

# INSIDE GOLF NEWSPAPER

## WM Phoenix Open: On and off the course, event got even more crazy

The WM Phoenix Open has always been considered one of the wildest events on the PGA Tour. And this year the fans and weather took it to another level. The pros (like Northwest native Ryan Moore pictured right) tried to keep their focus with the wild weather and wild antics from the fans this year. This is always more than just a golf tournament. See Page 2 for more.



## WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

### Volunteers are needed for KPMG Women's PGA event

One of the LPGA's Major Championships is coming back to the Pacific Northwest this June 20 - 23. Registration is now open for volunteers at the 2024 KPMG Women's PGA Championship, which returns to Sahalee Country Club after previously being held at the Sammamish, Wash. course back in the 2016 golf season.

Sahalee has also hosted other championships including the 1998 PGA Championship, 2002 WGC-NEC Invitational, and the 2010 U.S. Senior Open.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of the Championship and get the unique opportunity to be a part of one of the many committees, like Tee Refreshments, Transportation or Leaderboards.

Adult volunteers (ages 23 and up) are required to volunteer for at least three or four shifts (totaling approximately 16-20 hours), and act as a PGA Ambassador, offering assistance to guests during any unscheduled time. Volunteers will pay a \$150 Volunteer Package fee (plus applicable tax & fees), and will receive a volunteer uniform (Nike polo, outerwear piece, and baseball cap), meal vouchers during shifts, official PGA volunteer drawstring bag, complimentary parking, and a personalized Volunteer Credential which will provide access to the grounds all four days of the Championship.

Student volunteers (ages 14-22) are also welcome to volunteer at the Championship on select committees, and have no fee included with their registration.

For more information, please reach out to the Volunteer Operations team at 2024WPGA@pgahq.com, or if you'd like to register to volunteer visit [www.kpmgwomenspga.com/volunteer](http://www.kpmgwomenspga.com/volunteer).

### Rules question of the month

Question: As a player prepares to take relief for an area marked as ground under repair

in the general area she previews her relief area and notices there are a couple divot holes where her ball could end up after dropping a ball. So along with

removing the loose impediments (leaves, stones, twigs) she replaces the divots in the divot holes and takes her relief under Rule 16.1b. Such a straightforward process but can you see anything of concern? See the answer on Page 2 of this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.



## Northwest Golf Guide: Everything you need to know



**Golf season is here in the Pacific Northwest and Inside Golf Newspaper gets you ready with our annual Northwest Golf Guide. The golf guide is loaded with information about courses like Lommis Trail in Blaine, Wash.(top photo) and Glendoveer in Portland (right). Plus there is other information like the top resorts, places to play golf and park your RV and a listing of all the golf courses in the Pacific Northwest. Please see our special pullout section in this month's issue.**



## PGA Tour Champions, LPGA and Korn Ferry tours will make their way to the NW in 2024

The professional golf tours are on the way back to the Pacific Northwest - and with a special event for the 2024 golf season.

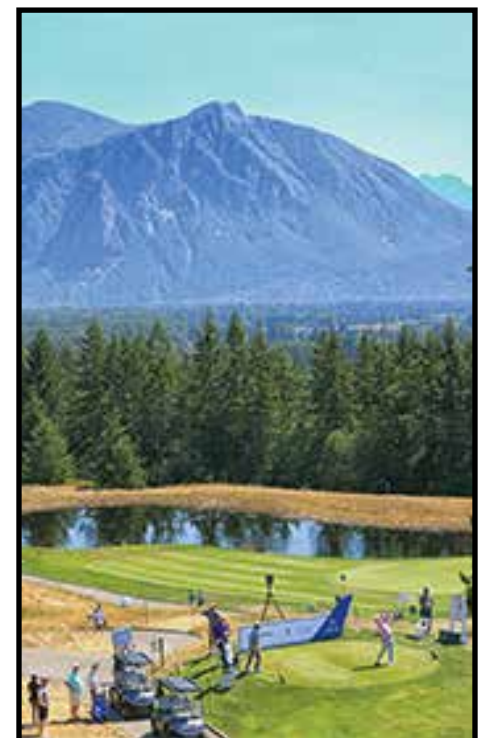
One of the LPGA's major championships, the KPMG Women's PGA, is set to return to the Pacific Northwest June 20-23 at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Wash. The event was last held at Sahalee in 2016 when the tournament was won by a then 18-year-old Brooke Henderson of Canada.

But that's not the only professional golf tournament that Pacific Northwest golf fans will be treated to.

The Portland LPGA Classic has moved dates and will be held Aug. 1-2 at Portland's Columbia Edgewater Country Club. Teenager Chanette Wannasaen won the tournament at 26 under par, becoming the rare Monday qualifier to win the tournament.

The Boeing Classic will bring the PGA Tour Champions to Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club Aug. 9-11 for its annual three-day run just east of Seattle. Stephen Ames won the tournament by a whopping six shots last year at Snoqualmie Ridge.

Rounding out the professional tours in the Northwest is the Albertsons Boise Open, which is set for Aug. 25-28 at Hillcrest Country Club.



Snoqualmie Ridge will host the PGA Tour Champions.

## Pin Seeker Golf offers new ways to tee it up with some indoor golf

Indoor golf just keeps growing in popularity and in new and innovative ways to play. Pin Seeker Indoor Golf in Bremerton has raised the bar again for indoor golf. There are new and improved cameras, there are hitting platforms that move to give you uphill or downhill lies, there is a new way of putting. It's all new and improved. You can even pour your own beer. For more on Pin Seeker Golf, please see inside this section of Inside Golf Newspaper.





# WM Phoenix Open: The craziness gets even crazier during the 2024 event in the desert

When you head to the WM Phoenix Open you never know what you will get. I have been attending for years and it's been a different experience every time. No different this year. With this tournament you always hear about the good times, there are hardly ever any criticisms from fans, players and tournament officials.

Whoops - something happened this year. It all started with the crappy weather on Thursday. As we stood in the bleachers on 16 that day, the rain came down and the wind blew. We got soaked and cold. And then they blew the horn to stop the round.

That was just the start of the chaos. Tee times were shuffled. Players barely had time to finish one round and start another. The course conditions got slippery and muddy and when the weather cleared for Friday and Saturday, the crowds came back. And back. It was so bad that on Saturday tournament officials closed the gates from letting people in. My buddy was trying to leave and couldn't get out the regular way, instead hopping a fence just to get out.

The crowd was so big that not only were the gates closed but alcohol sales on Saturday were shut down. It was easy to see why. Fans were getting in arguments with players, just ask Billy Horschel and Zach Johnson. One fan decided to jump into a bunker on 16 and make sand angels. There were fights. Huge lines for everything and growing frustrations.

But there are always the highlights which keep me coming back to the tournament - and especially to 16. The costumes on Friday were great, including a group of Oompa Loopas, a gathering of folks dressed as the founding fathers, a group of referees, another group of bananas and some dressed as the Village People.

There was so much beer being consumed in green plastic cups that the crowd on 16 made a snake of cups stretching from the top row to the bottom row. I saw one guy get led out by a group of cops and the crowd was not sympathetic saying "hey, hey, hey, goodbye."

The local and national media had plenty to write and talk about. Pacific Northwest native and former University of Washington golfer Paige Mackenzie was on the scene for the Golf Channel. I have known her for years and it was great to meet up and see what she thought of the tournament. She just laughed.



When it was all over the news was how to make the event better and more crowd friendly. The group who runs the tournament, the Thunderbirds, are determined to make the right changes. And I know they will. Because I will be back for more next year.

Steve Turcotte is editor of Inside Golf Newspaper. He can be reached at [sdurcotte@comcast.net](mailto:sdurcotte@comcast.net).



When it comes to the WM Phoenix Open you never know who you will run into or what you will see. Editor Steve Turcotte ran into an old friend Paige Mackenzie on the Golf Channel set (top); Clouds dominated the first day at the tournament on 16.



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## Double Bogey



## Harold Bluestein PGA



## Rules Answer

Answer: Under the current Rules of Golf there is a somewhat new defined term referred to as "Conditions Affecting the Stroke." This definition covers 5 items that cannot be improved before a player makes a stroke or drops or places a ball in a relief area. They are (1) area of intended stance (2) area of intended swing (3) the line of play (4) lie of ball at rest (5) relief area where a player will drop or place a ball. Rules 8.1 and 8.1a guide us in supporting the principle of playing the course as you find it by restricting what can be done in these 5 areas. In this situation the player can remove and clean up the loose impediments but they cannot create or eliminate holes, indentations or uneven surfaces by replacing the divots in divot holes. Even removing the divots after replacing them does not eliminate the penalty of 2 strokes the General Penalty.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his rules questions each month.

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# NW professionals will tee it up at nationals; 2024 NW schedule is set

There will be plenty of Pacific Northwest flavor when the club professionals from around the country tee it up at the PGA Professional Championship.

The PGA Professional Championship presented by Club Car, Corebridge Financial and Rolex takes place Apr. 28 - May 1 at Fields Ranch at PGA Frisco, Frisco, Texas and will include professionals from around the country who qualified for the event and the top players will advance to this year's PGA Championship at Valhalla in Kentucky.

Last fall, Austin Hurt of Wing Point G&CC secured his spot by winning the Section Championship. Also qualifying are: Derek Berg, Corey Prugh, Scott Erdmann, Liam Kendregan, Jeff Coston, Colin Inglis, Russell Grove and Chip Sullivan.

## Section major schedule is set

The Pacific Northwest Section PGA has set its schedule for the 2024 golf season.

The Washington Open Invitational will kick off the major season at Meridian Valley Country Club in Kent May 20-22. The Pelzer Oregon Open is next on the schedule and set for June 11-13 at Brasada Canyons in Central Oregon. The Rosauers Invitational will take



Meridian Valley in Kent will host the Washington Open.

place July 1-21 at Indian Canyon in Spokane while the Northwest Open will wrap up the schedule Aug. 19-21 at The Home Course in DuPont, Wash.

## Did you know....

- The Washington Men's Amateur original perpetual trophy, the Kerry Cup, resides in the clubhouse at Seattle Golf Club, having been won outright by Bon Stein, with his winning the championship in 1922, 1923 and 1925. Stein also won the title in 1926, for good measure. This is similar to the British Open, in which that championship's original trophy, the Challenge Belt, went home with Young Tom Morris after he won the title for the third year in a row



in 1870. The famed Claret Jug was not introduced as the British Open's perpetual trophy until 1872.

- The Pacific Northwest Golf Association and Pacific Northwest Section PGA each administer their own respective Halls of Fame. In 2011, the two organizations held the first joint Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which they have continued to do since then on a biennial basis. This year's ceremony will be held April 27, 2024, at Seattle Golf Club. Visit thepnga.org and pnwpga.com for more information.



## Tour Players With Northwest ties

### PGA Tour

- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No Events
- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 3rd on the list with \$3,873,606
- Ben Crane • Portland • No Events
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 145th on the list with \$47,004
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • No Events
- Scott Harrington • Portland • No Events
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 111th on the list with \$95,955
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • Not ranked
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • No Events
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 60th on the list with \$451,804
- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 11th on the list with \$2,015,133
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • No Events
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • No Events
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 69th on the list with \$373,500
- Adam Svensson • BC • 41st on the list with \$661,608

### Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 102nd on the list with \$5,567
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • No Events
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • 79th on the list with \$10,619
- Andrew Yun • Tacoma • No Events

### Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 31st on the list with \$32,250
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 33rd on the list with \$27,990

### LPGA Tour

- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • No Events
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • No Events
- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • No Events

### LPGA Epson Tour

- Kathleen Scavo • Ex-Oregon • No Events



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# Golf’s popularity continues to soar with some big numbers; Central Oregon area will host pair of amateur tournaments

Perhaps the most pressing question facing the golf industry over the past several years is whether the “pandemic dividend” would last.

There were further encouraging signs in 2023, with increases in participation and play, a healthier balance between the number of golfers and courses, and an evolution of a traditional game that’s positively affecting golf demand... and golf’s brand.

An estimated 26.6 million Americans played golf on a course in 2023, a net increase of approximately one million golfers. It’s the biggest single-year jump in on-course participants since 2001, the year Tiger Woods held all four major titles simultaneously – aka “The Tiger Slam” – which helped spur recreational golf engagement levels to new heights.

In the “Covid era,” the game has experienced momentum not seen since that “Tiger Boom,” with record or near-record levels of play and high-water marks for beginners and interest among non-golfers. The number of rounds of golf played in 2023 will check in just shy of the all-time high (in 2021) when the December data is released later this month.

It’s not just a post-pandemic carryover either. The popularity and increasing availability of off-course forms of golf are introducing more people to the game in different ways, helping not only increase interest in golf but driving record on-course trials and creating a consumer base that’s more diverse than ever. Total participation – counting both green-grass and off-course play (like that at Topgolf or in indoor simulators) – climbed to 45 million in 2023, a 9% year-over-year gain and a jump of over 50% in the past decade.

When looking at the nearly 14,000 golf facilities nationwide, rounds per course over the past few years are at their highest levels since the early 1990’s, an indication of the better balance between supply and demand.

Golf course closures in 2023 dipped to their lowest levels since prior to the Great Recession. And there were

more new course openings last year than any time since 2010.

**Central Oregon Shootout at Aspen Lakes**

The 2024 Central Oregon Shootout is set for April 26-27 at Aspen Lakes Golf Course in Sisters, Ore. The two-day event will feature two-player teams competing over two days in different formats, the first round will feature a better ball with a scramble set for the second round. Entry is \$500 per team and includes a welcome reception. Both rounds will feature 10:00 a.m. shotgun starts at Aspen Lakes.

**Battle at the Resorts set for May 2-4**

Eagle Crest Resort and Black Butte Resort will be the hosts for the Battle at the Resort - a two-person team championship event.

The three formats for the tournament will be a two-person scramble, Best Ball and Chapman. Eagle Crest’s Ridge and Resort courses will hosts tournament rounds as will Black Butte’s Glaze Meadow course.

For more info, email [dmcleery@bbranch.org](mailto:dmcleery@bbranch.org).

**Eaglemont saga continues**

To recap the Eaglemont saga from last month: Two homeowner couples, with the backing of over one hundred other residents, filed a suit against Beacon Hill Ministries, the current owner of the property, claiming that they are required to reactivate the golf course because the original zoning for the community included the golf course.

Beacon Hill Ministries argued that their claim is about zoning and can’t be extended to the current ownership of the property.

The judge said that while she granted that it was equitable for the homeowners to require the current owner to maintain the course, that it was not sufficient to overcome the inequity she found toward the owner

of the property if the owner was required to spend the large amount of capital to get the course and property restored and operating. She quoted an amount taken from testimony that it could take \$800,000 or more to restore the course, but requiring that of an owner she deemed unfair. A big setback for the home owners.

It appears that Beacon Hill Ministries borrowed \$3 million from Capital Preservation/Romano Capital, a Vancouver, Wash. company in order to purchase the property and failed to repay the loan. So Romano foreclosed and scheduled an auction for the week following the court date. Romano set a minimum bid of \$3.385 million would be required for anyone to purchase the property. The auction was canceled at the last minute and rescheduled for March 1st.

The judge noted that a strong potential buyer testified and said he would bid on it. But, that ignores the fact that it is highly unlikely that this or any buyer would pay anything like the minimum bid set by the lender. Beacon Hill could continue to own it until a successful auction. This means that the property could continue to see further deterioration.

Inside Golf will follow this saga as it unfolds and will have more next month.

**Loomis Trail winter series continues**

Loomis Trail will be the place if you are looking to play some winter golf events. Loomis Trail has a winter series that started in November and continues through the winter. Next up is the April 20 Cross Country Scramble.

The tournaments are open to everyone and sign up by calling the Pro shop at 360.332.1725 Winter rates are \$50 walking and \$60 riding. Green fees include a sleeve of Srixon Soft Feel golf balls.

**First Tee Chambers Bay Solstice**

On June 23, 2024, First Tee of Greater Seattle will

### See if you know the rules

Inside Golf Newspaper always likes to see if golfers know the rules of golf. here is a question to test your knowledge this month:

**Question:** A player in your group hits their tee shot down the left side toward not very good country. In anticipation they may not find the ball they properly announce and play a provisional ball which lands in good shape in the fairway. After a short search they find the ball in a very bad place and declare it unplayable. Neither the “lateral” or “back on the line” option provides relief. They decide to play their provisional ball. Sounds like they made a reasonable decision, right?

**Answer:** No. Unfortunately Rule 18.3a only provides the use of a provisional ball when your ball might be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. It does not offer use of a provisional ball for an unplayable ball. If the options under Rule 19.2b and 19.2c are not viable their only option is to return to the tee and play under stroke and distance. When they played the provisional ball they made a stroke at a “wrong ball” and must correct that error by putting a ball into play from the tee again. The penalty for the wrong ball is the general penalty (two strokes). If they don’t correct the error before playing from the tee of the next hole they would be subject to disqualification.

conduct its 5th Annual Chambers Bay Solstice, a fundraiser for the First Tee chapter. Play up to 72 holes from dawn to dusk at Chambers Bay. For more information about this fundraising event see [www.chambersbaysolstice.com](http://www.chambersbaysolstice.com) or visit the first tee for more information.



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# Pro Golf’s Brian Pruitt works his magic with just about any club in your golf bag

If there is something new about golf clubs, it rarely would get past Brian Pruitt. When you have been repairing and building golf clubs for over 30 years, there is not much that gets by you in the golf club business.

Pruitt has been working his magic with golf clubs at Pro Golf in Tacoma for over 30 years. He has seen his fair share of broken clubs and new clubs that might need reshafting or new grips. And with the world of golf every changing with new technology, Pruitt has seen it all.

He has even seen a guy pay \$1,000 for a new shaft. He has even repaired clubs for a guy who broke every iron over his knee after a bad round. Another guy broke three shafts on purpose and was texting Pruitt within minutes saying he needed new shafts. From new grips, to new shafts to new clubheads, Pruitt has fixed or seen just about everything there is to see in the world of golf club repair.

The 57-year-old Pruitt got his start at Tim O'Brien's

Golf Shop and Golfand repairing clubs. He took a job at Pro Golf in Tacoma in 1992 working on the floor selling - not repairing. But he knew that golf repair was his true calling and found his way back into the shop not long after.

Pro Golf was not the complete golf club repair location it is today, starting with grips and not much more. But now all of the Pro Golf shops from Bellingham to Tacoma have club repair shops and all of the repair folks are Mitchell Certified - meaning they are top of the line when it comes to golf club repair.

Since Pro Golf has its own repair shops, the time for golfers to get clubs back is cut down. "That is what makes us successful," said Pruitt. "We can get the work done fast because we have just about everything here."

Has Pruitt every come across anything he couldn't fix? He says the old Ping clubs were virtually welded together and needed to be sent back to Ping to get fixed. Other than that, anything has been fair game when it

comes to club repair or working on anything that has to do with golf clubs.

"What is interesting about golf club repair - and especially getting clubs reshafted is the price. As Pruitt explained - the higher quality the graphite the higher the price. Most golfers are looking for ways to chase distance. And, as Pruitt said, many will pay the price to find a way to add yards and that means more expensive shafts."

As Pruitt looks around his own shop in Tacoma, he sees an endless supply of shafts, clubheads and repair equipment. It has been his world for over 30 years and he takes pride in every club he repairs and every new shaft he puts in.

"It's a great business and it's fun to give people what they want," said Pruitt. "What makes us successful here is that we have just about everything to give clubs back to people when they want them. It's been a great business."



Brian Pruitt of Pro Golf in Tacoma repairs another club.

# Company is looking forward to exposing golfers to the world of golfing in Asia

There are plenty of places to tee it up in the United States. But Scott Resch is trying to expose golfers to a different part of the golfing world: Asia. His new company is focusing on a golf destination he believes has more game than any other on earth.

The owner of Asia Golf Trips has walked the fairways of more than 60 courses in Asia, where he lived between 2007-'10 and visited quarterly from 2011-'18 while working for a media relations firm that represented luxury hospitality interests in that part of the world.

But he has also played everywhere from Bandon Dunes, Pebble Beach and the Hawaiian islands to Scotland, South Africa and Australia's Sandbelt. His opinion therefore takes into consideration all the spots most golfers have on their bucket lists.

"I don't dislike any of the places most golfers have on a pedestal," said Resch, a former golf writer and Golf Digest course rater. "But the fact is, none hold a candle to Asia when you acknowledge the entire picture — the golf, the accommodations, the food, and all there is to see and do off the course."

Those seeking proof of the quality of Asia's tourism assets needn't look any further than Asia Golf Trips' website, Resch said. In addition to a page highlighting recent feature stories on the region by renowned media, the resource is packed with images "of the people, places and properties that allow us to provide high-end golf tours that just hit different," he added.

"So many of the courses over there are nothing short of exceptional," Resch said. "In fact, a lot of them look as if they've been airlifted from Scotland or Ireland or

Bandon. I'm talking right on the ocean, and designed by some of the biggest names in the game such as (Jack) Nicklaus and (Nick) Faldo and (Greg) Norman. Only there you don't have to worry about how many layers you packed."

The website is also where curious minds can learn why Vietnam is the focal point of Asia Golf Trip's debut season (2024), why winter is the best time of year to go, and what the dates are for the first few trips.

"The beauty of going this season is that the trips that will only go up (in price) from here," said Resch, who will also guide the trips. "It's an incredible deal for a high-end, hassle-free, boutique experience. Everything is five-star and meticulously planned so you can just enjoy what is sure to be the trip of a lifetime."

Resch's understanding of golf in Asia started in

2006, two years after moving to Utah from Seattle. While working as a golf magazine editor for a national publishing group with offices in Park City, he participated in a 10-day press trip to Vietnam.

A year later, Resch joined the agency that put the trip together — and went on to organize and lead dozens of trips for journalists on assignment for outlets ranging from Golf Digest and Conde Nast Traveler to The New York Times and The Sydney Morning Herald.

"That type of job was never on my radar," said Resch, who had only held editorial positions before 2007, including content production gigs with ESPN and Microsoft. "But I'm glad the opportunity came my way. It changed my life."

To learn more about Resch and Asia Golf Trips, visit [www.asiagolftrips.com](http://www.asiagolftrips.com).



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# Real estate corner: Phoenix market continues to shine brightly

By Bill Cole, Special To Inside Golf

Phoenix, Arizona, known for its scorching summers and vibrant desert landscapes, has emerged as a beacon of economic resilience and housing market dynamism. As we delve into 2024, the Valley of the Sun continues to shine brightly, showcasing robust economic indicators and a housing market that remains steadfast amidst broader uncertainties. Let's explore the key factors driving the Phoenix economic and housing market in 2024.

Economic Resurgence: Phoenix's economic resurgence can be attributed to its diversified economy, which spans sectors such as technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and finance. The city's strategic location, favorable business climate, and skilled workforce have attracted major corporations and startups alike, fostering innovation and growth.

In 2024, Phoenix continues to ride the wave of technological advancement, with the emergence of

cutting-edge industries like autonomous vehicles, renewable energy, and cybersecurity. The city's commitment to fostering an innovative ecosystem through initiatives like incubators, accelerators, and research institutions further solidifies its position as a tech hub.

Moreover, Phoenix's population growth outpaces the national average, fueling demand for goods, services, and real estate. The influx of millennials and remote workers seeking affordable living costs, ample job opportunities, and a high quality of life has bolstered consumer spending and entrepreneurship.

Housing Market Dynamics:

The Phoenix housing market will continue to percolate along in 2024, characterized by robust demand, limited inventory, and steady price appreciation. Despite facing challenges such as rising construction costs and labor shortages, developers are ramping up construction to meet the insatiable demand for housing.

One of the driving forces behind the housing market's resilience is the influx of out-of-state buyers, particularly from expensive coastal cities. Phoenix's relatively affordable housing stock, coupled with its sunny climate and amenities, makes it an attractive destination for individuals and families seeking a better quality of life.

Furthermore, the rise of remote work has empowered individuals to choose where they live, leading to a surge in relocation to cities like Phoenix, where housing affordability and lifestyle amenities converge. This trend is expected to persist, driving continued demand for housing in the region.

Despite the robust demand, Phoenix's housing market faces challenges such as affordability constraints and supply chain disruptions. However, innovative solutions such as modular construction, sustainable development practices, and public-private partnerships are being explored to address these challenges and

ensure long-term housing affordability and accessibility.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Phoenix economic and housing market outlook for 2024 is characterized by resilience, growth, and opportunity. Industry experts anticipate continued growth and record-high prices in the Phoenix housing market for 2024. With consistent demand and favorable market conditions, Arizona's housing market is poised for further appreciation and prosperity in the coming year. The city's diversified economy, population influx, and housing market dynamics position it as a standout performer amidst broader economic uncertainties. As Phoenix continues to bask in the sun, stakeholders across industries are poised to capitalize on the city's upward trajectory, making it a compelling destination for businesses, investors, and residents alike.

Bill Cole, Associate Broker, Realty ONE Group  
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## Mountainbrook, Apache Creek make for challenging rounds in Phoenix area

The Phoenix area has long been a playground for golfers who like to venture out of town for some golf. From the terrific weather to the endless amount of golf courses, there is plenty to like about playing golf in the Valley of the Sun.

Steve Dallas, a former professional at Sahalee Country Club, found his way to the Arizona years ago and owns two courses always worth the time when making the Arizona trip.

Mountainbrook Golf Course in Gold Canyon, east of downtown Phoenix, is a place with challenging holes and some terrific views along the way.

There are a variety of holes with challenging shots off the tee as well as undulating greens. The golf course design puts a premium on club selection and offers a challenge for all skill levels. Golfers can choose from multiple teeing areas allowing the course to be played as short as 5,100 yards or as long as 6,700 yards.

What makes this course special are the dramatic views of the desert hills and massive Superstition Mountains that frame the course and clubhouse.

Golf Advisor Recognized Mountain Brook Golf Club as one of the Most Improved Golf Courses in the Nation!.

The other course that Dallas owns and operates is Apache Creek in Apache Junction. The course opened in 1994. In this short time, it has become quite popular with the locals and out of town golfers.

Apache Creek is a turf-style desert course with transitional areas framing the fairways, making accurate tee shots an absolute must if you want to see negative numbers on your scorecard.

The small-to-medium sized greens can be a bit feisty with your approach shots. The one hole that grabs your attention is the sixth hole, a par-3 with an island green for the target.



The Superstition Mountains make for a great backdrop as you make your way around Mountainbrook Golf Course

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# Bremerton’s Pin Seeker Golf offers new ways to play indoor golf with its different systems

The world of indoor golf just keeps getting better and better. When it all started there was a screen, a projector and a chance to hit some balls into the screen and if you were lucky, it would tell you how far the ball was going. That was it.

Now, there is more. Much more.

At Pin Seeker Indoor Golf in Bremerton, Wash., indoor golf has been taken to a new level. Gone are the days of hitting into a screen and hoping to see how far your 7 iron traveled. Welcome to the future of indoor golf. Golfzon TwoVision simulators power the facility. There are multiple infrared cameras. Different types of turf simulate hitting out of light or heavy rough, greenside or fairway bunkers. LED putting guide to line up your putts for you. A dual swing plate which articulates to give you different types of shots (think uphill, downhill, sidehill lies) you will see on the golf course. An auto tee system that automatically puts your ball at the exact height you want without dealing with the position yourself.

A virtual caddie that helps you navigate the course you are playing, providing insight to wind direction, slope on approach to the green, and reading putts for you. An app that tracks everything you do with shot data, scores and handicapping, and swing videos, all available from your mobile device or computer. These days indoor golf at Pin Seeker does just about everything except hit the shot for you.

“We are trying to give the golfer everything they need to get the feel for playing golf outside,” said Theo Miller of Pin Seeker Indoor Golf. “Just about any variable you would be playing with outside we have inside.”

Pin Seeker Indoor Golf just recently opened its doors and the reviews have been quick. The facility is attracting veteran golfers but also players who are

new to the sport. And when they walk through the front doors, they see a 6,000 square foot facility with multiple hitting bays and the chance to hit balls on the extensive practice program or play one of 200 courses around the world. And with the Golfzon system, golfers can get instant data driven feedback on their shots, from ball speed to clubhead speed to even swing path and attack angle. A swing video also replays after every shot on the practice range.

Pin Seeker also upped the ante with its beer service, offering a PourMyBeer draft system where you pour your own beer using an RFID card. There is also an ever evolving food menu to go with the beer you can pour on your own. You may notice when you walk in that Pin Seeker is draped in PXG swag and equipment. That’s because Pin Seeker is also part of the PXG rental program, and can provide demos in house, as well as two-day rentals of the current Gen6 and Black Ops sets for golfers who don’t want to travel with clubs, or simply are curious about perhaps the greatest clubs on the market.

Lessons are also available, as there is a dedicated lesson bay powered by a Foresight GC Quad launch monitor. Lessons are sub-contracted by local PGA Teaching professionals. With even more space available, Pin seeker plans to add two more Golfzon Two-Vision hitting bays. These should serve as the perfect space for private or corporate outings and parties.

Pin Seeker launched as a completely public facility, no unlimited play memberships.

For tee times, rates, fitting events, and general inquiries, call Pin Seeker at 360.915.5732 or by email at [proshop@pinseekerindoorgolf.com](mailto:proshop@pinseekerindoorgolf.com) or check out the website at [pinseekerindoorgolf.com](http://pinseekerindoorgolf.com). Pin Seeker Indoor Golf – 5960 State Highway 303 #190, Bremerton, WA 98311



Pin Seeker Golf in Bremerton offers some new ways for indoor golf plus a chance to pour your own beers.

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# Rules of the Game: There is one simple rule to always follow when playing golf, don't be late for your tee time

I'm late, I'm late - for a very important - tee time!  
Now what? For a casual round of golf, the consequences for being late to your tee time are likely to be different depending upon the buddies you play with, how busy the course is that day, or any specific procedures in place at the course. In tournament play, the consequences of being late to the tee depend on how late you are for your starting time, and the specific circumstances that caused your delay. Or if you're playing partners or course are sticklers for the rules, please see the scenarios below:

First, let's address starting time as defined by the USGA. A starting time is treated as an exact time, for example a 10:17 am starting time means 10:17:00, not anytime until 10:18 am. If you arrive at the starting point (your first tee) at 10:17:01, you're late! Not only do you need to be on time, you must also be ready to play. Ready to play would mean you have a at least one club and one ball ready for immediate use.

If you happen to show up to the teeing area with a putter and a ball, you are welcome to tee off with your putter. I know you have probably had an experience when your starting time has been delayed because of frost, inclement weather, or the group in front of you needs a ruling. In this situation there is no penalty or rule breach if you are present and ready to play when your group can start. If you arrive at your starting point more than 5 minutes late the penalty is disqualification. However, exceptions may apply to the disqualification penalty. Let's consider the following three players each having a rough morning, two will qualify for exceptions under Rule (5.3)

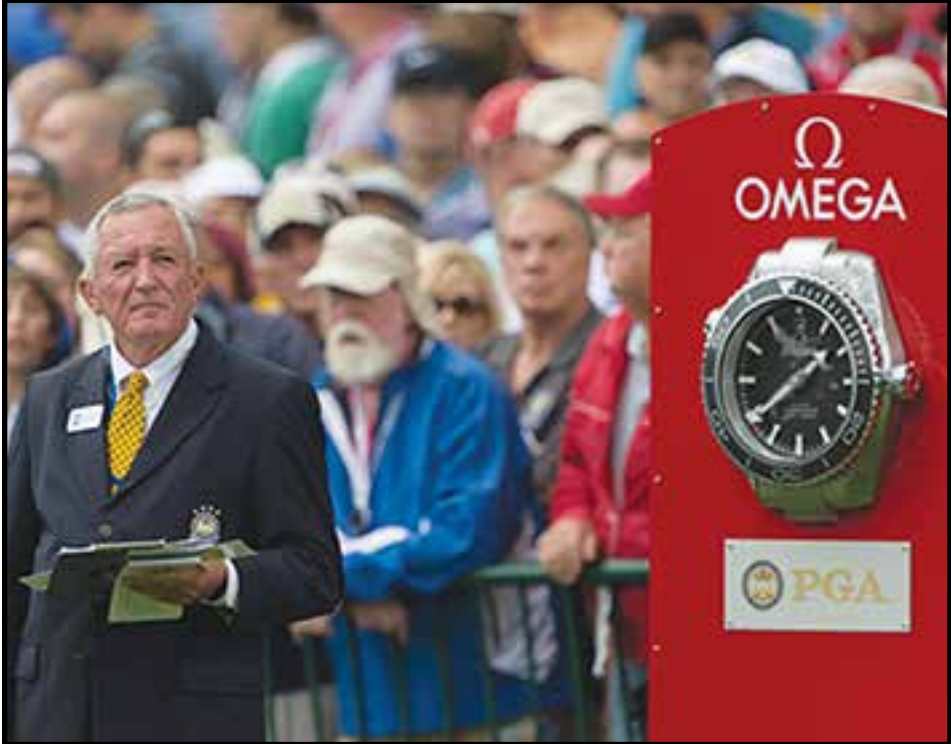
Casey is having a bad morning. His coffee maker broke, and he just can't play a good round of golf without a cup of java. He has a 7:30 am starting time and sees the drive thru line at Starbucks is very



**There is one sure way to make sure that you do not receive any penalties for being late for your starting time. Plan to be at your starting hole at least five minutes prior to your starting time!**

short. He pulls into the line deciding he can make it on time. Casey races to his starting hole ready to play with his latte, a ball, a tee, and his driver at 7:32 am. Casey will be assessed a general penalty for being late for his starting time. Because he was ready to play no more than 5 minutes late, he is not disqualified. But Casey does receive the general penalty applied to his 1st hole. Just a reminder that in stroke play the general penalty is two strokes, while in match play the general penalty is a loss of hole.

Garrett's morning is far from normal. On his way to the golf course a car in front of him went through a stop sign - a fender bender took place right in front



Being late for your tee time in tournament play can lead to some bad results, like being disqualified from the event.

of his eyes. Garrett has extensive first aid training and stops to help. By the time Garrett gets to the course he is 15 minutes late for his starting time. The Committee decides there were exceptional circumstances that prevented Garrett from starting on time, consequently there is no breach of the Rule and no penalty applies. Remember that each case is considered by the Committee and that the determination as to what is considered exceptional circumstances is at the committee's discretion.

Lastly, Tom's morning seems like it's starting out normal, but he is new to the area and doesn't know much of what to expect on his way to the

course. He encounters much heavier traffic than he anticipated. Tom's lack of planning means he arrives ten minutes late for his starting time.

Tom is disqualified for arriving for his starting time more than five minutes late. It is very likely the Committee would not consider lack of planning as an exceptional circumstance and the disqualification penalty applies.

There is one sure way to make sure that you do not receive any penalties for being late for your starting time.

Plan to be at your starting hole at least five minutes prior to your starting time!

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# The Lesson Tee: It’s time to get practical with your game and change the outcome and direction

Wow! Spring is coming. Great news. Tournament time. More golf for everyone.

Let’s do a few purposeful practice enhancements to seriously improve in 2024. Let get practical and change our outcome and direction. It is that time of the year to get things done with your swing heading into the golf season.

I have had Jeff Coston Golf Academy at Semiahmoo for over 30 years. Totally awesome and grateful. Amazing place and people. I have had so much success with swing changes, with drills and “Swing Stations.”

Photo 1: This station helps 98/100 golfers. I have placed two driver shafts and a swimming noodle even with my right shoulder and 6 inches to the right. This creates turn and depth to the backswing and eliminates lifting the arms up.

Turn your hips and shoulders under the pole. Do not touch the pole with the shaft, hands or arms on the backswing or downswing. I have had so much success with this station. You can work with this at home without hitting balls or on the range hitting shots. I suggest both.

Also, imagine this station when it isn’t there. Ben Hogan imagined a plane of glass on his shoulders and swung the club under the glass not to break it.

Photo 2: This drill and image is an enhancement to photo 1. Turn your hips and shoulders without much weight shift and touch the wall hands shoulder high. This creates 3 dimensional depth on the backswing. Very important.

Turn your hips. Most golfers slide hips or tilt hips rather than turn! Keep weight left as you turn. Less weight shift.

Jeff Coston is in the Pacific Northwest PGA Hall of Fame. Jeff is 26 time PGA Player of the Year. Jeff can be reached at Semiahmoo for appointment be calling 360 201-4590. See [jeffcoston.com](http://jeffcoston.com)



...imagine this station when it isn’t there. Ben Hogan imagined a plane of glass on his shoulders and swung the club under the glass not to break it.



Photo 1



Photo 2

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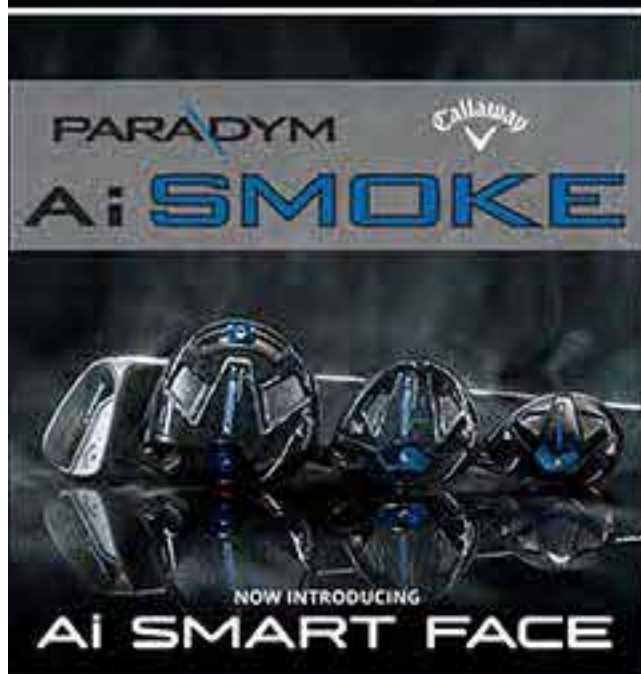
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