



### Destination Desert Willow: Perfect winter getaway for this golf resort

Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert, Calif is the perfect getaway anytime of the year but especially during the winter months in the Pacific Northwest. With two championship courses and terrific views, Desert Willow offers a great golf escape. For more see inside this section of *Inside Golf Newspaper*.



### WHAT'S NEW IN NW GOLF

## Herendeen leads list of PNGA Players of the Year; Players from U.S. and Canada are all represented

Max Herendeen of Bellevue, Wash. and Lauren Kim of Surrey, B.C. headline the list of the Players of the Year as announced by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association for the 2025 season.

For Herendeen it is the second straight year he has been named as the PNGA's Men's Player of the Year. He had a terrific 2025 season including finishing tied for 27th at the NCAA Championships where he is currently a junior at the University of Illinois. He also advanced to the round of 16 at the U.S. Amateur.

Kim also had a big season and is the 20th ranked amateur in the world. Kim is currently a junior at the University of Texas and in the past season qualified for the Augusta Women's Championship.

For more, please see inside this section.



### Remember NW golfers, you don't post your winter scores

Inactive score posting season begins in the Pacific Northwest started in November and runs until March 1, 2026. The NW is one of 41 golf associations in the U.S. that has an inactive posting season during the winter months. This is because of the general change in course conditions in our region that would adversely affect course ratings.

If you play golf during our Inactive Score Posting Season in an area where scores are still being accepted for handicap purposes, you must post those scores as soon as practicable. Your handicap will continue to be revised daily when you post an eligible score, even during the off-season.

Each course is rated under the Course Rating System part of the World Handicap System. The single largest factor that impacts a course rating is distance. How far a ball will travel in the air and how much roll it gets on the ground are heavily impacted by weather. To create a standard course rating, each course is rated as if it is July 4th (or, high summer), and the difference in course conditions in our region between summer and winter are too great and would negatively affect the majority of golfers and their handicap. There are many courses in our region that drain well and stay in good condition for the winter months, but they cannot evaluate them on a course-by-course basis.

### Rules Question of the month

When a player begins searching for her ball in deep rough, the player accidentally kicks the ball. After consulting with the other players in the group the player learns they must replace the ball with no penalty, it was accidental during search. While they is replacing, they want to take advantage of having the ball in hand so they take a new ball from the bag and places it where the original ball was. At scoring the procedure came up. What do you think? See the answer on Page 2 of this section of *Inside Golf Newspaper*.



### Changing times at Trophy Lake Golf and Casting



**Trophy Lake Golf and Casting in Port Orchard, Wash. has been among a Pacific Northwest favorite for golfers for years with its golfing and fishing theme. And now there might be even more reasons to play the course with new bunker renovations to course upgrades throughout the 18 holes of Trophy Lake. See inside for more.**

### Torrey Pines Treat: A round of golf that was worth the wait

Inside Golf's editor has tried to get a round of golf at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif. It didn't matter which course, North or South. But it never happened. Finally, he pulled it off. A round on Torrey Pines' North Course was worth the wait and the course is as good as you see on television. For more on the round of golf and what the San Diego area has to offer, please see inside this section of *Inside Golf Newspaper*.



# The Torrey Pines dream finally comes true as the chance to tee it up on one of America's best hits

I've seen it on television. I have seen those major championships. The Farmers Insurance Open. It all looks like a scene from a postcard. Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, Calif. has always looked too good to be true on the small screen.

But in person, it was as good as advertised - even better.

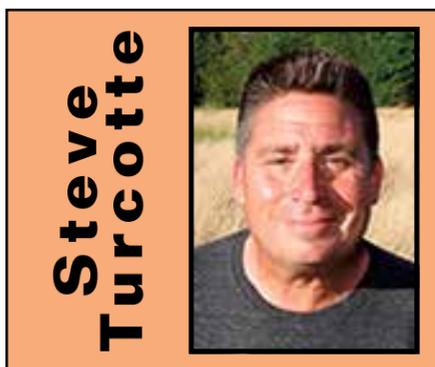
Torrey Pines is a place with two of the top golf courses in the country - the North and the South. It is a place which annually hosts a PGA Tour event called the Farmers Insurance Open each February and a place which has played host to two U.S. Opens. Remember in 2008 when Tiger Woods sank a putt on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate with NBC announcer Dan Hicks asking the world "expect anything different?"

It is one of those places that golfers from around the country - even the world - want to get a tee time.

And I finally got one.

But this wouldn't be a typical Turcotte story with some background. Our group had planned to leave Seattle for San Diego on a Thursday. It turned out that same day Alaska Airlines decided to have a IT outage. I didn't think much about it as we imbibed in cocktails at the airport. But at 2 a.m. and after eight hours, Alaska pulled the plug on the flight and cancelled. There went my Torrey Pines tee time. There went my two free nights the Lodge at Torrey Pines. There went one of the best golf trips I had planned in quite a while.

OK, enough of the sob story for now. We rebooked for the following week - Tim Graham from the city helped me with a tee time and presto, the next week we made it back and got to take in a round of golf I had dreamed about for years. And I would be remised if I didn't thank Robert Arends from the Lodge at Torrey Pines for helping us with a dinner on our rebooked trip.



**Steve Turcotte**

As my golfing buddy Don Goethals and I stood on the first tee of the North course, we stepped back and smiled. It was if we both knew was about to happen in the next four-plus hours. As usual, my opening tee shot traveled a robust 210 yards off the tee and with 190 into the green I hit a 3-wood onto



Torrey Pines has hosted two U.S. Open Championships.

the green, two-putted and we were off.

The North course is used for the Farmer Insurance Open on the PGA Tour stop. All the players play both the North and South courses for the first two rounds before the final rounds are held on the South course. The U.S. Open is held on the South course, but trust me, the North course is worth the tee time you can arrange.

The course can stretch to 7,258 yards for those PGA Tour guys but we played it as 6,343. Plenty for the 63-year-old short knocker. The South course can be lengthened to 7,802 yards - yes that's no typo - seven thousand eight hundred and two yards. Figured I might spell that out just to give you an idea how long that course can play.

You get an eyeful of terrific views around the property. But on this day as we played the North course, the views on the back nine were like something you had to see to believe. You get an idea about the back nine on the 12th hole which is a par-3 with a carry over a ravine. Three holes later as you stand on the par-3 15th tee box it is a straight downhill look with the Pacific Ocean in the background. And the 16th hole is a par-4 uphill where you can't see the green with the ocean looming on the left.

As we putted out on the 18th hole, we took a look around, shook hands with our playing companions and then looked over at the ocean as the sun set. It was a surreal scene. And a scene we would love to repeat one day.

Torrey Pines Golf Course - a place definitely that you need to check off on that golf bucket list if you ever get a chance to head to the San Diego are.

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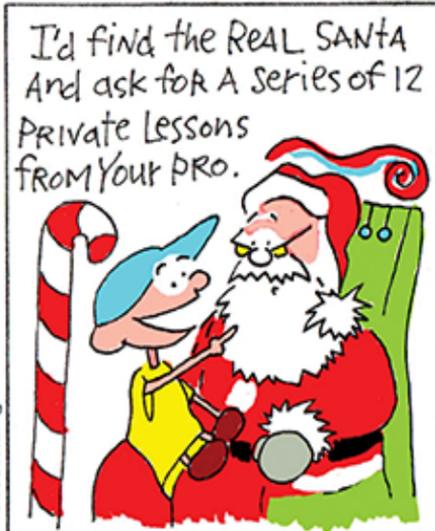
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## Double Bogey



## Harold Bluestein PGA



## Rules Answer

Answer: Rule 9.4a states a ball moved by a player must be replaced. Since she was required by Rule to replace the ball, she must use the original ball and is not permitted to substitute a ball for the original. Once she places the substituted ball where the original was it became the ball in play under penalty of one stroke. If she had become aware of the mistake and replaced the original ball before making a stroke Rule 14.5 would eliminate the penalty for an improper substitution.

• Inside Golf would like to thank Paul Lucien for his for the rules questions and answers.



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# Gove leads NW contingent to the 2026 PGA Senior Championship

Jeff Gove of Sand Point, Idaho, finished fifth at the Senior PGA Professional Championship at the PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course to headline a trio of Pacific Northwest golfers to next year's championship event on the PGA Tour Champions.

Ryan Malby of Kalispel, Montana and Brian Thornton of Sumner, Wash., also qualified for next year's championship, which will be held at Arizona's Superstition Mountain Golf Club.

Malby finished seventh in the tournament while Thornton was 12th. A total of 35 players from the championship advanced to next year's PGA Senior Championship event.

Justin Hicks of Florida won the championship with an 8 under par total.

There were several other Pacific Northwest Senior professionals in the event including Billy Bomar of Idaho, Joey Carranza of Bellevue, Wash., Chris Griffin of Griffin Golf, Birk Nelson of Orange Whip and Bob Rannow of Ocean Dunes Golf Course.



Jeff Gove will play in the 2026 Senior PGA Championship.

## Tour Players With Northwest ties

### PGA Tour

- Nick Taylor • Ex-UW • 37th on the list with \$5,431,209
- Wyndham Clark • Ex-Oregon • 59th on the list with \$2,883,112
- Joe Highsmith • Tacoma • 60th on the list with \$2,820,859
- Cameron Davis • Australia (Member at Sahalee) • 82nd on the list with \$2,093,245
- Andrew Putnam • Tacoma • 112th on the list with \$1,371,617
- Joel Dahmen • Clarkston • 121st on the list with \$1,231,952
- Adam Svensson • British Columbia • 169th on the list with \$487,188
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 170th on the list with \$486,226
- Cheng Tsung Pan • Ex-UW • 193rd on the list with \$186,829
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 230th on the list with \$17,920
- Ryan Moore • Puyallup • No events
- Kevin Chappell • Kirkland • No events
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • No events
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 231st on the list with \$22,709

### Korn Ferry Tour

- Alistair Docherty • Vancouver, Wash. • 48th on the list with \$207,582
- Dylan Wu • Medford, Ore. • 74th on the list with \$129,625
- Carl Yuan • Ex-UW • 79th on the list with \$111,054
- Aaron Wise • Ex-Oregon • 192nd on the list with \$9,150
- R.J. Manke • Tacoma • no events
- Kyle Stanley • Gig Harbor • no events

### Champions Tour

- Fred Couples • Seattle • 60th on the list with \$309,013
- Kirk Triplett • Pullman • 72nd on the list with \$226,662

### LPGA Tour

- Jing Yan • Ex-UW • 111th on the list with \$182,375
- Gigi Stoll • Tigard • 132nd on the list with \$98,211
- Carolyn Inglis • Eugene • 129th on the list with \$103,031

### LPGA Epon Tour

- Kathleen Scavo • Ex-Oregon • 110th on the list with \$9,581

### Did you know....

• The annual PNGA Player of the Year awards were first given out in 1997. There are six categories: men, women, men's mid-amateur, women's mid-amateur, senior men, senior women, junior boys', and junior girls'. The first recipient of the Junior Boys' award was Jason Allred, who would go on to a career on the PGA Tour; and the first recipient of the Junior Girls' award was Kelli Kamimura, who would become the longest tenured women's head golf coach at Washington State University. Visit [thepnga.org](http://thepnga.org) to see the 2025 honorees.



• During 2025, volunteers gave a total of 304 days to help conduct 14 WA Golf championships and 13 USGA qualifiers. In recognition of their efforts, the George Holland Volunteer of the Year Awards are given at the end of each season, shining some light on those who give so much to make the game great in Washington and Northern Idaho. For this year's recipients of this award, visit [wagolf.org](http://wagolf.org).



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# Pacific Northwest Golf Association names players from around the Northwest and Canada for Players of the Year

The Pacific Northwest Golf Association (PNGA) has announced the region's Players of the Year for 2025. Those honored include Men's Player of the Year, Max Herendeen of Bellevue, Wash.; Women's, Lauren Kim of Surrey, B.C.; Men's Mid-Amateur, Nate Smith of Teton, Idaho; Women's Mid-Amateur, Taya Battistella of Bellingham, Wash.; Senior Men's, Pat O'Donnell of Happy Valley, Ore.; Senior Women's, Shelly Stouffer of Nanoose Bay, B.C.; Junior Boys', Austin Krahn of Christina Lake, B.C.; and Junior Girls', Clara Ding of White Rock, B.C.

The PNGA Player of the Year candidates are nominated by the state and provincial golf associations that comprise the PNGA (Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) and are selected by a vote of the PNGA Championship Committee.

• Men: Max Herendeen – Bellevue, Wash. Herendeen has earned this honor for a second consecutive year. During the 2025 season, he advanced to the round of 16 in the U.S. Amateur, defeating the World No. 1 player in doing so. Herendeen also made the round of 16 at the Western Amateur and finished T-10 at the Sunnehanna Amateur. Currently a junior at the University of Illinois, Herendeen also finished T-11 at the NCAA Division I Regionals and T-27 in the NCAA Championship. His back-to-back Men's Player of the Year selections follow his honor as the 2022 PNGA Junior Boys' Player of the Year.

• Women: Lauren Kim – Surrey, B.C. Kim has earned this honor for the third consecutive year. Currently No. 20 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR), she qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur, CPKC Women's Open and Augusta National Women's Amateur in 2025. She finished T-19 in the Canadian Women's Amateur. Continuing a decorated career at the University of Texas at Austin, Kim took the Betsy Rawls Invitational

individual title in March and earned both WGCA All-America Second Team and Golfweek Second Team All-American Honors, to go with a T-13 finish and berth in the NCAA Division I Women's National Championship. Her third straight honor follows her being named the PNGA Junior Girls' Player of the Year in 2022. Now a junior at Texas, Kim is also a member of Team Canada.

• Men Mid-Amateur: Nate Smith – Teton, Idaho. Smith's 2025 accomplishments came in the Northwest and elsewhere. A former PGA Tour pro who has regained amateur status, Smith, 42, won the PNGA Men's Master-40 Amateur and The Snedeker Memorial during his travels. Playing in the U.S. Amateur, he advanced to that championship's round of 32, and collected a T-13 result at the Pacific Coast Amateur. Other strong amateur results included a T-19 finish at the Azalea Invitational and T-22 at the Gasparilla Invitational.

• Women Mid-Amateur: Taya Battistella – Bellingham, Wash. Battistella won the BC Women's Mid-Amateur and Washington Mixed Chapman. She also made the rounds of 32 at both the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur and PNGA Women's Amateur. Other top-5 runs came at the BC Women's Amateur and Washington Women's Champion of Champions. This fall, she was also named the Washington Women's Mid-Amateur Player of the Year, an honor she also earned in 2024.

• Senior Men: Pat O'Donnell – Happy Valley, Ore. O'Donnell recorded another season that validated his status as a PNGA Hall-of-Famer. He won the PNGA Super Senior Men's Amateur, as well as both the Oregon Senior and Super Senior Amateur championships. He made the round of 64 at the U.S. Senior Amateur and notched a T-2 finish at the Oregon Men's Stroke Play. O'Donnell padded his great year with other top-10 finishes at the 7 Cedars Senior Washington Open, the OGA Tournament of

Champions and Callaway Invitational. This year's honor marks O'Donnell's fourth in the category (2009, 2016, 2019).

• Senior Women: Shelly Stouffer – Nanoose Bay, B.C. Stouffer has received this award for the third time in the past four years. Her 2025 saw a quartet of victories in the PNGA Senior Women's Amateur, Canadian Women's Senior, Irish Senior Women's Amateur and BC Senior Women's Amateur. Never a stranger to USGA championships, Stouffer was a semifinalist in the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur and qualified for both the U.S. Senior Women's Open and U.S. Women's Amateur. She also finished T-9 in the R&A Women's Senior Amateur. She was inducted into the PNGA Hall of Fame in 2024 and is also enshrined within the Golf Hall of Fame of B.C.

• Junior Boys: Austin Krahn – Christina Lake, B.C. Krahn put together an exceptional junior season. He scored five victories, which included the trifecta of winning the BC Amateur, BC Junior Boys' Amateur, and BC Indigenous Amateur championships. His game took him well outside his province, as he made appearances in the Toyota Junior World Cup and Dustin Johnson World Junior, among others.

• Junior Girls: Clara Ding – White Rock, B.C. Ding was dependable in 2025. Her titles came at the GolfBC Group BC Women's Open and Women's Orlando International Amateur Championship, and she came within one stroke of victory at the World Junior Girls' Championship. Another second came at The Nelly Invitational. Ding teed it up in both the U.S. Junior Girls' and CPKC Women's Open, among other prominent events. She is a member of Team Canada's NextGen women's team, a roster spot well-earned. A member of the high school class of 2029, she is No. 30 in the Rolex AJGA Rankings, and No. 143 in WAGR.



Kelly Stouffer



Pat O'Donnell

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# Trophy Lake Golf and Casting investing in bunker renovation

Trophy Lake Golf and Casting has earned a reputation as one of the top courses in the Northwest and is known to be a solid test of golf. The design emphasizes risk-reward decisions over brute distance. Strategic tee shots and approach shots require full attention.

The course is located on the Kitsap Peninsula and is part of Oki Golf's collection of courses. It is carved through dense northwest forest, giving players a sense of seclusion surrounded by natural beauty. The course condition is always impeccable and the drainage makes it a good winter course. However, one flaw came to the surface: some of the bunkers were in need of attention.

According to the General Manager, Brian Catalli, over time the rocks from the glacial base began to migrate to the surface in the bunkers. The course was built in 1999 and it was determined that something had to be done to address this problem.

A major 3-phase bunker project was set in place at the course and is well on its way right now.

Design and improved playability as well as aesthetics are part of the overall project consideration. Phase 1 involves reshaping and moving 9 greenside bunkers and 4-5 rebuilds. The project is the first major course construction since it was originally built.

In phase one, some of the bunkers are being made bigger and some made smaller. The 18th greenside bunker is 30% smaller and shallower which provides more room for golfers approach shots

## Oki Card offers deals

If you are looking for ways to make your rounds of golf less expensive getting an Oki Card just might be one way to do that. And before Dec. 31 golfers can purchase a 2026 Platinum Players Card for \$50 off. The card includes seven prepaid rounds with carts included plus seven guest passes for 50 percent off a round of golf. And unlimited discounted green fees all season. For more information on the cards and the Oki Golf courses see [www.okigolf.com](http://www.okigolf.com).

into the green. Bunker faces will also be rebuilt and sodded.

The first phase is projected to be finished in mid to late December of this year. New sand will be supplied in spring. The complete 3-phase project is expected to be completed in late 2028 to early 2029.

The first phase of the project is costing around \$120k and the entire 3 phases will come in around \$300k. The entire project is expected to be 3-4 year endeavor.

The contractor is Ridgetop Golf out of Gig Harbor that has an extensive portfolio of course construction projects throughout the Northwest and Western United States, with courses like Sunriver, Overlake, Chambers Bay, Aldera Golf Club, Indian Canyon, and many more.

The investment in improving the course is a testament to the commitment to continue to provide a top tier golfing experience at Trophy Lake Golf and Casting.

Every effort is being made to not interrupt play during construction.



Bunker project is underway at Trophy Lake (above); Indian Summer is part of the Oki Golf collection (below).



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# Rules of the Game: There are penalties involved if you don't play the right ball or correct the mistake you made

Happy Transition from Fall to Winter. Over the last several articles, we've been looking at five situations in Stroke Play when a player would be disqualified for not correcting the following mistakes before making a stroke on the next hole (or if on the last hole of the round, before returning the scorecard). So far, we have covered Situations 1 and 2 noted below.

1. Failure to hole out (Rule 3.3c).
2. Failure to correct having played from a Wrong Tee, or outside the Teeing Area (Rule 6.1b(2)).
3. Failure to correct having played a Wrong Ball (Rule 6.3c)
4. Failure to correct having played from a Wrong Place with a Serious Breach (Rule 14.7).
5. Failure to correct having played in the Wrong order in Foursome Play (Alternate Shot Rule 22.3.).

This month let's look at what happens if you fail to correct having played a wrong ball.

The first thing we need to know is what the Rules of Golf means by "wrong ball." By USGA definition, a wrong ball, is any ball other than the player's (your): Ball in play (which could be a ball you substituted for your original ball); Provisional ball (unless you've abandoned that ball under Rule 18).

Or a second ball you've played when you didn't know how to proceed (Rule 20.1c) or when correcting a serious breach for a ball played from a wrong place (Rule 14.7).

A wrong ball could be someone else's ball in play, a stray ball or abandoned ball that you mistake as your own. A wrong ball can also be a ball that is out of bounds or has been lost (not identified within three minutes), or a ball that has not been intentionally put back in play. The



Rules even note that part of a wrong ball is still a wrong ball—like if a mower chopped up a ball, and part of it is visible and you make a stroke at it, that is still considered to be a wrong ball!

As a reminder, if you make a stroke at a wrong ball, the penalty in stroke play is the general penalty (two strokes). You must correct the mistake by playing the right ball from its original spot, or by taking relief from that spot under the Rules of Golf.

The stroke made at the wrong ball, and any subsequent strokes or penalties do not count in your score. (Remember, this is for Stroke Play).

There is an exception to this rule, that there is no penalty you make a stroke at a wrong ball that is moving in water, either in a penalty area or in temporary water. If this happens you don't get the penalty, but you do need to find and play your ball.

Correcting this mistake is timely. Not correcting it in time is costly - if you have played a wrong ball, and do not fix the mistake before teeing off on the next hole (or if on the last hole of the round, before returning the scorecard) you are disqualified!



Make sure to know the rules and what to do if you happen to play a wrong ball during a round of golf.

 A large advertisement for Indian Summer Golf & Country Club. The background is a wide shot of a golf course with a clubhouse in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds. A large white semi-circular graphic is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Indian Summer Golf & Country Club" in a curved font, "OPEN FOR" in bold block letters, and "Public Play" in a large, elegant script font. Below this graphic is a white rectangular box containing a QR code on the left and a list of "Full-service offerings:" on the right.
 

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# Desert Willow offers the perfect place to escape when looking to beat the Pacific Northwest winter to tee it up

Looking to beat the weather that Mother Nature dishes out in the winter in the Pacific Northwest? There are plenty of options to take a look at. But one option that is always a good one is a trip to the Palm Springs area - and a visit to Desert Willow.

Desert Willow is a resort with two courses with these being called Firecliff and Mountain View. The Firecliff Course has been newly renovated with its expanded putting greens and other changes bringing it back to its original form.

Located in Palm Desert, Desert Willow is a place that keeps golfers coming back because of its two championship courses. They both are as different as their names. Firecliff has plenty of natural hazards and other water features while Mountain View has some sweeping desert views as well as its own water elements.

These are courses with challenging holes, some terrific mountain views and memorable shots.

Managed by KemperSports, Desert Willow also has a terrific practice area and clubhouse that has a little of something for everyone.

The Firecliff course has been recognized nationally for being one of the top resort courses in the country as well as one of the Top Public Courses You Can Play in California. Both courses blend into the local desert surroundings perfectly, just the way the designers drew them up.

The Firecliff course recently underwent a remodel before re-opening in December 2024. The multi-million dollar renovation included renovations to greens, tee boxes and fairways. All of the Firecliff greens were converted to Mini Verde Bermudagrass making sure they had a true roll year round. All tee boxes were leveled and reshaped.

The renovations have given Desert Willow two of the top courses in the area.

### Desert Willow Golf Resort

Here are some facts and figures about Desert Willow Golf Resort:

- **Location:** Palm Desert, Calif.
- **Courses:** Two courses make up the resort - Mountain View Course and Firecliff Course. Mountain View Course plays to 6,913 yards from the tips while Firecliff plays to 7,056 from the tips. Firecliff course has been rated 4.5 stars by *Golf Digest* and features 100 bunkers.
- **Information:** [www.desertwillow.com](http://www.desertwillow.com).



Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert, Calif. combines award-winning golf with some great backdrops.



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# Patrick named LPGA national Coach of the Year; Silver Reef and Loomis are great choice any time

Pacific Northwest LPGA teaching professional Val Patrick has been named as Coach of the Year by the LPGA Professionals.

Created in 1980, the LPGA Professionals Coach of the Year Award recognizes a member each year for outstanding contributions to golf coaching at the collegiate or high school level.

For more than 20 years, LPGA Professional, Val Patrick has shaped hundreds of young athletes by emphasizing the importance of practice, patience, and positivity. She is being recognized this year for her deep passion for the game and her commitment to helping others play their best by blending technical skills with life lessons like integrity and perseverance.

Currently, she serves as Director of Instruction at Mill Creek Country Club, where she has revitalized junior programs since May 2023, like LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf, PGA Junior League, and Operation 36, while coaching Shorewood High School Girls Golf since 2017.

This past year, Patrick led Shorewood's Girls Golf team to its first-ever League Championship, an 8th-place District finish and one state qualifier improving team cohesion. Her LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf site onboarded 150 new participants; her PGA Junior League U13/U17 programs earned sportsmanship honors at regionals; and her Operation36 program grew 30%, incorporating adaptive tech for diverse abilities. She launched a high school-pro mentorship program yielding 20 college commitments and prepped 9-year-old Charley Drake for Drive, Chip and Putt regionals at Pebble Beach.

Her coaching philosophy includes building personalized plans from game assessments, blending technical drills, and utilizing data and technology for analysis and positive feedback. She claims her superpower is being a good lis-



Val Patrick

tener to her students. Since becoming an LPGA Class A Professionals in 2017, Patrick has been a dedicated member in the LPGA's Western Section. She served for four years as Section Secretary and Section Championship Coordinator for three years, expanding events to Southern California for broader accessibility. She has delivered hundreds of presentations since 2009 and has led webinars like Control Your Posture. Patrick regularly volunteers at LPGA Professionals Lesson Zones and hosts InviteHER Sips and Tips to boost women's participation.

## Silver Reef, Loomis the place to stay, play

Quality golf and entertainment at Loomis Trail and Silver Reef Casino Resort is a great choice any time of the year.

Loomis Trail Golf Course, a public golf destination in Washington state, is owned by the Silver Reef Casino Resort, which in turn is owned by the Lummi Nation. It holds the No. 5 spot among public courses in Washington, according to *Golfweek* magazine. The course was specifically designed to be playable year-round, making it a top choice for golfers in the Northwest.

The scenic beauty of Loomis Trail is a major draw, and the course is known for its consistently smooth, fast, and true greens, which solidify its reputation as one of the finest in the Northwest. A defining feature of the course is its extensive canal and lake system, which brings water into play on all 18 holes and contributes to one of the highest slope ratings in Washington.

Loomis Trail is open to the public daily. Its spacious, Tudor-style clubhouse provides a full range of amenities, including a pro shop, lounge, sports bar, and banquet facilities. For those looking to improve their game, the practice facilities include a driving range, putting and chipping greens, and practice bunkers. If you can't find a suitable tee time, a virtual tee time assistant is available to notify you when one becomes open at <https://golffloomis.noteefy.app>.

The resort offers an exciting casino with over 1,000 slot machines and over 17 table games. Guests can enjoy a comfortable stay in one of the 206 hotel rooms and choose from five different dining options, including the award-winning Steak House.

For sports fans, the Sportsbook is the perfect place to place bets and cheer on favorite teams. The resort also provides top-notch live entertainment in its Event Center. The Silver Reef Casino Resort provides an all-encompassing experience for guests seeking a combination of gaming, dining, sports, entertainment, and golf.

# Coston, Henninger top Golf Digest Best Teacher listings for Washington, Oregon

Jeff Coston and Brian Henninger have been named as the top teachers from Washington and Oregon by *Golf Digest* magazine. Coston runs his Jeff Coston Golf Academy at Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Wash. while Henninger operates his Golf Farm in Tualatin, Ore.

Both Coston and Henninger headline a listing of the top teachers in the Pacific Northwest:

## Washington

1. Jeff Coston, Jeff Coston Golf Academy
2. Jason Aichele, Meadow Springs
3. Ryan Benzel, Bear Creek
4. Derek Berg, PNW Golf Academy
5. Rick Fehr, Rick Fehr Coaching
6. Michelle Grafos, Michelle Grafos Performance
7. Chris Griffin, Griffin Golf
8. Sara Griffin, Griffin Golf
9. Jack Kelly, Glendale
10. Josh McKinley, GolfTEC Liberty Lake
11. Erin Menath, Erin Menath Golf
12. Randy Potter, GolfTEC Spokane
13. Derek Siesser, Indian Canyon
14. Tom Sovay, Redmond Ridge
15. Brian Thornton, Meridian Valley
16. Craig Welty, Skagit Golf and CC
17. Ryan Young, Chambers Bay

## Oregon

1. Brian Henninger, Golf Farm
2. Bruce Furman, Langdon Farms
3. Noah Horstman, G. Garage
4. Brad Hunter, GolfTEC Tualatin
5. Michael Neff, Gears G
6. Jeff Ritter, Make The Turn Performance
7. Bruce Stewart, Stone Creek

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# The Lesson Tee: The winter months might be a good time to improve your putting for 2026

I can't believe it's December. Many strange and memorable things took place for all of us in 2025. I look forward to something closer to normal or I will continue to adjust.

The weather in the next few months can be challenging at times. You never know what Mother Nature will throw at us. I would like to show you some things I do to improve at home and on the practice area for a fruitful 2025 in golf and to bring those scores down.

Everyone could and would like to make more putts. Often golfers drop a few balls on the green at 7-10 feet and practice missing.

They randomly hit their putts with little intention on what they are doing.

I suggest rolling 30 footers to rehearse proper speed. You don't even need to roll it to a hole, just to a specific spot. Establish a reactive, flowing routine, with target focus and a free mindset. That would be step 1. Step 2, do the same to a hole. Step 3, take this process and mindset to the golf course.

Next, spend sufficient time on 4 foot putts!! Get great at every angle from 3-5 feet. Make 4 or 5 of 5 straight uphill, then move to breaking putts from the same distance.

Thirdly, then roll some 15 footers.

Here are some things extraordinary putters do to become extraordinary putters:

- Trust and Commit to your read
- Great/Proper speed
- Get putt started on intended line
- Strike putt solid on sweet spot
- Think and try less
- Reactive Routine

To work on technique this winter use a simple 2x4 for a consistent stroke on short putts. See Photo 1.

Roll you ball down a yardstick to get your ball



**Jeff Coston**

started on your intended line. See Photo 2.

For your golf swing and ball striking, practice impact with your 2x4. See Photo 3.

*Jeff Coston is a 26-time Pacific Northwest PGA Player of the Year and can be reached for appointment by calling Semiahmoo at 360 201-4590. See jeffcoston.com or @coston\_jeff on Twitter.*



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3

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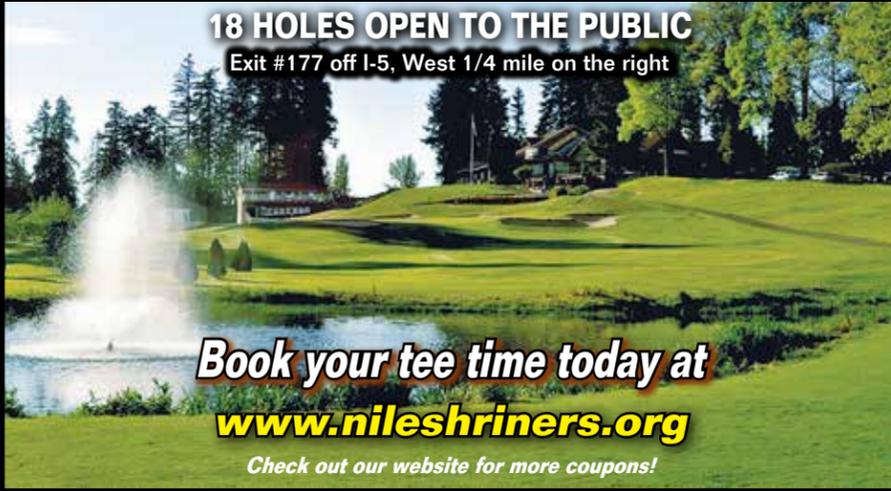
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## Founders Group offers some great places to play when making the Myrtle Beach trip

If it's winter time in the Pacific Northwest, it might be time to make that annual winter golf trip. And there might not be a better place to take that trip than the place they call the Grand Strand - Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Myrtle Beach is an area that is golf, golf and more golf. And for good reason. There are courses up and down for miles and this is truly golf at its finest. In fact the PGA Tour now calls Myrtle Beach home to one of its tour stops.

And there is one company that knows exactly what golfers want when they head to South Carolina for a golf trip. The Founders Group features a collection of 21 courses in and around Myrtle Beach and offers a terrific variety of options with no two courses alike.

For those who are looking at making a Myrtle Beach trip for some golf - Founders Group has a way of setting you up with the lodging and golf with its Myrtle Beach Golf Trips. There is no shortage of courses to play in the Founder's Group and the accommodations are first rate. For more on taking a trip to Myrtle Beach and where to stay and play - see their website at [www.myrtlebeachgolftrips.com](http://www.myrtlebeachgolftrips.com).

The Founders Group is a company that can take care of all of your golf needs with one visit to the web site or one phone call. With its variety of courses and choices of places to stay, Myrtle Beach is the kind of place you will want to visit time and again. Call 1.866.694.2448 for more information on the golf trips.

**Myrtle Beach Golf Trips**

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# Destination: San Diego is a place for golfers and anyone else who looks for the perfect vacation spot

There are certain destinations around the country that are meant for golf. Hawaii, Arizona, for sure. Florida, of course. And you certainly can't overlook California and what it has to offer - especially the San Diego area.

San Diego is one of the locations where you can go for a golf trip and bring along the whole family, even if they don't tee it up. There is a smorgasbord of golf courses - some even with Pacific Ocean views. Outside of golf, there are so many places to visit while you are in the area. Places like the San Diego Zoo, Sea World and Lego Land are world-class destinations that should be on everyone's bucket list.

The golf courses in San Diego are notable for their variety, encompassing seaside views, urban park settings, and eastern hillside gems and the reason it is a premier destination for golf enthusiasts.

At the top of the list is Torrey Pines with its North and South courses. After you tee it up there, you can see why the PGA Tour makes an annual visit and why the USGA has made the South course a home for the U.S. Open. And off the course there is the Lodge at Torrey Pines, which sits overlooking the course and features a first-class lodging experience with its A.R. Valentien, the signature restaurant at The Lodge.

Beyond the championship venues, San Diego offers a wealth of other quality public and resort courses. The Coronado Golf Course is frequently highlighted as one of the best municipal courses in the country.

If you are looking for resort golf then you will have several to choose from like Aviara Golf Club, an Arnold Palmer design located within an upscale Hyatt resort. The Fairmont Grand Del Mar is another top-tier course, a Tom Fazio layout situated in the rolling hills east of Del Mar. It's a favorite among professional golfers like Phil Mickelson and Xander Schauffele.

The Singing Hills Golf Resort by Sycuan offers 36 holes, with its Willow Glen course having hosted two U.S. Junior Amateurs. Both courses provide scenic views of the surrounding hills and incorporate the Sweetwater River into play.

Maderas Golf Club, designed by Johnny Miller and Robert Muir Graves (Graves is known locally for designing Port Ludlow's resort course and Avalon Golf Links in Burlington, Washington), is tucked within the rolling hills of northern San Diego. It is praised for its superior playing conditions, challenging track with dramatic elevation changes, offering a unique golf experience minutes from downtown.

Other notable public courses include Encinitas Ranch Golf Course, known for its appealing landscape and graceful fairway bunkers, and Balboa Park Golf Course, located near downtown San Diego and the zoo.

A significant advantage of San Diego's golf scene is the proximity of many courses to the airport, with most being no more than 30-40 minutes away, excluding Rams Hill. This accessibility, combined with the diverse terrain encompassing land, sea, mountains, and desert, makes San Diego an unparalleled golf destination in North America.

*Sometimes pictures are a great way to talk about the San Diego. A Koala and Panda are two popular attractions at the San Diego Zoo (right); Del Mar Race Track is a great place to watch horse racing (below); Old Town San Diego is a place with shops and restaurants (lower right); The view from the Torrey Pines Lodge offers both golf and ocean views (bottom).*





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- LPGA Western Section Secretary
- Shorewood High School Girls Golf Coach
- Professional Member - Seattle Chapter of the LPGA Amateurs
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