

INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

The return of golf helps bring some normalcy to NW golfers

When golf courses around the state got shut down, there wasn't much for avid golfers like Richard Carbajal Sr. and his son Richard Jr. to do. They were regulars at Village Greens in Port Orchard, Wash. but had to sit by as COVID-19 spread. When it came time to get back on the course, they were more than ready. See Page 9 for more on this story.



WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

A hole-in-one on her very first golf swing? That's right, it really happend

It was August 24, 2020, the first day of the summer's last Junior Camp at Jackson Park Golf Course in Seattle, when PGA Professional Dave Boivin met Eggers sisters Evelyn (age 15) and Laurel (age 13).

Like many 'tween and teenage girls, the Eggers sisters had never played golf before. As part of a brief goal-setting exercise they were asked what they'd like to experience. Evelyn said, "I'm here to see if golf is something I might like to do—but really I'd just like to have fun with my sister."

After the morning activities, the students moved to Jackson Park's Executive Nine to experience what it's like to be on a golf course.

As the kids approached the first tee, Evelyn asked what to do. Boivin suggested a club to use for the 105 yard downhill first hole and said "just aim for the hole" along with his typical encouragement to "relax, have fun, and enjoy the afternoon!"

And that she did, she ever.

It was Evelyn's first time on an actual golf course, her first swing on her very first hole. And what happened? Her ball landed on the green, then rolled and rolled until it hit the flag, and went in the hole. Dad said: "I think that went in the hole for a Hole-in-One." Sure-enough when we walked up, it was in the cup.

We all celebrated and congratulated Evelyn on her amazing start to golf—completing the dream of many a golfer on her very first golf swing.

What are the odds?!



Tumwater Valley celebrates milestone with its 50th year

Tumwater Valley Golf Course has long been one of the most popular courses in the south Puget Sound area – and now celebrates a milestone in its golf history as the course turns 50 years old in 2020. Located right off Interstate-5 in Tumwater, the course was created by the Olympia Brewery. The brewery is gone but the course still stands out. For more, see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



Fall golf in the Northwest is a treat



With fall in the air in the Pacific Northwest, colors around the golf course begin to turn – like the trees at the Home Course in DuPont. For more on fall golf in the Pacific Northwest, please see inside this section of Inside Golf.

LPGA Tour makes its return to the Northwest, but without the fans

The LPGA Tour made its annual return to the Pacific Northwest with the LPGA Cambia Classic at Columbia Edgewater Country Club, but it was anything but normal. There were no fans, no bleachers, no sky boxes and no scoreboards. In fact, the only way the players could check on the scores was to take a look at their cell phones during the round.

But through it all Georgia Hall came through in the end, winning the tournament in a playoff with Ashleigh Buhai, making a par on the second hole of the playoff.

The Portland LPGA event is the longest-running non-major on the LPGA schedule. While many LPGA Tour events were cancelled or postponed this year, the LPGA Cambia Portland Classic went on, although it was a three round tournament this year, not four.

With no fans, the Golf Channel and the internet were two of the few ways to check out the tournament.

Hall had a one-shot lead standing on the 18th tee at Columbia Edgewater Country Club but could only manage a bogey, setting up the playoff. Hall's par on the second playoff hole was enough for her second career LPGA victory.

Normally Hall would have known where she stood in the tournament, but on the 18th tee she wasn't sure, but she knew where she stood after winning the playoff.

Golf in the NW: First COVID-19 then the smoke

There has been plenty to deal with when it comes to golf in 2020. First the COVID-19 issues shut down golf courses for weeks around the country - including places like Madrona in Gig Harbor (right). Then came the wildfires and the smoke. But through it all, rounds have gone up. See Page 2 for more on golf on the Northwest.



Rules Quiz

You have hit your last shot into a yellow or red penalty area. You have decided to take back-on-the-line relief. The Rule Official with you asks you to mark your reference point. What is that? Please see the answer on Page 2.

First COVID-19, then the smoke, but NW courses survive and the rounds are up

This has been one strange golf season. What started off as a solid spring, quickly turned into a series of "anything that can happen will happen."

First, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation, closing golf courses across the U.S. for weeks. Then around the Pacific Northwest, wildfires spread like, well, wildfire. Smoke filled the air for days and weeks causing some courses to close down.

Golf courses had to make up a different set of rules to comply with state regulations, starting with solo riders in carts, masks in pro shops, hand sanitizer throughout and six feet of social distancing. But through it all, the courses survived.

And not just survived. Courses across the country, and especially in the Pacific Northwest, saw some huge numbers once play started up again back in April. The numbers weren't just big, they were record-setting.

Most courses set records, in fact at Foster Golf Course near Sea-Tac Airport the course did 10,000 rounds in the month of July alone. You read that right. 10,000 rounds. Not that all courses did those kind of numbers, but numbers were up across the board. Those who tried to get weekend tee times were well aware just how busy golf had become. Tee times were scarce not just on weekend but during the week as well.

That was great news for the golf courses after having to deal with shut downs, a pandemic, smoke issues and being forced to play under a new set of rules with the COVID-19 outbreak.

* On another note, Jeff Ellison the long-time CEO of the Pacific Northwest Section of the PGA has retired. You might not recognize the name, but Ellison was a fixture in Pacific Northwest golf for years. Ellison worked more than 30 years to the section and he was never one to look for the spotlight. Yet, when you needed a question answered or a rule clarified, Ellison was your man.

I remember playing in a major Pro-Am years ago and was taking a drop. Ellison appeared in his golf cart and told me I was doing it the wrong way. He saved me from a penalty stroke that day as he told



me the correct way to take the drop. Thanks Jeff. I think you saved a shot off my solid round of 93 that day in the tournament.

Happy retirement Jeff, you will be missed by golfers in the Pacific Northwest.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at sdturcotte@comcast.net.



Jeff Ellison



Quail Valley Golf Course near Portland is one of places that saw the most rise in rounds and had to deal with smoke.



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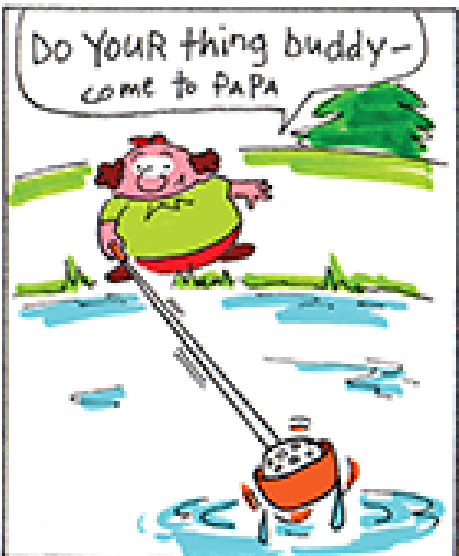
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Double Bogey



Harold Bluestein PGA



Rules Answer

• Answer: This term has been in use for some time but now gets more emphasis under the new rules. The "reference point" is the spot chosen by the player that is used to determine (measure) the "relief area" available to you in taking your (1) stroke penalty relief. It is an area one (1) club length measured from the "reference point" no nearer the hole than the "reference point". If a player fails to mark this "reference point" it by default is that spot where the ball first contacts the course when dropped. The ball cannot be played without penalty if played closer to the hole than the "reference point". The penalty is (2) strokes. Committees may want to review Model Local Rule E-12 for revised options with this Rule.
• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.



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Walla Walla Valley named America's Best Wine Region in national survey

The Walla Walla Valley has been named America's Best Wine Region in the 2020 USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice awards following a month-long nationwide public vote. Walla Walla Valley has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious award three consecutive years, but this marks the first time it has earned first place. In addition to the Walla Walla Valley's first-place win in Best Wine Region category, Long Shadows Vintners took fourth place in the Best Tasting Room category for the second consecutive year.

A panel of five wine industry experts chose 20 finalists from a list of more than 250 American wine-growing regions. The public was then asked to vote daily for their favorite region between July 13 and Aug. 12.

And don't forget about the golf. Wine Valley Golf Club sits in the middle of the wineries and offers a terrific outlet when you need a break from the winery tours in the area. Wine Valley is ranked among the top courses in the Pacific Northwest.

As the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla is home to more than 120 wineries, a nationally recognized culinary scene, access to an abundance of outdoor recreation, and an arts & entertainment scene. This community of just over 30,000 is known for many things, including its friendliness and hospitality, the quality of its wine, and of course the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onion. An easy and scenic four-hour drive from Seattle, Portland, or Boise, Walla Walla can also be accessed via Alaska Airlines daily non-stop flights from Seattle. For more information and to begin planning a trip to Walla Walla, visit www.wallawalla.org.



Wine Valley Golf Club in Walla Walla is part of the experience in the area along with many terrific wineries.

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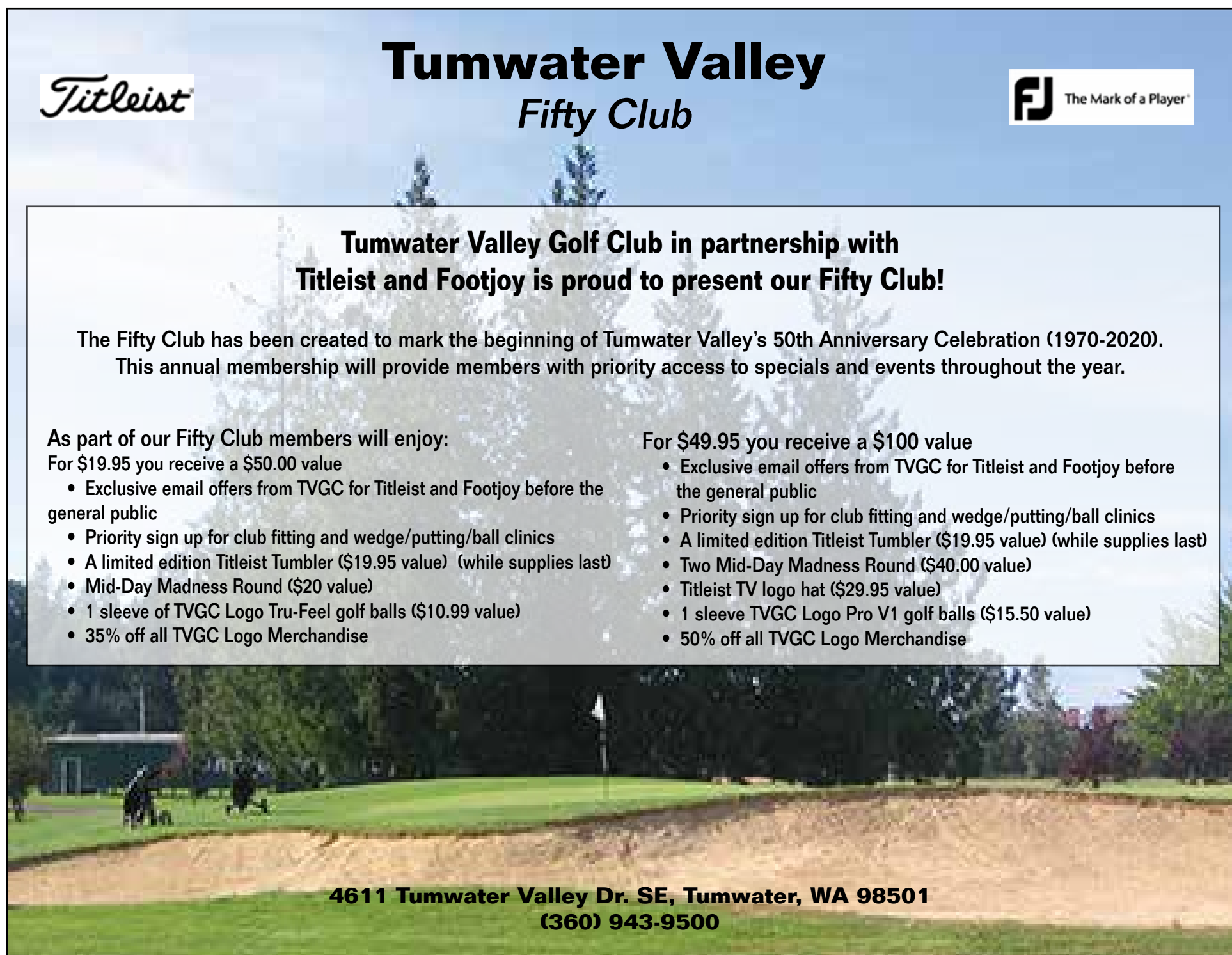
USGA plans to set up a second Golf House at Pinehurst Resort

Bjorke is the general manager of McCormick Woods, and a little home cooking seemed to help his game. He began the final round just one shot behind

The 46-year-old Kelly began the day with bogeys

Brandes put together rounds of 71-68-74 to win the championship. Former Major League pitcher Erik Hanson was second at 216 while George White of Vancouver, Wash. was third at 217, tied with Tim Rypien of Spokane.

The campus will feature the USGA's Equipment Standards Test Center – a laboratory dedicated to testing golf balls and clubs for conformance to the Rules of Golf. It will replace the current facility on the USGA's Liberty Corner campus and enable significant new investment in advanced technology required to perform this global governance function. Pinehurst will also serve as the USGA's base for its work to advance the game of golf through innovation, research and science.



Tumwater Valley

Fifty Club

Tumwater Valley Golf Club in partnership with Titleist and Footjoy is proud to present our Fifty Club!

The Fifty Club has been created to mark the beginning of Tumwater Valley's 50th Anniversary Celebration (1970-2020). This annual membership will provide members with priority access to specials and events throughout the year.

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Tumwater Valley Golf Course hits a milestone

Tumwater Valley Golf Course opened its doors 50 years ago and has transitioned from exclusively offering golf rounds to showcasing Tumwater’s largest community asset in a variety of ways, and it’s working!

Tumwater Valley is home to 18 holes of championship play that can test all ability levels. It features a beautiful track with views of Mount Rainier and the Deschutes River meandering through a tranquil setting. In addition, Tumwater Valley boasts the finest practice facilities in the area with a 10-acre grass tee driving range, practice putter and chipping green complete with an oversized practice bunker.

TVGC features year-round programming facilitated on this 200-acre golf facility. Tumwater Parks and Recreation is committed to focusing on local youth and growing the game of golf. Tumwater Valley has partnered with the First Tee of South Puget Sound, the PGA Junior League and Big Brothers Big Sisters to offer a variety of options and opportunities for hundreds of youth. “We

are proud to be the signature course for the largest junior golf programs in the South Puget Sound area,” said Russ Olsen, Director of Instruction. These programs have become a feeder to the Valley Golf Academy which is designed to prepare junior players to compete at high school and collegiate levels. In addition, Tumwater Valley has partnered with Special Olympics to be the host site for 30 Special Olympics golf athletes of which, several are now State Gold Medalists.

What truly sets Tumwater Valley apart is the numerous community events put on by the Tumwater Parks & Recreation Department. These events attract all ages of both golfers and non-golfers alike. “Our vision is not only to provide quality conditions and a fantastic golf value, but also to be creative with scheduling in-and-around our daily play in an effort to attract as many non-golfers as possible,” said Chuck Denney, Tumwater Parks & Recreation Director. “We have hosted everything from high school proms on the driving range, to fun runs along

our cart paths, outdoor movie nights, craft beer festivals, fundraising events for local charities, and our largest annual community celebration - the 4th of July Artesian Family Festival and Thunder Valley Fireworks Show,” Denney said. These events continue to grow in popularity each and every year, with over 20,000 attending 2019’s July 4th celebration. “It’s exciting to see this facility being utilized for more than golf. Community members are now referring to this property as Tumwater’s outdoor community center.”

In addition to the variety of program offerings, Tumwater Valley Golf Course also became the first municipal golf course in Washington State to earn Salmon-Safe certification in 2019. This designation means that the City of Tumwater is proactively and significantly improving the environmental health of the 200-acre golf course alongside the Deschutes River.

Visit the Tumwater website at <https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/parks-recreation>



Tumwater Valley Golf Course turned 50 years old.

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Northwest courses seeing big numbers, like Highlands Golf Course

When Jack and Angela Connelly became the owners of Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma a little more than a year ago, they couldn't have asked for a more favorable response from those golfers "working on their short game" In July and August of this year they had the largest number of rounds played in the 89-year history of the course. In both months there were over 5,000 rounds played, and this August actually doubled last August in its number of rounds.

Course superintendent Gordy Misely gets the credit for having greens that now rival those of any other course in the state, the bunkers are raked and the course groomed every morning.

McDuff's Café also has added to the popularity after a slow start thanks to COVID-19. The "two fireplace patio" is often busy throughout the day. Duffer Dogs, Birdie Wings, and Eagle Deli Sandwiches, are huge favorites and so is the Café' Darte coffee. The welcoming atmosphere at McDuff's includes dramatic views in pictures of Pebble

Beach, Augusta, St. Andrews and Chambers Bay. How about Ireland?

Connelly wouldn't consider leaving the Irish off, nor would he forget the sign on the wall there – "Today Will Be A Good Day". It's the McDuff's goal. Café' Manager Ben Savage makes good on that promise. His team of terrific baristas expect to brighten anyone's day with outstanding beverages and sandwiches, great breakfast choices, and some excellent beer and wine selections from the state's finest connoisseurs from WSU's Alumni and Greek Row.

During golf's "off season," management intends to continue the work on course landscaping, revamping the third hole, and expanding water on the picturesque 5th. If COVID-19 permits, even larger crowds in support of charity tournaments and neighborhood gatherings will be in attendance next season. Watch for the return of the Washington State Par-3 Championship and a Highlands 90th Anniversary Celebration. For information call 253-759-3622.



Highlands Golf Course in Tacoma is one of the golf courses in the NW to see a rise in the number of rounds,

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A photograph of the interior of McDuff's Cafe. On the left, there is a large stone fireplace with a fire burning. To the right, there is a bar area with various bottles and a menu board displaying the McDuff's logo. The atmosphere is cozy and rustic.

Prugh captures Northwest PGA title; Coston wins Senior PGA Championship

Corey Prugh, the head coach for the Spokane Community College men's and women's team, turned back a pair of challengers in a playoff to win the Pacific Northwest PGA Championship at Canyon River Golf Club in Missoula, Montana.

Prugh and Brady Sharp of Wine Valley in Walla Walla and Bo Baker of the Creek at Qualchan in Spokane finished tied at 202 for the three rounds before Prugh won the tournament in a playoff.

Prugh will lead seven Pacific Northwest professional to the National PGA Club Professional in April in Florida. Also advancing were Tim Feenstra of Broadmoor in Seattle, Colin Inglis of Shadow Hills in Junction City, Derek Berg of the Pacific Northwest Golf Academy and Russell Grove of North Idaho.

Coston wins Senior PGA tournament

PGA Professional Jeff Coston of Semiahmoo G&CC (Blaine, WA) won the Senior PGA Professional Championship supported by Golf Channel, John Deere and the PGA Tour in a one-hole playoff against PGA Professional Mark Keating of OGA Course.

The top five qualifiers that also entered the National qualifier will advance directly to the 32nd Senior PGA Professional Championship, to be played October

15-18, 2020 at PGA Golf Club (Wanamaker & Ryder Courses) in Port St. Lucie, FL. Jeff Coston is exempt. Representing our Section will be Bob Rannow of Ocean Dunes (Florence, OR), Tony Robydek of Meadow Parks GC (Tacoma, WA), Todd O'Neal of Riverside G&CC (Portland, OR), Jeff Marsh of Vancouver, WA) and Tom Sovay of The Golf Club at Redmond Ridge (Redmond, WA).

Additionally, top finishers at the 32nd Senior PGA Professional Championship will earn a berth in the 82nd KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. Winning the Senior Division was Steve Reuhl of Marysville, Wash.

Amateur wins Washington Senior Open

Amateur Don Bidingier of Tacoma Country and Golf Club won the 7Cedars Casino Senior Washington Open and the Cedars at Dungeness Golf Club in Sequim, Wash. Bidingier had three rounds in the 60's to win the tournament shooting 67-69-69 for a 205 total to win by the event by two shots.

Professional Jeff Coston was second at 207, shooting a 66 in the final round to move up the leaderboard. Amateur Tom Brandes of Glendale Country Club tied for third with Tom Sovay of Redmond Ridge and amateur Greg Sanders of Prairie Falls at 210.

Tour Players With Northwest ties

PGA Tour

- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • 122th on the list with \$15,114
- Ben Crane • Portland • No Events
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 118th on the list with \$15,807
- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • No Events
- Scott Harrington • Portland • 55th on the list with \$94,411
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • No Events
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 109th on the list with \$23,320
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 98th on the list with \$29,411
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 78th on the list with \$45,682
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • No Events
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • No Events

Korn Ferry Tour

- Robert Garrigus • Gresham • 154th on the list with \$20,162
- Andres Gonzales • Olympia • 136th on the list with \$27,490
- Alex Prugh • Spokane • 123rd on the list with \$34,482
- Dylan Wu • Medford • 17th on the list with \$190,007

Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 10th on the list with \$598,183
- Bob Gilder • Corvallis • No Events
- Brian Henninger • Eugene • No Events
- Peter Jacobsen • Portland • 124th on the list with \$2,096
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 44th on the list with \$197,885

Mackenzie Tour (Canada) - 2020 Tour Cancelled

- Derek Barron • Puyallup • No Events
- Alistar Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • No Events
- Chris Killmer • Bellingham • No Events
- Cory Pereira • Ex-UW • No Events
- Chris Williams • Ex-UW • No Events
- Eugene Wong • Ex-Oregon • No Events

LPGA Tour

- Erynne Lee • Silverdale • No Events
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No Events
- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 87th on the list with \$51,755

LPGA Symetra Tour

- Jamie Huo • Kent • 168th on the list with \$404
- Jimin Kang • Seattle • No Events
- Mallory Kent • Seattle • No Events
- Sadena Parks • Tacoma • No Events
- Kim Welch • Ex-WSU • No Events

Did you know....

• Washington Golf is a founding member of the Golf Alliance of Washington, which advocates for golfers and the golf industry. The alliance has been working directly with the Governor's office in navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on golf facilities. Visit GolfAllianceofWashington.org for more information.



• The Pacific Northwest Golf Association was founded in 1899, and is one of the oldest golf associations in North America. On October 10, 2020, it will hold its 121st Annual Meeting. These meetings are attended by Club Representatives and golf industry guests. For the first time in its history, the PNGA will conduct this meeting virtually, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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The Lesson Tee: There is more than just the swing, it's also important to learn how to win

It has been said that I've played on every tour except the LPGA Tour, including the PGA Tour, Web.com Tour, and the PGA Tour Champions. I'm a grandfather now, and I'm still playing tournament golf. So, I'm sometimes asked why I've been more successful as a player in my latter days than I was on the PGA Tour in the mid-80s. The answer is that I have learned from past failures and have a far better mental game than ever before.

I have learned how to win. And this is something that must be taught to our golf students every day. Lessons should go beyond the setup and swing, short game and putting, the importance of which we cannot deny. But students should be taught how to practice, how to play on the course, and ideally, with some of our more advanced college and professional players, how to win.

Players need to trust what they have, and that they've prepared for the pressure of tournament golf. Coach them on how to mentally handle a round of golf when their "C" game is the best they have.

I coach my students not to be attached to the outcome, but to be focused in the moment. Regarding the physical shot, I teach starting lines and end points. Shaping your shot is vital. On the lesson tee we use flags on the range to create a zone beyond which a student's ball should not veer. I teach them to control their path and clubface and hit committed golf shots. As visual people, we do better with an image in mind.

That picture helps eliminate mistakes and reduce the big errors that can destroy a round. It is important to overcome interference out there. This is something I did not do as a young player, but sure do today. As teachers it is important to surround ourselves with knowledgeable people and continue to learn every day.

- On the business impact of teaching your students how to win:



Golf can provide many extraordinary benefits to players, teachers and students alike. I started playing professionally in the late '70s. A great striker of the ball, I lacked some of the tools at which I now excel and teach my own students. I started teaching on August 1, 1994 and have not stopped since.

For over 24 years, I have taught from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. five days per week, with no lunch or breaks. Students drive from hours away and even fly in to our town to learn what I have to teach. I conduct four-hour mini golf schools on Saturday mornings and online lessons as requested. I've done almost 120 golf schools with Mike Bender alone, as well as dozens more with Mike Adams, Mike Bennett and Andy Plummer. Collaborating with other professionals gives us all an opportunity to learn from each other, providing the very best learning experience for students.

It allows me the chance to always learn and grow, personally and professionally.

Jeff Coston is a PGA Northwest Section Hall of Fame member, the PGA Owner/Operator of the Jeff Coston Golf Academy and PGA Director of Instruction at the Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club in Blaine, Washington and can be reached for appointment at 360-.201.4590.



Photo #1



Photo #2

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- Nov 24** • 2 Player Scramble • 9am tee times
- Dec 31** • 4 Player Scramble • 10am shotgun
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- Feb 6** • 4 Player 2 Best Ball (2 scores per team) • 10am shotgun
- Feb 27** • 2 Player 9-9 (9 holes scramble, 9 holes best ball) • 10am shotgun

**If the state guidelines do not allow shotguns tee times will be used.*



Public Entry: \$65 (includes cart)

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Pacific Northwest golfers find out that golf helps bring back some normalcy

By Mike De Felice
Reprinted from the Port Orchard Independent

Before the state’s stay-at-home order was imposed, 78-year-old “Rich” Carbajal and his son Richard Jr., would tee it up six mornings a week at the Village Greens Golf Course in Port Orchard. This was the routine for the Port Orchard pair for nearly two years since they love the game and enjoy playing together. When the pandemic required golf courses to close, the news hit the twosome hard.

“We were pretty bummed,” admits the younger Carbajal, who works the swing shift as a truck driver at Miles Sand and Gravel, and is free to play mornings. “We could really only watch TV and shop for new clubs on the internet,” he said of the coronavirus lockdown.

When it was announced that courses would reopen May 5, the Carbajals were understandably elated. Richard jumped online to reserve a tee time.

“We were one of the first to play when the course reopened,” Richard Jr. beamed. Now, the father-son duo is back regularly swinging the sticks.

The Carbajals were not the only ones happy the six-week golf course shutdown has ended.

The number of golfers returning to local courses since the pandemic hit is up significantly. It seems that after folks had been stuck at home during winter and the lockdown, the idea of hitting the links offered a welcome change of scenery for longtime enthusiasts and those who wanted to take up the sport.

It helps that golf is ideally suited to the concept of social — or physical — distancing.

The number of golfers at the executive par-3 Village Greens course is up 25 percent over last year, according to the clubhouse manager Kaitlyn Spellman.

“In Port Orchard, there are not many activities to do now since the theater and bowling alley are closed,” she said.

“Everyone has been so grateful the course is open. It gives them a safe outdoor activity and an outlet to get out of the house.”

Being a shorter course consisting of mostly par-3 holes makes Village Greens quite family-friendly. “We are a shorter course so it’s not as intimidating for kids to play an entire 18 holes. A lot of kids are coming out for the first time. It’s been really fun to see their faces. They are pretty excited to get out with their parents or grandparents and hit for the first time,” she said.

Many regulation (or longer) golf courses on the Kitsap Peninsula are also seeing an increase of people teeing it up.

“The course is as busy as I’ve ever seen it,” said John Sitton, golf operations manager at Gold Mountain Golf Club, who has worked in various capacities at the course over the past 20 years.

“Rounds are up! Last year through the end of July, our two courses had 43,000 rounds. This year, the number is 45,000 and that is with the course being closed for six weeks [due to the stay-at-home order],” Sitton said of the Bremerton club.

Annual memberships at Gold Mountain this year have increased 15 to 20 percent, Sitton noted. In addition, the club’s men’s and women’s leagues are “as active as ever.”

At McCormick Woods, an 18-hole Port Orchard track that winds through firs and cedars, and around natural lakes, golf’s resurgent popularity has at times made finding a tee time challenging.

“We are seeing record numbers of people coming out to play. Daily rounds are up about 35 percent,” said Sheri Flood, golf operations manager at the course.

Interestingly, individuals who played previously but moved away from the sport are now returning to the fairways.

Golfing in the state came to a halt in March following Gov. Jay Inslee’s stay-at-home order. Most courses closed in late March and remained shut for six weeks until May 5.

When courses reopened they had to operate under a number of new health guidelines aimed at combating the spread of COVID-19 by reducing touchpoints.



Rich Carbajal and son Richard Jr. were some of the first to get back to golf when the courses re-opened.

Cash transactions were eliminated to avoid the handling of money. Players were not to touch the flagstick, but instead leave it in while players putted. Rakes in sand traps, ball washers and water dispensers were eliminated. Holes were equipped with special liners to prevent a ball from dropping to the bottom of the cup. The devices allowed players to retrieve their ball without having to touch the inside of the cup.

Also, electric golf carts and rental pushcarts were required to be sanitized after each use. And finally, players were asked to come to the course close to their start time and promptly leave after finishing their round to avoid groups of players congregating.

While courses are enjoying a resurgence in play, the emergence of the virus has also had an impact on the often lucrative special events held at the properties.

Normally, McCormick Woods and Gold Mountain provide scenic settings for weddings and banquets. Such events, which often include food and beverage service, provide courses year-round revenue; golf activity by itself primarily runs seven months a year.

Health regulations prohibiting large gatherings have for the time being effectively ended such events at golf properties.

Gold Mountain normally booked 50 weddings a year, Sitton said. This year, however, the property will likely end up hosting 20, those having taken place prior to the shutdown.

McCormick Woods was hit even harder. Whereas the course would typically host approximately 25 weddings annually, this year that number will likely be close to zero, Flood said.

What happens after the pandemic to the golf courses and their functions?

While golf in the great outdoors is riding high during these COVID-19 times, the question in the minds of golf officials is what will happen when things get back to normal?

Supporters often say golf is the ideal lifetime sport. And the course managers are hoping new and experienced golfers will continue to seek the outdoors and hit the fairways.



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Rules of the Game: So you move your golf ball by accident, what happens to you next

Pat Campbell



So many times, I get the question of what happens if I move my ball accidentally or I accidentally hit my ball with my practice swing or I accidentally picked up my ball and didn't put down a ball marker.....and it becomes evident that the use of the word "accidentally" means something more broadly in our everyday language than it does in the Rules of Golf.

To demonstrate some of the nuances let's look at Rules 9 and 11 over the next couple of columns. We'll check out "deliberate, accidental and unintentional" as they apply to our actions and the consequences for a golf ball at rest and a ball in motion. Let's do the easy one first. Rule 9 is all about a ball at rest that is moved. First of all, saying I didn't mean to is NOT the same as accidental. If you didn't mean to it may have been unintentional, which in the Rules of Golf may not qualify as accidental and you still need to take ownership of the outcome and any consequences.

An easy example of unintentional is when you absent mindedly pick up your golf ball on the green without putting down a ball marker first. True, you didn't intentionally pick up your ball without marking it, but it wasn't an accident. Therefore you have now



picked up a ball in play without marking it and it will cost you a stroke to get it back on the green. An expensive lesson, but you usually have to pay for your education in golf just like in real life. Golf is all about being in the moment.

Another common example is when golfers deliberately touch or move their ball without marking it first. Maybe you approach a ball on the edge of the rough and have developed the unfortunate habit of rotating it to see if it's yours without marking it first. It's your ball. Sorry, this isn't accidental movement..... pay your one stroke penalty for being a bit lazy and vow to mend your ways.

Many people replace their ball on the green, lift the ball marker, recheck the position of their ball and then bend down and give it an adjustment without

putting down their ball marker again. Again, retrain yourself to develop the habit of always marking your ball anytime you want to touch it or be prepared to pay that one stroke penalty every time, especially if you are golfing somewhere for big bucks and your opponent's buddy is watching you and he has bet on his buddy winning. Your bad habit has him seeing dollar signs. No amount of one putts can get back those penalty strokes you just voluntarily added to your score.

How about taking a practice swing on the fairway or fringe as in the picture and unintentionally hitting your ball? Accidentally kick your ball on the fairway? One stroke penalty, replace your ball and play on.

We'll look at a ball in motion accidentally or deliberately deflected or stopped next month.

USGA CEO leaving to pursue work in golf course design

Mike Davis, the current CEO of the USGA, will leave the organization by the end of 2021 to pursue a lifelong passion for golf course design and construction. In the next step of his professional journey, Davis, 55, will team with accomplished golf course designer Tom Fazio II in a new business venture, where together they have formed Fazio & Davis Golf Design.

Davis, who joined the USGA in 1990, became the Association's seventh executive director in 2011 and its first Chief Executive Officer in 2016.

In the CEO role, Davis is responsible for managing all aspects of the association's day-to-day operations, including its core functions, essential programs and human and financial resources. He serves as a member of several golf-related boards, including the International Golf Federation, World Golf Foundation, World Golf Hall of Fame and Official World Golf Rankings.

Until his departure, Davis will continue to focus on leading the organization through the impacts of COVID-19, advancing the USGA's commitment to create Golf House Pinehurst; driving USGA strategy (including, importantly, the outcomes of the Distance Insights project); and on-boarding and supporting his successor to ensure a smooth transition for the next CEO.

The USGA Executive Committee will soon initiate a search for the next CEO, with the goal of having a candidate in place prior to the 2021 U.S. Open in June.

Davis will support the onboarding of the new CEO over the subsequent months with the intent of formally departing the organization by the end of 2021.

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