer or boating enthusiast.

“I respect the water. Anyone who doesn’t use a life jacket when the conditions call for it is a little bit crazy,” she said.

Crowds seek out celebs at Tahoe golf tourney



Crowds at Edgewood Tahoe on July 13 are in search of autographs. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE — It was hard to walk 10 feet Thursday at the American Century Championship and not see a Steph Curry article of clothing on someone or some Warriors emblem.

He is back at the celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe. Also returning is his dad, Dell, who beat him last year.

“I see the lake is at a very, very healthy level. And so whoever loses between me and him has to take a polar plunge into the lake before we head back to the Bay (Area) after Sunday’s round. So I hope that’s not me,” Curry said a press conference on July 13.

The actual tournament is Friday-Sunday. Players will tee off

starting at 7:50am; most in trios.



Quarterback Alex Smith with his daughter. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Alex Smith, the Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, was carrying his daughter around after he was done playing. One fan yelled, "San Francisco is regretting it." To which Smith smiled and said, "Thanks."

"Kaepernick is a joke," the fan followed up.

The Forty-Niners promoted Colin Kaepernick over Smith when Smith got injured in 2012. Kaepernick no longer has a team to play for and Smith is still tossing touchdowns for Kansas City.



Arizona Cardinals cornerback Patrick Peterson stops to sign a fan's program. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Waiting to board the bus back to the hotel, former 49er wide receiver Jerry Rice gave a high five to the little Smith.

At the putting green was former running back Marshall Faulk. He didn't want anything to do with the fans. "He only signs when he wants to," one spectator said.

Autograph signing really does vary from celebrity to celebrity, with most signing at least a few articles of clothing or programs.

Humans have the ability to easily deal with bears

By Wes Siler, Outside

It's summer. Like every other summer, we humans enter the woods and are shocked to find that bears live there. Forewarned should be forearmed. Simply by carrying a can of bear spray with you when you go into the woods and following other commonsense advice, you will never need to fear bears again.

In the past 10 years, there have been 28 fatal bear attacks in the United States. This year there have already been two.

There are a few points I'm trying to make: 1) Bear attacks are exceptionally rare—more people in the United States are killed annually by bees than by bears. 2) Guns aren't a great defense against the animals. 3) In the highly unlikely event that you are attacked by a bear, bear spray is so effective that your overall odds of being injured, let alone killed, are less likely than winning the lottery.

[Read the whole story](#)

Celebs warming up for ACC golf tournament



Former Green Bay Packers wide receiver Sterling Sharpe practices putting July 12. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

By Lake Tahoe News

Several of the contestants in the American Century Championship were sharpening their skills Wednesday at Edgewood Tahoe.

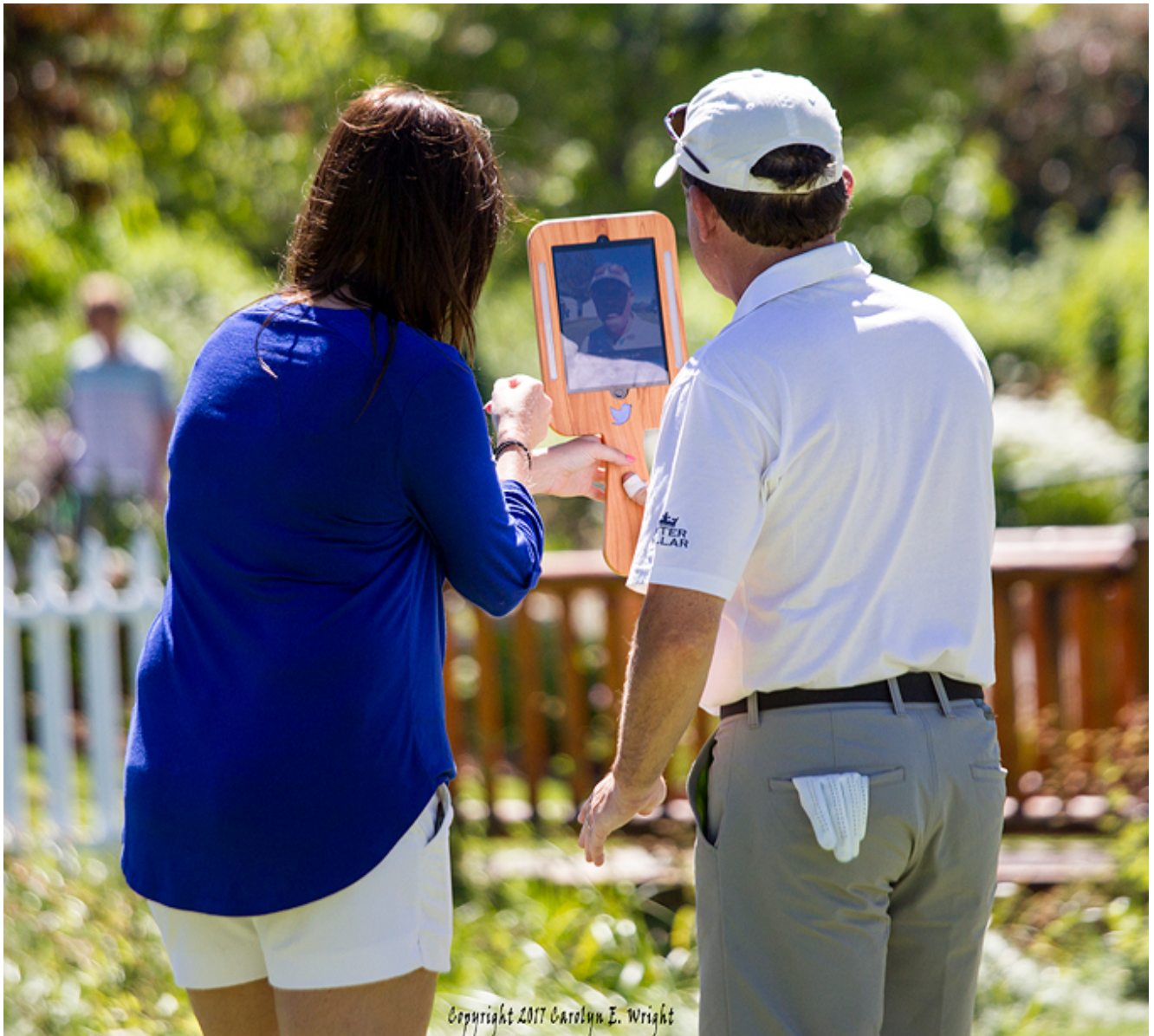
Practice rounds and the pro-ams have a distinct casual feel about them.



Former Cal star Jared Goff, who is coming off his rookie season as the Rams quarterback, has a throng of fans wanting an autograph. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

And while there are plenty of guys like Charles Barkley and Larry the Cable Guy who don't ever take themselves too seriously while at Edgewood Tahoe, there are others who are in it to prove something.

It's not like any of the players really needs the money, but there is a purse of \$600,000 with first place worth \$125,000.



NBC Sports commentator Jimmy Roberts reads the Twitter feed on what looks like a mirror. The network will be broadcasting the tournament. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Mark Mulder is the man to beat. He has won the tournament the last two years.

Even the serious golfers still find time to be playful. When it's 80 degrees out, not a cloud in the sky and a cool breeze blowing off Lake Tahoe, it's not a bad way to spend a day. Then there are all those adoring fans – most who are well behaved.



Washington Redskins two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Joe Theismann is a regular at the ACC. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

The party, well, that's always on hole 17 – right on the beach. Get there early to have a good spot to see the players.

A little more intimacy can be found near the putting green. A quick trip to the driving range makes it easy to tell who will likely be in the bottom half or the top half when Sunday comes to a close.



Actor Jack Wagner, left, who is going for this third ACC title, chats July 12 with former pitcher Josh Beckett and musician Colt Ford. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Here are the **pairings** for July 13.

The actual tournament is Friday-Sunday. For more info, go **online**.

Bike share company opening in S. Lake Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

Starting Saturday expect to see a couple hundred bright green and yellow bikes throughout South Lake Tahoe.

LimeBike ride share is launching in the city this weekend.

The biggest difference with this company compared to other ride share businesses is that there is no set docking station. On the one hand, that means riders can leave the bike in pretty much any public area – and where private businesses say it's OK. On the other hand, it could be a bit of a scavenger hunt to find a bike.

This business model is more in line with the growing shared economy which comes with as few rules and regulations as possible, as well as a great deal of flexibility.

LimeBike's app shows where the nearest bike is located and gives directions to get to the bike.



A bicycle ride share firm is opening in South Lake Tahoe on July 15. Photo/LTN

"Every bike has a GPS so we would know if it's in someone's garage," Andrew Savage with LimeBike said.

Savage was at the July 11 South Lake Tahoe City Council

meeting to explain the program. It is coming to the area with the help of the League to Save Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. This is a trial period that will run through October.

The app that is available on Apple and Android products is how people will find a bike and pay for the rental. People just need to deposit \$5 to get started. The cost is \$1 for every 30 minutes.

LimeBike is based in San Mateo and was launched in April. The start-up raised \$12 million through venture capitalists.

The bikes have a kickstand so they don't have to be left in a rack. The foam core tires are designed to not deflate. A front basket will allow people to carry items.

Councilman Jason Collin was enthusiastic about the program, sharing how he has used similar programs in Europe. He asked about the ability to reserve a bike or be able to keep it if a person is running into a business just for a quick errand.

The answer is no – at least for now.

Because the company is so new they know tweaks to the system are probably going to need to happen.

Savage also said if more bikes are needed that won't be a problem.

Collecting ZIP code information from users will allow LimeBike to provide the city if it's locals or visitors using the bikes.