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Golf News for Carolina Golfers

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## Top of the Class!



**Lauren Stephenson sweeps college player of the year awards!** Page 9

University of Alabama Photo

Page 4



**SCGA Junior Champion!**

Page 5



**WSCGA Junior Champion!**

Page 13



**Wire to Wire Win!**

Page 6



**GGO Champion!**

Page 8



**Patton Tees It Up!**



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Stan Olenik  
Editor/Publisher  
The Golf Club  
(864) 573-7627  
[golfclubsc@gmail.com](mailto:golfclubsc@gmail.com)

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# Bonnie Brae has closed

## Family owned club ceased operations on July 1st

After 57 years, Bonnie Brae Golf Club is closing at the end of June. The decision was made by course owner Sonny Willimon.

"The most difficult thing I have had to do was tell my employees that we had to close down," added Willimon.

The course near Donaldson Center was built by Willimon's father on family farm land. The first nine holes were built in 1961 and the final nine holes were built in 1964.

Being one of the first courses that was not just for members, the club enjoyed success for most of its history.

When the great recession hit in 2008, it hit the golf business very hard. When the recession finally ended, not all the golfers came back.

The final blow to Willimon's hope of revitalizing the course came this past winter. Many courses suffered from severe winter kill, but it was particularly hard on the greens at the course and it has affected the number of rounds played at Bonnie Brae.

Willimon is not ruling out the possibility of someone buying the course, but he is not optimistic.

"Everyone knows that golf courses are now more valuable as property for development than they are for golf so that could be a possibility," he said.

Bonnie Brae's closing is the second course in the area that has recently closed. Last year Donaldson Golf Course closed.

"I want all the golfers who have played here and supported us to know how much we have appreciated them and how much we are going to miss seeing them," concluded Willimon.



Bonnie Brae Golf Club will close on July 1st after 57 years of operation in Greenville.



## Haas and family buy the Eagle Zone

Champions Tour golfer Jay Haas and his family have bought the Eagle Zone Game Improvement Center on Pelham Road in Greenville.

Haas, his sons, PGA Tour golfer Bill and local golf instructor Jay Jr. have joined with brother-in-law Dillard Pruitt and current Eagle Zone manager John Gerring in forming the core of the new ownership group.

Greenville County records show that the Haas Family paid \$1.8 million dollars for the property and business.

Local business man Sam Phillips had owned the golf facility since 2001.

A formal takeover and renaming of the facility will be developed in the next few months.

## Murphy gets win in WSCGA Amateur

Auburn golfer Kelli Murphy, from Elgin, outdistanced the field at the WSCGA Amateur to record an 11 shot win in the state championship.

Murphy's first round included a hole-in-one on the par 3, 131 yard 15th hole at the Members Club at Woodcreek.

Thornblade Club's Dawn Woodard shot a final round even par 72 to climb up three places and finish as the runner-up one shot in front of Abigail Schimpf from Daniel Island.



Tyler and Mike Burdine won the Dudley-Sullivan SCGA Father-Son championship.

## Burdines win SCGA Father-Son

The team of Mike and Tyler Burdine from Greenville came from the third division to win the annual Dudley-Sullivan Father-Son championship played at the Greenville Country Club's courses.

Golfers in the tournament were pre-flighted into divisions but golfers from any of the five groups could win the overall championship.

The Burdines won the select drive and alternate shot competition by shooting a 4-under par 68. The father-son team won the third division title and the overall championship.

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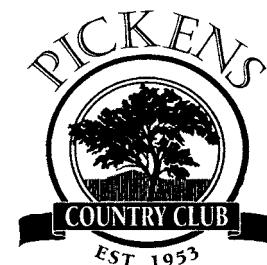
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# Azallion claims SCGA Junior

## Hilton Head golfer comes from three shots back to win

When Daniel Azallion stepped up to the first tee in the final round of the SCGA Junior he thought he was in perfect position to win the championship.

He trailed second round leader Trey Crenshaw from Lancaster by three shots at the Dataw Island Club near Beaufort.

"I was in my wheelhouse," said Azallion. "All my wins have been come from behind, I kind of like that spot. Being one or two shots back doesn't bother me," he said.

Azallion didn't waste any time moving past Crenshaw and Connor Fahey of Greenville to take the lead.

He carded three birdies on the front nine and was even with Crenshaw at the turn.

On the back nine, two other contenders tried to stay with the tournament leader. Seth Taylor from Gaffney had an up and down opening nine holes, but was able to keep up with Azallion and Fahey.

Brandon Masters from Piedmont, the South Carolina AAAA High School champion, made the turn at 1-under par and also was in striking distance of the leader.

Azallion had two birdies and a bogey on the back nine, while Crenshaw posted two bogeys, a double and a birdie to fall two shots back.

Neither Taylor nor Masters could get any closer than two shots of the future Virginia Tech golfer.

"I was keeping track of what everyone was doing. I kept checking with the live scoring guy because I wanted to know, to make sure I knew what I needed to do down the stretch," Azallion said.

Now with the lead, Azallion bogeyed the 14th hole, but quickly made two birdies on the next two holes to build his lead to two shots.

The final challenge to Azallion's lead came from Fahey. The Eastside High



Daniel Azallion from Hilton Head (above-left) shot an opening round 65 and finished at 8-under par to win the 2018 SCGA Junior Championship at the Dataw Island Club. Connor Fahey (top-right) from Greenville finished as the runner-up two shots behind Azallion. Walker Jennings from Greenville won the Boys 13-14 year old division title.

More pictures, video and interviews from the SCGA Junior and the WSCGA Junior at [www.scgolfclub.com](http://www.scgolfclub.com)

School grad was in second place after draining a 50 foot birdie putt on number 15.

"I finally hit a good drive on 14 and then made the long putt. I had a chance to catch him, but when my putt on 17 lipped out that was it," Fahey said.

Azallion didn't falter as the field tried to catch him. He made solid pars on the final two holes to claim his biggest victory.

"The first day (7-under par 65) I got a lot of great breaks. In the second round (3-over par 75), I didn't play badly and I just hung in there and made a birdie on my final hole to set me up for the final round. Today, I tried not to get ahead of myself and just take it one hole at a time and one shot at a time," said the champion.

Azallion finished the 54 hole tournament at 8-under par 208. Fahey shot a final round even par 72 for second place at 210. Crenshaw's final round was a 3-over 75 to give him a 212 total and third place.

Taylor's final round was 1-over par for a 213 fourth place finish, while Dillon Hite from Lexington and Brandon Masters from Piedmont finished in a tie for fifth place.

Azallion adds the junior championship to his resume, which includes a win at the Orange Jacket Classic and a pair of third place finishes at The Blade and the Southern Cross.

"This is a huge deal when you go back and see who has won this tournament in the past. Some of the guys are now on Tour. It means a lot to know how much time I put in to get to where I am. It feels like a big accomplishment and I'm excited," said Azallion.

In addition to the championship Azallion also won a spot in the Sage Valley Junior Invitational and the Bobby Chapman Junior, along with joining seven

SCGA Junior...continued on page 10

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# Rich needs extra hole to win WSCGA Junior

## Charleston golfer birdies first playoff hole for victory

The tenth hole on the Devils Elbow Course at Moss Creek Plantation owed Rachel Rich.

In the first round of the Women's South Carolina Golf Association Junior championship, Rich carded a triple bogey.

At the end of the 54 regulation holes Rich got to play the hole again, this time in a sudden death playoff with Savannah Hylton for the championship.

"I tried to block that out and just focus on my game," she said. "That shot was in the past and I wanted to stay in the present," said Rich.

The Mount Pleasant golfer was not only able to block out the triple bogey, but put bogeying the final two holes of regulation out of her mind as well.

After a solid drive, Rich hit a near perfect pitching wedge to within three feet of the hole.

"I knew what I did wrong when I had the triple so I was going to make sure I didn't do the same thing again," she said.

Hylton, from Hilton Head Island, shot the best final round posting an even par 72 to earn her place in the playoff.

Hylton made Rich work for the win. Her second shot was short of the green, but



Rachel Rich (left) from Charleston birdied the first playoff hole to top Savannah Hylton (right) from Hilton Head and win the Women's South Carolina Golf Association Junior championship at Moss Creek Plantation.



her pitch stopped within 10 feet of the pin.

"When I saw Rachel's ball I knew she could make it. I just wanted to get close enough in case she missed," said Hylton.

Rich didn't miss. Her short putt went in the center of the cup and she was the new state champion.

The rising high school sophomore shot rounds of 75 - 68 - 74 for a 217 total.

Her second round 4-under par 68 tied Isabella Rawl from Lexington for the low-

est round in the tournament.

Rawl missed being in the playoff by one shot finishing with a 54 hole total of 218, in third place.

The future Clemson golfer was assessed a one stroke penalty for slow play after recording a half dozen individual "bad times" and being out of position for most of the round.

"It was one of the things you hate to do, but you have to protect the field,"

said WSCGA Executive Director Clarissa Childs.

The second place finish for Hylton, to go along with a win at the Charles Tilghman last year, gives the future Furman golfer a pair of resume topping results.

"It is nice to have a good finish when you look at the players in the field for this tournament," said Hylton.

The Second Division title was won by future Bowling Green golfer Katie Whitfield from Clemson.

Visit [www.scgolfclub.com](http://www.scgolfclub.com) for more on the WSCGA Junior Championship.



## Johnson wins Big I' State Championship

Elle Johnson, of Inman, is the SC Big I girls division champion with a two-day score of 147. She earned a spot at the Big I Golf National Championship on Daniel Island Golf Club in Charleston, hosted by SC Independent Agents.

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# Hoyle deals up another winner at Greer

## The 2010 champion wins a second GGO in another playoff

It was deja vu all over again for Charlie Hoyle. The former Lander University golfer won the GGO in 2010 in a playoff and he won his second championship at Greer exactly the same way.

Hoyle and Derrick Oyervides finished the tournament tied at 140 to force a playoff.

Hoyle was able to win the title on the third extra hole, just as he had done before.

"It is kind of amazing how similar this was to when I won before," Hoyle said. "The only difference was the length of the putt on the third playoff hole," he added.

Hoyle wasn't the only one who experienced some deja vu. Oyervides had been in a couple of playoffs for the GGO title only to fall short. In each case a pair of bogeys on the 17th and 18th holes dropped him into a playoff just as it did this year.

"It happened again, if I could make one par on either of those holes I would not have been in a playoff this year or before," said Oyervides.

Hoyle led the tournament after the first round after shooting a 5-under par 67 to



Charlie Hoyle (left) won his second Greater Greer Open title in the same way he won his first championship back in 2010. Hoyle topped Derrick Oyervides (right) in a three hole playoff. Marty Henson (below) won the senior title at Greer.



hold a one shot lead over Oyervides.

After a good start, Hoyle struggled. A bogey on the 15th hole allowed Oyervides to take over the lead. However, just as in the past a bogey-bogey finish forced a playoff.

On the first playoff hole Hoyle hit his second shot within three feet of the pin while Oyervides was 20 yards off the green.

"When I got to the green I thought I had it won. I could make that short putt and be done," said Hoyle.

Instead of a win, Hoyle was forced to convert the short putt to stay in the playoff after Oyervides hit a perfect pitch that hit



the pin and fell in the hole.

"I should not have been surprised when it went in because Derrick is such a good player," said Hoyle.

After playing even on the second playoff hole, the golfers returned to number one at Greer for a second time.

This time Hoyle's second shot ended up 20 feet from the pin. Oyervides was away and missed his birdie chance.

"I put the ball just on the outside of a mark and had the right speed and it went in," he said.

The GGO was the first tournament Hoyle played with his newly restored USGA Amateur standing. After finishing at college he returned to the United Kingdom and played as a professional for a year and a half.

"This was nice to get a win the first time out with my amateur status, but it was also important because we have lost my wife's grand mother recently and my grand mother a few months ago and in a way it was nice to get a win in their memory," said Hoyle.

Doug Ramey and Sam Merrell finished in a tie for third place.

Flight winners included, First Flight - Greg Moore, Second Flight - Adam Black, Third Flight - Wade Hyder.

Marty Henson won the Senior Championship. Henson shot rounds of 69 and 72 for a 141 total and a seven shot victory over Roger Paige. Joe Hammacher won the Senior Division First Flight.

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# Thompson edges out Hargett at Chanticleer

## Asheville golfer wins playoff for title at CNSI

Pat Thompson won the Chanticleer National Senior Invitational at the Greenville Country Club's course on the first hole of a sudden death playoff.

However, it was a great approach shot on the 18th hole that tied the Asheville golfer with Eddie Hargett of Columbia and forced the playoff.

Thompson had flirted with the lead during the final round of the championship. At one point he held the top spot, but with first round leader Todd Hendley, Allen Peake and Hargett all within a shot there was no room for a mistake.

By the final hole Hendley and Peake dropped a shot back from the lead.

Hargett's approach shot on 18 took a crazy bounce off the rocks and landed on the putting surface.

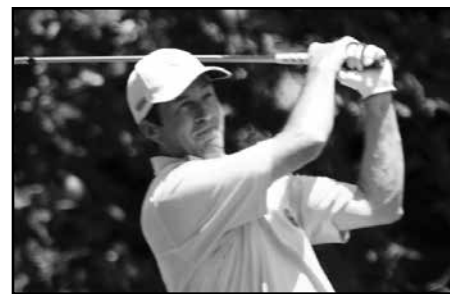
Forty feet of green was between Hargett and the hole. His putt followed a line and died in the cup.

The birdie gave Hargett the temporary lead with only Thompson in a position to catch him.

Thompson followed up a solid tee shot on 18 with a spectacular second shot that



Asheville's Pat Thompson (left) needed an extra hole before he was able to win the Chanticleer National Senior Invitational at the Greenville Country Club. Thompson edged out Eddie Hargett (top-right) of Columbia in the playoff. Defending champion Todd Hendley (bottom right) from Greenville missed being in the playoff by a shot.



Interview, video highlights and more information on the CNSI please visit [www.scgolfclub.com](http://www.scgolfclub.com).



spun back to within three feet of the pin.

"I knew there was a bit of a back stop behind the pin," said Thompson. "I wanted to be aggressive. It was the best approach shot I hit all week," he said.

Hendley's approach was just as good. His shot spun back towards the pin and hit Thompson's ball or it might have gone in for an eagle to force his way into a playoff.

The Thornblade golfer made his four foot putt and Thompson was able to get a good read on the line. He sank his short putt to tie Hargett at 1-under par sending the two into the playoff.

Both golfers, second shots missed the green. Hargett punched his chip to within 12 feet of the hole. Thompson was in better position and his chip landed three feet

from the pin.

Hargett had to make his putt to keep the playoff going. Instead it slipped past the right side of the hole. Thompson rolled in his short putt to win the championship.

"I've had the opportunity to play golf all over the world and I like this course as much as any course I have played. It is a fantastic test of golf," said the winner.

Hargett finished in second with Hendley at even for the tournament in third place.

Walter Todd from Laurens had the best round on the final day shooting a 2-under par 70 for a fifth place finish.

"Some of my friends have played here and won and they told me I needed to get one, and I did. It feels great and I am very happy," concluded the winner.

The tournament included two other divisions. George Washburn, III of Frederick, MD shot a three day total of 218 to win the Legends Division.

John Armstrong from Frostburg, MD won a playoff over Paul Schlachter on the first extra hole to claim the title in the Super-Senior division.

The Chanticleer National Senior Invitational began in 2011 presenting a premier invitational tournament for elite senior and super senior golfers.

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# Patton has memorable week at US Senior

## 1989 US Amateur champ got special invitation to US Sr.

Chris Patton went to Colorado Springs just to play in a golf tournament, but it turned into a very emotional experience. The 1989 US Amateur Champion from Fountain Inn was awarded a special one-time exemption to play in the US Senior Open.

"I can't tell you how all the love and good feelings that I got from everybody out there just made my week," he said. "It has been pretty emotional and enjoyable," said Patton.

Except for his putting.

Patton didn't have many expectations for his game after being away from all golf for 14 years, but he still wished he could have made more putts. After finishing his second round, the real competitor in Patton came out.

"The greens out here are unbelievable. The mountain above the course has a big effect on just about every putt. I just couldn't get a good read on the greens. I thought my ball striking might hold me back, but it was my putting," he said.

Patton shot an opening round 11-over par 81. His round included one birdie and one double bogey. The only birdie and double he made in two rounds on the very difficult Broadmoor course.

"I basically hit it in the leather for the



The entire Patton family made the trip to Colorado. Chris, Meg, Colby and Zach all traveled to cheer Chris on at the US Senior Open. Patton got a chance to catch up with many old friends from his days on Tour, like US Open Senior leader Jerry Kelly.



birdie and the double came from pitching the ball from some very thick rough over the green," he said.

The PGA keeps statistics on everything and Patton's stats were not bad considering he had not played tournament golf in a very long time.

The former Clemson All-American hit about 58 per cent of fairways and almost 50 percent of greens in regulation. His average driving distance was 276 yards.

"These guys were blowing the ball 30 and 40 yards past me. I had a few drives that just missed staying in the fairway. The grass

was deep and sticky and I just didn't have any place around home to practice in those kind of conditions," he said.

Patton improved his score by three shots in the second round. He carded a 78 to finish at 159 and missed the cut.

He did finish in front of two very prominent golfers. Three time US Open champion, Hale Irwin and former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz.

"I'd like to think if I was playing more the most I should have shot was two or four over each day. If I had made a few of those four and five footers, I would have made

See a video interview with Patton and more pictures and stories at [www.scgolfclub.com](http://www.scgolfclub.com)

the cut," he said.

While the putting was not as good as he hoped it would be, getting ready and playing after all these years exposed a physical problem Patton had not noticed before.

"I was taking therapy for my hip twice a day here. When I had injury problems it was in my shoulder and my hands. I don't know where this came from, it might be from riding the tractor on the farm," he joked.

Catching up with so many old friends eased some of the disappointment of not making the cut.

Patton was interviewed for a FOX Sports segment by one of his old buddies from his days on the Hooters Tour. Ned Michaels called Patton by his old nickname, Big Daddy during the interview.

"We probably played as much golf together on the Hooters tour as I did with any other golfer. It was great to catch up with him," said Patton.

He also enjoyed a reunion with tournament leader Jerry Kelly. The two were young players getting started at about the same time.

"He could not have been nicer. He and his wife were really helpful and it was just great to see him and so many of the other guys I played with a long time ago," he said.

Besides enjoying the opportunity to **Patton..** continued on page 12

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Lauren Stephenson won the two major women's college golf Player of the Year awards. Golfweek and Golfstat both honored the Alabama golfer. She also was a consensus All-American at Alabama. Recently she was a member of the Curtis Cup team (left) that defeated GB&I. As a high school senior at Lexington (right) Stephenson was the first South Carolina high school girls golfer to earn All-State honors in both the boys and girls tournaments.

# Stephenson is the Player of the Year

## Alabama golfer from Lexington sweeps top women's college golf awards

Lauren Stephenson dominated high school and junior golf in South Carolina and now as a collegiate golfer at Alabama she has done the same thing on the college level.

Stephenson, from Lexington, earned her second major player of the year award when she was named the Golfweek Player of the Year for women's collegiate golf.

"The best thing about this year for me is knowing that every tournament I played I had a chance to win," Stephenson said.

Stephenson becomes the first Crimson Tide golfer to receive the award in the 20 year history of its presentation.

Last May she won the Golfstat Cup presented to the women's collegiate golfer with the best scoring average.

"It was awesome when I found out that I had the lowest scoring average in history," she said.

Stephenson led the Tide with a 69.76 average, which is also an Alabama record and lowest average in the 20 year history

of the award.

"The honors keep pouring in for Lauren and she is deserving of every one," Alabama head coach Mick Potter said. "She has put together one of the most historic seasons in college golf in terms of consistency, and it is great that Golfweek has recognized that."

The former South Carolina High School champion brought her game to another level when she found a key to improve her short game.

"Last summer after the Open and the Am, I just felt more confident over my putts. It took a lot of pressure off the rest of my game knowing I could stand over a ten footer and feel confident I could make it," she said.

Stephenson was also named First Team All-American by Golfweek. The Women's Golf Coaches Association previously tabbed her as a First Team All-American.

While her entire season was impressive one performance even got the self admitted perfectionist to feel like she was playing

pretty well.

"When I won at Vanderbilt I made five straight birdies to finish. You don't think about it when you are playing, but after the round I said 'Holy Cow' I even amazed myself," she said.

Stephenson finished seventh at the NCAA Women's championship and helped her team into the match play finals.

The Crimson Tide was loaded with talent this year as Stephenson and teammates Kristen Gillman and Cheyenne Knight dominated All American honors.

Stephenson, who began her college career at Clemson, left the program to transfer to Alabama. She believed the program gave her a better opportunity to reach her goal of playing professionally.

"It has been really good for me because of the competition on the team. If I can beat my teammates I can beat anybody. It has been a great experience and my coaches have really helped me," she said.

Most recently Stephenson contributed to a lop-sided victory over Great Britain and Ireland in the Curtis Cup matches.

"It was so much fun. I think it was the best thing that happened to me this past year. It was great to represent our country," she added.

Stephenson will have a similar opportunity when she plays in the Arnold Palmer Cup in France. She also is exempt into the US Amateur later this summer.

The rising senior has some big decisions and opportunities in front of her for her last year at Alabama.

As one of the top-5 college golfers at the end of the season, Stephenson can be exempt into the final stage of LPGA Qualifying School.

"After the fall I played the rest of the season with a lot of pressure. I wanted to finish in the top-five so it was a big relief when I was in the top-five when the year **Stephenson..** continued on page 12

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# Davidson moves up

Furman promotes assistant coach Matt Davidson

Furman didn't need a nation-wide search to find the right man to take over the Paladin's golf program.

Furman stayed within the program and promoted assistant coach Matt Davidson to head coach.

"I am thrilled to now lead an amazing group of student athletes at my alma mater is an incredible opportunity. I can't wait to get started," said Davidson.

The 2004 Furman grad was the Southern Conference Player of the Year in 2002 and won the conference individual championship in 2004.

Davidson joined the Paladin program last spring and helped in the development of the team, which included Keller Harper being named the SoCon Player of the Year.

"I have been living in Greenville for the last seven years, so this is a perfect opportunity to leave playing professionally and be back at Furman," he said.

The new Paladin coach has spent the last 13 years playing on the Web.com and PGA Tours.

Davidson is married to Furman Health Science professor Natalie The. The couple has two sons, Wesley and Graham.

The Furman alum believes he is com-



ing into a good situation at the University as the turmoil involving the program a few years ago has been put to rest.

"We have a solid program and the school and the alumni are 100% behind us. We now can look to the future," said the Paladin coach.

Like all college sports, the future means recruiting and Davidson has embraced the challenge of finding quality student athletes that can succeed on the course and in school at Furman.

Davidson believes his professional playing experience and college success will help him in the recruiting process.

"We are in a perfect location to recruit and Furman is a great school. Playing college golf is very demanding so we are looking for players who can take their game to the next level. I can't wait to jump in," said Davidson.

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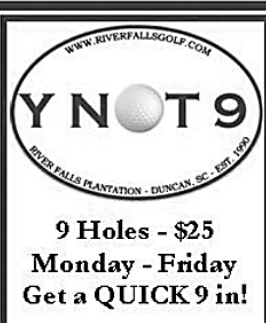
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## Festival champion

### Branyon cards a 7-under 65 in final round to win title

There are horses for courses and Josh Branyon and The Patriot Golf Course seem to fit each other perfectly.

Branyon won the SCGA Mid-Am championship in 2011 at the course in Grand Harbor and added a Festival of Flowers victory to his list of accomplishments at the course.

"There just is something about the way the course fits my eyes," said the winner. "Every time I play here I just have a good feeling about my game and the way I can compete here," said Branyon.

The Festival winner broke out of a pack of four golfers with a near perfect front nine in the final round. Branyon made five quick birdies and added a sixth on the ninth hole to shoot a 30 on the front.

"I was hitting it close and making ev-



erything. I really didn't have any difficult putts on the front nine and I think that is how I got into the lead," he said.

The Honea Path golfer finished at 7-under par 65 to claim the win. His two day total of 134 was enough to secure a three shot victory.

John Schaffer shot a final round 5-under par 67 to move up to second place at 137. Three golfers tied for third. First round co-leader Joyner, Yancey Johnson and Peyton Shore all shot two-day totals of 140 to finish at 4-under par.

## Spartanburg senior

### Birdie on final hole earns Newman his fourth senior title

Bobby Newman had a good feeling coming into the Spartanburg County Senior Amateur at the Carolina Country Club.

Newman shot a 65 in his practice round and decided he was ready to try to win his fourth Senior Am.

His premonition turned into reality as Newman birdied the final hole to win his fourth County Senior Am.

"I'm playing the best golf I have played in years, maybe ever," said Newman.

The championship came down to the last hole. Former champion Stan Sill was within one shot of Newman and had an eagle chance on number 18.

He missed the eagle, but made a birdie



forcing Newman to sink his birdie putt to win.

"I had a good line on a 12 footer and the ball tracked right to the hole. I was pretty happy. I didn't want to be in a play-off," said Newman.

Newman finished with a 4-under par 68 for a tournament best total of 139. Bill Gee and Sill finished at 140 in a tie for second place.

The Super-Senior championship was won by Roger Page who finished at 146,



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**SCGA Junior...**

continued from page 4

other South Carolina Juniors in the annual Georgia-South Carolina team matches.

The 13-14 year old division championship was won by Greenville's Walker Jennings. Jennings started the final round tied with Pake June from Sumter.

The Christ Church golfer fired an even par 72 in the final round to break out of the tie and record a six shot victory with a 2-over par 218 total.

Jerry Bruns from Beaufort and Zach Adams from Charleston finished in a tie for second place while June dropped back to fourth place in the division.

**Patton...**

continued from page 8

play in a high level event again, Patton hoped his son and caddy, Clemson golfer Colby, would get a good look at what it is like inside the ropes at a big time event.

"I think he got to see what I was hoping he would see. I know he did a fantastic job for me in the tournament and I think it was a great experience for our entire family," he said.

Patton will be back on the farm soon with a lot of fond memories of his week back on the Tour and only one regret.

"I flat out putted myself off the golf course," he concluded.

**Stephenson...continued from page 9**

ended," Stephenson said.

The Q-School finals are at the end of October in Pinehurst. If Stephenson earns her Tour card she has been encouraged to make the jump to the pros.

"Coach Potter has told me it is the chance of a lifetime and he would understand if I left school. He has been very supportive," she said.

The LPGA changed its policy from a few years ago when golfers had to declare immediately if they accepted their card and turned pro.

"I'm glad they made that change. It is a big decision and you would like to have some time to make it," she said.

Stephenson could defer the start of her pro career until the end of the college season if she qualifies for a Tour card.

Over the past few years the Alabama All-American has tried to measure her game against the game of other top college players like Leona McGuire from Duke.

"I've always felt like the underdog, that I wasn't good enough compared to other players," she said,

Now as the returning Golfweek and GolfStat Player of the Year it will be other golfers using Stephenson as a way to measure their game.

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# Redding goes wire to wire

## UVA golfer wins CGA Women's title at Green Valley

Anna Redding from Concord, NC seemed to have more trouble holding the CGA Women's championship trophy than she did playing and winning the tournament at Green Valley.

"It is heavy," she joked as she wrestled to get a grip on the trophy. "But I'm strong enough to hold it," she added.

Redding's game was also strong enough to lead the Carolinas Golf Association championship from start to finish for her first win in awhile.

"I had a few top five finishes last year at school, but it has been awhile since I got a win. To get a win especially in a CGA event, which I love playing, is just incredible," said the winner.

The rising senior at Virginia didn't waste any time taking the lead. She birdied the first two holes in the first round and finished with a 5-under par 67, which turned out to be the best round shot in the championship.

"It was my personal best and a great start. I came here from the NCAA tournament and our team didn't do well so I wanted to get back into competition with a good round," she said.

Kate Hill from Anderson University was a close second after carding a 4-under par 68 in the opening round. Ashley Sloup from Southport, NC, Victoria Huskey from Greenville and Furman's SoCon champion Reona Hirai from Summerville all posted 71s to be four shots off the lead.

In the second round, scores went up for almost the entire field. Redding's second round total was nine shots higher than her first round, but the rest of the field wasn't able to take advantage of the leader shooting a 76.

Hill kept pace shooting a 76 to enter the final round still trailing by a shot.

In the final round, Redding scored an eagle 2 on the fourth hole and made the turn posting a 33. Hill made a pair of bogeys to



University of Virginia golfer Anna Redding (above) from Concord, NC led the CGA Carolinas Women's Amateur from start to finish. Anderson University's Kate Hill (above-right) recorded a strong second place finish. WSCGA Senior champion Pam Prescott (right) from Pickens won the CGA Carolina Division title.



turn at 38.

"I knew I had the lead and I just wanted to play my game. I had a good game plan and I stuck to it," said Redding.

Trailing by six shots Hill's goal for the final round changed. "I didn't make a birdie until number 14. I wanted to finish under par the way I started and I was able to do that. It was just a good day of golf," said the Anderson University golfer.

Hill finished second, four shots behind Redding, while Katherine Schuster of Kill Devil Hills, NC shot a 3-under par 69 to move up to third.

Redding credited a change in her short game as one of the reasons for her win.

"I tried it in competition for the first time and it worked pretty good," said Redding, who birdied her final hole to shoot a 4-under par 68 for a 211 total.

"It feels good to be a champion," concluded Redding.

Pam Prescott won the WSCGA Senior

championship in May for her first state title. She followed up the win with her first victory in a CGA championship.

Prescott, from Pickens, won the Carolina Division's Net and Gross titles. The Powdersville High School golf coach shot rounds of 70-76-75 for a 221 total in the gross competition and finished at 13-under par in the net division.

"My putting has been really good lately," said Prescott. "I got off to a good start and I played pretty well the rest of the tournament," she added.

Prescott finished 8-shots in front of Terri Allemang from Hilton Head in the gross division. She claimed the Net Division title by 10 shots over Susan Bartley of Columbia.



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Brandon Masters (left) won the boys overall championship. Victoria Hall (left) won the girls overall championship at the Upstate Junior played this year at Pickens Country Club.

## Upstate Jr. winners

### Hall and Masters win championships at Pickens

The annual Upstate Junior championship is usually played at Smithfields, but because of a green renovation project the event was moved to Pickens Country Club for this year.

AAAA SC High School champion Brandon Masters from Piedmont broke out of a tie with Hinson Perry from Rock Hill to win the boys overall championship.

Masters shot rounds of 70 and 74 for an even par total of 144 and a one shot victory over Perry.

Tanner Pilgrim from Easley finished in a tie with Ross Craft for third place.

Byrnes High School grad Victoria Hall trailed Anderson's Chloe Holder by a shot going into the final round.

The future Anderson University golfer shot a final round 74 to slip Holder and win the girls overall division title.

Hall finished with a 146 total and a two shot victory over Holder. Caitlyn Cash from Boiling Springs finished third.

Sydney Roberts from Chesnee won the girls 11-14 year old age group. Roberts shot rounds of 75 and 78 for a 153 total.

Maddie Padget from Easley finished in second place in the age group.

Colton Evatt won the title in the boys 10-12 year old division. The younger boys played nine holes each day and Evatt finished with a 75 for the win.

The boys 13-15 age group title was won by Logan Hawkins from Williamston.

Jacob Holye, Nicholas Smith and Zander Briggs finished in a second place at 149 three shots behind the winner.



### Franks wins Sptbg Co Junior tourney

Nathan Franks won the rain shortened Spartanburg County Junior championship at Woodfin Ridge.

Franks shot a 27 hole total of 102 for a three shot win over three golfers.

Corbin Pye, Daniel Brasington and Parker Fain all finished at 105. Trey Howard finished fifth at 106.

The girls County Junior title was won by Sophia Kinsella who finished two shots in front of Abbey Franks for the title.

## Amateur Events

### G'ville and Sptbg Ams headline July's Amateur schedule

County Amateurs in Greenville and Spartanburg will be played this month and registration is open for both events.

**Spartanburg County Amateur championship. July 13th - 15th at Three Pines Country Club.**

The field is limited to the first 139 paid entrants. Golfers will play 54 holes and be flighted.

The County tournament is open to Spartanburg County residents and members of Spartanburg County clubs.

The Upstate First Tee will again conduct the amateurs for men, women, juniors and seniors in Spartanburg County.

Proceeds from the tournaments will help The First Tee program.

Entry information and registration is available at [www.thefirstteeupstate.org](http://www.thefirstteeupstate.org) click Events.

**51st Greenville County Amateur, July 20-22nd, Pebble Creek Country Club.**

The tournament is open to all Greenville County residents, members of Greenville clubs and past champions.

The three day 54 hole tournament cuts the field after the first 36 holes and is flighted.

Registration forms are available at [www.upstategolfclub.com](http://www.upstategolfclub.com)

The Upstate First Tee will again conduct the amateurs for men, women, juniors and seniors in Spartanburg County.

**The Budweiser, August 11th,12th, Boscobel.** The tournament is the largest weekend event in the Upstate. The tournament is open to all golfers and flighted after the first round,

Morning and afternoon tee times available for the first round.

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**The Earl Wooten Memorial, August 26-27th, Saluda Valley Golf Club.** The annual event is open to all golfers and flighted after the first round.

The tournament has a senior division that is also flighted after the first round.

Entry information is available at the Saluda Valley Golf Shop by calling 864-847-7102.

**5th Annual Upstate Amateur, August 26-27th, Green Valley Country Club.** The tournament is open to all amateur golfers.

The 36 hole championship is flighted after the first round.

Entry information is available online at [www.upstategolfclub.com](http://www.upstategolfclub.com).

**Harvey Brock Orange Jacket Classic, Sept 8 - 9, Pickens Country Club.** The first back to school tournament for junior boys and girls includes golfers from all over South Carolina. Entry information is available at [www.golfaag.com](http://www.golfaag.com).

**Save the Date for The 'Em for Emily, September 22, Willow Creek Golf Club.** The tournament benefits the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, the only nonprofit in the US working to eradicate mesothelioma.

The event provides a day of remembrance, reflection and celebration of the life of Emily Brown Kocis.

Information about the event is available at [www.TheEmforEmily.org](http://www.TheEmforEmily.org).

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# Brookstone is back in the game

## After a million dollars in renovations Brookstone is open to the public again

The time seemed right and the idea was well developed. Anderson was one of the largest cities in South Carolina without a fully private golf club.

A group of investors made the attempt to take Brookstone Meadows, a semi-private golf club, and turn it into a completely private club.

"It is a lot more difficult to go that way than to take a private club public," said Clint Wright. "They did a lot of things right and I respect them for what they tried to do, but for whatever reason it just didn't work out," he said.

Several months ago the club began the process of returning to a semi-private, daily fee course. The trailer is gone and the golf shop is back in the clubhouse.

Since the return to daily fee play some of the old members and golfers who called Brookstone home have started to return to the course.

Wright is now the general manager of the club as it transitions to a public play format. One of the founding

members of the AAG Golf Group, Wright has been associated with successful semi-private clubs over the years.

"The previous group did over \$1.5 million in renovations. They went down to the bedrock to make the course more playable. They rebuilt greens, tee boxes and bunkers all to a Tour standard," he said.

Now after two years of maturing, the course looks and plays differently than it did the last time it was open to the public.

"There are a few things I learned over the years that make for a good experience for golfers: a good hot dog, a cold beer, a quality practice area and really good greens. We have all those ingredients," said Wright.

The greens were reworked and in many cases rebuilt from the sub surface to the new tiff eagle Bermuda putting surfaces.

One other important factor in moving back to public play is keeping the course maintained differently.

"We have cut the rough down. There is nothing that frustrates any golfer more than losing a golf ball. We want golfers to have fun, not spend all day looking in the rough for their golfball," said Wright.

Like most area golf courses, Brookstone isn't perfect. A difficult winter has increased some of the maintenance

headaches for superintendent Bobby Moore, but even the trouble spots are coming around.

Besides being a fun course for a four-some, Brookstone is a great place for an outing. The club has a very liberal guideline for groups which include allowing them to bring their own food and soft drinks.

"We had a group of 180 the other day and we can make arrangements for groups as small as 12 or so. We want to make sure the golf is great for groups no matter what the size," said Wright.

The club has competitive membership opportunities and currently has no initiation fee.

One unique aspect of being a member is the opportunity to purchase a cart plan which covers cart usage.

The course is owned by Upscale Golf, Inc. Former Clemson basketball coach Rick Barnes is one of the members of the group.

"They have made a commitment to build on what has been done in the past and make this a quality semi-private, public welcomed golf course. I hope golfers, especially the ones who haven't been to Brookstone in a couple of years, give us a try," concluded Wright.

Additional information can be found at [www.theclubatbrookstone.com](http://www.theclubatbrookstone.com)

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