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**GRAND TRAVERSE
RESORT AND SPA**

Golfers Gear Up for the 103rd Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship

ACME, Mich., August 14, 2020 – Golf continues to be in full swing at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. We are weeks away from the 103rd Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship. The Michigan Open Championship is the state’s most prestigious annual tournament and we invite you to come out for the fun and excitement.

Dates and Details for Spectators

- The tournament begins Monday, August 31 and ends Thursday, September 3, 2020.
- The tournament is open for public viewing at no charge.
- Spectators are to follow standard golf course etiquette, dress codes, social distancing, and mask wearing protocols.
- Results for the tournament will be posted [here](#) as scores as available.

About the Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship

The best golfers from Michigan will play for the Michigan Open Championship’s largest purse ever thanks to a new title sponsorship with Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel. The 103rd edition of the state championship is scheduled for August 31-September 3 on The Bear course at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa and will have a purse of over \$115,000.

The Michigan Open was first played in 1916 and won by Leo Diegel, who also played in the inaugural Ryder Cup matches and the first Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. Many of golf’s famous players have their names listed on the Michigan Open’s James Standish Trophy, including Traverse City’s own Scott Hebert, a six-time winner of the championship.

Tournament Details

The field is made up of the top Michigan PGA professionals, touring professions who maintain residency in the state, and the top amateur players. The tournament is a 72-hole stroke place event. A tie for first place will be decided by a sudden death playoff immediately following the completion of the final round. Purse payout is for those who return a 72-hole stroke.

Six-time champion Scott Hebert of Traverse City Golf & Country Club, and defending champion Eric Lilleboe of Okemos, head a list of 15 former champions who are entered. Recent Open winners on that list include Jake Kneen of White Lake (2018), Matt Thompson of Hillsdale (2017), Jeff Bronkema of Wayland (2016), Jeff Cuzzort of Grosse Ile (2015), PGA Tour Champions player Tom Werkmeister of Grandville (2013), Barrett Kelpin of Kalamazoo (2012) and Randy Hutchison of Traverse City (2011).

About The Bear

The Bear was home to the Michigan Open Championship from 1985 through 2008, then again in 2018 and 2019, and is often described as one of the toughest golf courses in the state. It is an 18-hole, par 72 course which features terraced fairways, tiered greens, deep grassy roughs, and deep pot bunkers. A true test for even the finest golfers, The Bear plays to 7,078 yards from the championship tees. It has four lakes, ten holes with water hazards, and only one hole with no bunkers. The Bear is a signature design of Jack Nicklaus and opened on June 17, 1985.

Volunteering at the Michigan Open

The success of the Michigan Open is largely due to the volunteers who help make the event run smoothly. Volunteers help provide services such as live tournament scoring, leaderboards, shuttle driving, spotting, score verification, and more. The Michigan PGA will be providing volunteer training meetings before the event. Volunteers will receive complimentary golf from the Resort and a hat from the Michigan PGA. Those interested in volunteering should contact Tyler Jablonski at tjablonski@gtresort.com or 231-534-6477.

For the Media

Press interested in covering the event should contact Caroline Rizzo at caroline.rizzo@gtresort.com. A limited number of golf cars are available for media use. The Resort is also offering a special room rate for out-of-town media coming to Traverse City for the tournament.

Media images are available [here](#).

About Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Nestled among the freshwater beaches and hardwood forests of Traverse City, MI, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa is miles away from ordinary. Featuring nearly 600 guest rooms and 86,500 square feet of meeting space, the 900-acre property is one of Michigan's premier resort destinations. The Resort is also home to three championship golf courses, the renowned Spa Grand Traverse, and *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence winner Aerie Restaurant & Lounge. Visit grandtraverseresort.com or call 800-236-1577 to learn more.