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**VOL 30
No.2**

Golf News For Carolina Golfers

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Bridgeman doubles down!

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**Clemson golfer wins PGA Canada Qualifier
and college tournament back to back**

Tigers tie at the Top!



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Clemson to win... Page 9**

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Gamecocks win two

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Big Plans for Pickens

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Morgan wins again

Do You Know?



Mike Carter

Coach and Professional Instructor

In 2010, I traveled to Houston, Texas to study under Jim Hardy and Chris O'Connell.

Hardy is a member of the PGA Teachers Hall of Fame.

Both Jim and Chris are listed in the Top100 instructors in America.

Everything I teach in the long game I learned from Jim and Chris.

I am part of their INNER CIRCLE instructor group.

Each year we have a summit at Watters Creek where Chris teaches in the winter months.

Our instructor mantra is to always get better...always improve.

Two of Mike's College Golfers



Two of Mike's college golfers Raquel Fowler and Delia Parker teamed up to win the Linville Cup Team Championship.

You should take a look at your putting statistics after each round you play.

Keep a record of the number of 3 putts you had, and the total number of putts you had for each round.

Doing so will get you focused on your putting ability.

I recently completed a 12 week putting program with Phil Kenyon.

Phil is widely considered to be the best putting instructor in the world.

Phil has work with 43 Tour winners, 10 Major Tournament winners, and over 20 Ryder Cup participants. Justin Rose, Rory McElroy, and Tommie Fleetwood are just 3 of the PGA tour players that have sought Phil's advice.

The 12 week program was intense, but fun. I learned so much about the art of putting.

Most golfers have an "AIM BIAS". To golfers with an "AIM BIAS" a straight putt does not look straight once they address the ball.

An "AIM BIAS" will cause a golfer to develop a "PUSH BIAS" or "PULL BIAS" in their putting stroke.

Correcting the errors in the stroke will correct the "AIM BIAS".

Let me leave you with 4 BAD PUTTING CONCEPTS. Avoid these concepts at all costs.

1. A "straight back/straight through" stroke.
2. Rocking your shoulders to start your putting stroke.
3. The hands are DEAD during the stroke.
4. The putter head should work back low in the backswing and follow through.

Putting is a skill you can develop. I hope you will consider taking a putting lesson with me at HAAS FAMILY GOLF. Let's get the ball rolling.... CORRECTLY.

Upstate events and aces

Mini-Masters, April 16th, Saluda Valley. Open to all golfers. Open to all golfers. One-day two man captain's choice. Call the Golf Shop to register at 864-847-7102

Boscobel Texas-Two Man, April 23-24. Open to all golfers. Flighted after the first round. 9 am shotgun both days.

Call the golf shop to sign up at 864-646-3991.

Holly Springs Center, HSC Classic, April 29th, The Rock, Open to individuals and 4- golfer teams. Breakfast and Lunch, Prizes and Putting Contest

Registration information available at 864-878-9335 or online at www.hollyspringscenter.com.

Ware Shoals Memorial Catfish Tournament, May 7th, Ware Shoals Golf Course. Open to all golfers. 4-player teams, captain's choice format.

Tees determined by age. Prizes to top four net and gross teams.

Sign up at the Ware Shoals Golf Course or contact Kyle Davis at 864-993-4321 email Hertamdavis@gmail.com.

Upstate 2-man, Legacy Pines, May 21-22. Open to all golfers. Flighted after the first round. Entry form is online at www.upstategolfclub.com

Folds of Honor Tournament, May 30th, Stoney Point Golf Club, Greenwood. Open to all golfers. Four

player teams Captain's Choice format.

The tournament will include a golf ball drop with a 50/50 split and a putting contest.

Contact Kyle Davis at 864-993-4321 or sign up at the Stoney Point Golf Shop.

Upstate Aces

Donald Trump, Trump Int. W. Palm Beach, #7, 181 yds. 5-iron. Witnesses Ernie Els, Ken Duke, Gene Sauers.

Joey Herbert, Boscobel, #12 (10th ace) Witnesses Whitt Jefferson, Bobby Skelton, Bill Hoffman, Donnie Fredrick

Bob Nelson, Fox Run, #6 126 yds. 8-iron. Witnesses Jim Glenn, Randy Karns.

Floyd Hendrick, The Preserve at Verdae, #2 Gold Tees, 9-iron. Witnesses Fred Wood, Marshall Allen, Brian Haywood.

Wells McDonald, Cobb's Glen, #7, 112 yds. 52 Wedge. Witnesses Bennet Scaleta, Aiden Byce.

Charlie Barron, Walker Course, #12, 124 yds. 9-iron. Witnesses Scott Callison, Tom Cleveland, John Sturman.

Landy Smith, Boscobel #14, Witnesses Leo Mazzone, Mike Hill, Ben Anthony.

Josh Phillips, Links O'Tryon, #4, 8-iron, 167 yds. Witnesses Dallas Thomas, Bob Grampino, Ricky Johnson.



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Bridgeman and Phillips move up

College golfers from Woodfin Ridge now 7th and 9th in PGA U rankings

As the college golf season gets ready for post season play, two local golfers are ranked amongst the best players in the country.

Georgia's Trent Phillips and Clemson's Jacob Bridgeman are both in the Top-10 of the PGA Tour University rankings.

Phillips is now ranked 7th and Bridgeman is 9th.

Both golfers have earned All-American status during their college careers.

At the recent Linger Longer Invitational in Georgia they almost competed head to head for the title.

Bridgeman finished with the win, the fourth of his college career, while Phillips final round rally moved him up to second right behind Bridgeman.

The two golfers have been linked together since their early junior days playing at Woodfin Ridge in Boiling Springs.

Both won South Carolina High School State Championships among their numerous junior victories.

The both were selected to the Junior President's Cup team and helped the United States win the 3 Cup.



Clemson's Jacob Bridgeman and Georgia's Trent Phillips grew up together at Woodfin Ridge and now are both in the PGAU top-10 rankings

If they can crack the top-5 on the PGAU rankings they would receive exempts into the Korn-Ferry Tour after the end of the college season.

Phillips is already guaranteed one start on the Korn-Ferry Tour after winning an exemption into the event by winning the Williams Cup earlier this season.

Bridgeman has guaranteed status on the PGA Tour Canada after winning a qualifying tournament in March.

South Carolina's Ryan Hall is 10th in the rankings and is also having an outstanding season.

Hall won the Palmetto Intercollegiate in March for his fourth college victory.



Cloninger and King win SCGA Sr Four Ball

It took three extra holes for the team of Rick Cloninger from Rock Hill and Kevin King from Bluffton to win a playoff over first round leaders Yancey Johnson from Simpsonville and Max Fain from Boiling Springs.

Cloninger and King shot a final round 8-under par 62 to force the playoff.

Spring Whing Ding winners at Carolina Springs

Carolina Springs annual Whing Ding produced some great scores and fun results for the field.

The winners included, Cedar Flight - 60- Mike Renwer, Mike Rhodes, Rodger Burton and Lazell Shell.

Willow Flight - 64 - David Westmoreland, Bob Nelson, Todd Lariviere, Charlie Townsend.

Pines Flight -60- Jim Cathcart, Zach Bachmann, Ken Bachmann, Lauren Bachmann

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USC won their second and third tournaments of the year with a win at the Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate (l) at the Palmetto Golf Club in . The Gamecocks lost a 10 shot lead in the final round of the Hootie at Bulls Bay, but finished the playoff in a tie with East Tennessee State to share the title. (USC Photos)

Gamecocks win at Aiken and Bulls Bay

Hall medals at the Palmetto Golf Club for fourth college win

South Carolina had one outright win and shared another top finish to add two more victories to their season total.

The way the Gamecocks found themselves with the winners trophies were very different in each event.

At the Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate the Gamecocks cruised to a 10 shot win.

USC's Ryan Hall, won his fourth college championship finishing 5-shots in front of teammate Jack Wall.

"It was a great tournament for our team and particularly Ryan and Jack," said head coach Bill McDonald. "They played some incredible golf in tough conditions. I was really proud of how the entire team responded when things got a little too close on the back nine. Virginia has a good team and they made a nice run at us. Our guys should gain a lot of confidence from this win," he said.

After a strong second place finish behind Auburn in Myrtle Beach at the General Hackler the Gamecocks looked to again be on cruise control after the second round of the Hootie at Bulls Bay.

USC saw a 10-shot lead evaporate in the final round by shooting 10-over par to finish in a four-way tie with NC State, Missouri and East Tennessee.

All five gofers on each team participated in the playoff with the best four scores counting on each sudden death hole.

NC State and Missouri were eliminat-

ed early leaving USC and ETSU battling for the team title.

With daylight running out McDonald and ETSU coach Jake Amos, a former McDonald assistant at USC, decided to call it a tie and share the team title.

The USC lineup in both wins were Hall, Wall, Rafe Reynolds, Evans Lewis and Nathan Franks.

South Carolina plays in the Augusta Haskins Award Invitational in April and then will prepare for the SEC championship at the Sea Island Golf Club beginning on April 20th.

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- April 16- Willow Creek GC
- April 30- Connettee Falls GC
- May 7- Village Greens GC
- May 21- River Falls Plantation
- June 4- Catechee GC
- June 25-26 (Monticello GC & Tara GC)
- July 2- Cherokee National CC
- July 23- Etowah Valley GC
- July 30-31- Riverbend CC and Deerbrook GC
- August 13- Clemson Walker Course
- August 27- Apple Valley GC
- September 10-11- Southern Oaks GC & Carolina Country Club
- October 10-12- North American Championship (Nashville, TN)

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Bridgeman wins back to back tournaments

Clemson senior wins PGA Canada Tour qualifier and the Linger Longer

About this time of the year a lot of college seniors are interviewing for jobs they hope to begin after graduation,

Jacob Bridgeman had one of those interviews and he aced it.

He didn't make a hole-in-one in golf terms, but in terms of coming out of the interview with a job, he aced it.

Bridgeman earned status on the PGA Canada Tour by winning the Qualifying tournament in Dothan, Alabama

For good measure a week later, back playing a college tournament, he added a dominating performance to his resume with a 6-shot victory in the Linger Longer Invitational..

In each of the past few years, a Tiger senior has missed a tournament to attempt to earn status on what used to be called the Mackenzie Tour,

"I talked it over with coach (Clemson Head Coach Jordan Byrd) we decided this week would be the best," said Bridgeman. "Our guys had some experience at Pinehurst #2 and the way things worked out they didn't need me," he laughed.

The Tigers won the Wake Forest Invitational by 16 shots without Bridgeman. Zach Gordon and Colby Patton tied for first place.

In Dothan, Bridgeman was competing with 107 other hopefuls trying to



Clemson's Jacob Bridgeman won the PGA Canada Qualifying tournament in Dothan, Alabama. Bridgeman has full status on the Tour after he finishes his senior season with the Tigers. He followed up the qualifying victory with an impressive 6-shot win in the Linger Longer Invitational in Georgia.(PGA Tour and Clemson Photos)

win a place to play starting in June when the PGA Canada Tour starts for the year.

After a so-so start to the spring season Bridgeman made a few adjustments to regain confidence in his driver.

"I wasn't hitting fairways, but after the change I'm back to around 85% and I'm still hitting it about 310 to 315. When you hit fairways like that you can play offense instead of defense. When you do that it is hard not to make birdies," he said.

The four round qualifier was interrupted several times by weather delays, but when it was over Bridgeman not only had status on the PGA Canada Tour for next year. He was fully exempt into every event by winning the qualifier.

"If you finish top nine, great. If you win, even better and that was my mind-



set," he said.

Bridgeman shot a final round 5-under 67 for a 19-under par 269 total and a two shot victory.

Bridgeman can start on the PGA Canada Tour in late spring.

"Up till now I've been playing tournaments with other college guys who are my friends, out here it is different. There are older guys who have been at it for awhile. It is all business. It is a really different atmosphere, but I'm ready to get started," he concluded.

With status on the PGA Canada Tour in hand Bridgeman still has the opportunity to do even better through the PGA Tour University program.

The top-5 finishers among all college seniors get to start their careers on the Korn-Ferry Tour.

Bridgeman took a big step toward improving his ranking with his win at the Linger Longer Invitational.

The Clemson senior shot rounds of 67-66-67 for a 16 under par 200 total and a 6-shot win for his fourth tournament title as a Tiger.

"I took the same approach in the final round as I did the first two rounds I just tried to hit it well off the tee, I didn't make many (putts) until the end of the round. When I stated to see some fall in I put the hammer down," he said.

And when everything is working for Bridgeman birdies almost automatically appear on his scorecard.

In his most recent tournament the Valspar in Florida, Bridgeman shot an opening round 67 with a triple and followed it up with an 8-under par 63.

Bridgeman was not able to get past Pepperdine's Dylan Menante for the lead and finished third, but it took exceptional play to keep Bridgeman in Menante's rear view mirror.

"When I get it going I think I can't miss. When I get a lead I feel I can play free and no one can catch me," he said.

Bridgeman has the ACC Tournament and the NCAA Post season ahead, but once that is completed he is anxious to start his professional career.

"I want to jump right into it and get started. I'm going to be ready knowing I have a place to play takes off some of the pressure. I don't have to chase Monday qualifiers if I don't want to," he said happily.



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Clemson gets first solo tournament win

Tigers get first 54 hole tournament win at the Clover Cup in Arizona

The Tigers earned their first ever outright 54 hole championship and the third tournament victory in the program's history at the event hosted by Notre Dame.

All five Tiger golfers shot par or better to come from 2-shots off the lead in the final round and win the championship by 5-shots over Texas A&M.

The Tigers shared their first program victory with Miami in 2017 and won a weather shortened 18 hole championship in 2018 for the program's other wins.

Until this week the Tigers had played some good golf, but had not been able to put together a complete effort in a tournament.

"We have been working hard in practice but have struggled with consistency all season," said Clemson coach Kelley Hester. "Our good golf has been very good, but too many mental mistakes and miss hits," she said.

The Tigers accomplished the victory without having a golfer finishing in the top-five for the 54 hole tournament.

"Everyone contributed and it was truly an all around great team performance," noted the coach.

Clemson's Kathrine Schuster had the highest finish for the Tigers. The freshman from Outer Banks, NC



Clemson golfers brought back the team title from the Clover Cup in Arizona. Tiger golfers included Melena Barrientos, Savannah Grewal, Annabelle Pancake, Katherine Schuster, Callista Rice and Gracyn Burgess.

shot a final round 3-under par 69 to finish in a tie for sixth place,

Freshman Melena Barrientos led Clemson on the final day with a 4-under par 68 to finish tied for 15th,

one shot behind teammate Savannah Grewal who tied for 13th.

Grewal posted Clemson's best score in the tournament with a second round 5-under par 67 to keep the Tigers in second place, two shots behind LSU going into the final round.

While the Tigers did not have a top-5 golfer, they did place four in the top-20. Callista Rice's final round even par 72 helped Clemson shoot 12-under par for the win.

All five Tigers contributed at least one score to the 5-shot team victory. Annabelle Pancake carded her best round of the tournament on the final day adding her 2-under par 70 to the Tigers 12-under par round.

"It was great to see the girls go out and execute our game plan. Last year in the final round here we shot -11 with similar hole locations, so we knew what to expect," said Hester.

Texas A&M shot the best final round to move up to second place while LSU dropped back to finish third.

The NCAA finals will again be played in Arizona at Grayhawk. In addition to the win playing in similar conditions and gaining a little more experience is a bonus for the team.

"No doubt. Last year we stayed and played Grayhawk. This year we aren't so lucky, but the girls do seem comfortable with desert golf. We definitely have some confidence headed into our final season events," concluded Hester.

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Morgan adds second tourney title this year

Lady Paladin junior is co-medalist at UNF Intercollegiate

Anna Morgan had some ground to make up in the final round of the UNF Intercollegiate in Jacksonville, Florida.

Morgan, the Lady Paladin junior, started her final round in a tie for fifth place trailing the leader by 2-shots after finishing the first 36 holes at 1-under par.

"I thought I left a lot of shots out there and didn't feel like I could make a putt," said Morgan. "I texted with Natalie (Srinivasan, her former teammate) and she gave me some tips I used to get ready," she said.

Using a shotgun start for the final round, space on the practice tee was limited so Morgan changed her pre-round warm up and spent more time chipping and putting.

"There were so many girls on the practice tee I only got to hit three tee shots before I went to the first tee," she said.

The short warm up session didn't affect Morgan as she stripped her first tee shot to start the final round.



Furman's Anna Morgan receives the praise from her Lady Paladin teammates after her win at the UNF Intercollegiate played in Jacksonville, Florida. The Lady Paladins finished second as a team. (Furman Photo)

Morgan birdied her fifth hole and closed out her first nine with an eagle and a birdie.

She holed out from a bunker for the eagle.

"My second shot ended up in a bunker about 10 yards from the hole. Our assistant coach told me she thought I could make it and I hit a good bunker shot and it went in," she said.

Morgan backed up the eagle with a

birdie to finish the front nine at 4-under par.

Because of the shotgun format Morgan and the other leaders were not playing together.

"I didn't ask where I stood until 17. My coach told me and said a couple of pars would be good, but I thought a couple of birdies would be better," she recalled.

Morgan birdied the par-3 17th hole

and had a good look at a second straight birdie from 18 feet on the final hole, but missed.

The Furman junior finished in a tie with Berta Sanchez Sabe from Jacksonville State for the top spot. Morgan's final round 5-under par 67 tied for the lowest round in the tournament.

It was the second win this year for Morgan. She won the Lady Paladin last fall.

Morgan started the spring with a tie for fifth place at The Show in Las Vegas and held the first round lead over the best field in women's college golf at the Darius Rucker Intercollegiate at Hilton Head just a week ago.

While she finished in a tie for 13th, Morgan believed it was her fine play at Long Cove that set up the win in Jacksonville.

"I was really proud of the way I played and knew my game was turning in the right direction. Getting this win was great," she said.

After playing in the Augusta National Women's Amateur, Morgan has the Southern Conference tournament and then hopefully NCAA post-season play to wrap up what already has been an outstanding season.

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The old 18th hole at The Pickens Golf Club now is both the 9th and 18th hole using different tees. It is still one of the best risk-reward finishing holes in the Upstate. Ground will soon be broken for a new 9,000 square foot clubhouse to include a full service restaurant, golf shop and resort headquarters. The club will include a 12,000 square foot resort style pool with a lazy river next to the new clubhouse.

Pickens has transformed into a new golf experience

The Pickens Golf Club has reopened to the public with more changes still ahead

After over a year of planning and course remodeling Pickens is again open for member and public play.

“When anyone asks I tell them we are twice as good as we were a couple of years ago,” said Ben Massingill. “And not even half as good as we are going to be,” he added.

Massingill has experience at Pickens as a long time member, a high school golf coach and now as the Member and Guest Relations Director.

Massingill has a great story to tell both old and new members as well as non members who are welcomed to the course.

Pickens was purchased by the Small Brothers from Cleveland, Ohio. The nationwide construction and development company purchased the course with the plan to develop a new hybrid golf and RV park resort.

“It will be some time before the RVs roll into Pickens,” said Jeff Lococo, who is part of the management team for the club. “Until then our efforts have

been to get the golf course ready to open for the existing members, new members and the public to be able to play at Pickens again,” he said.

The plan calls for the RV Park to use some of the old course around the lake and the rest of the course, which recently went from 18 holes to 14 holes, will now be 9 holes with a twist.

“The course will have two sets of tees for every hole,” said Matt Hightower the pro shop manager. “The tees are placed so you really are playing 18 different holes,” he said.

Greenville golf architect Jeff Lawrence has transformed the course using the existing holes with modifications to the greens and tee box locations, along with strategically placed sand bunkers to challenge players over a 5,618-yard, par 71 eighteen hole experience.

Golfers who are familiar with the course will soon be able to forget about the old hole numbers and enjoy the new routing.

The fifth hole is an example of the difference between the first and second time the hole is played in a round.

“The first time around the hole is a 135 yard par 3. The second time around it plays as a 400 yard par 4,”

noted Hightower.

The new layout is still being tweaked. Women and senior members have asked for special tees as on the old design and the course is looking into creating additional tee options.

The finishing hole is the old 18 and it still is a risk reward hole that is one of the better finishing holes in the Upstate.

The course was closed for much of last summer and slowly began opening in the late fall for members and an occasional guest.

“The grow in process started last June and by early summer golfers will see the full benefit of the new Diamond Zoysia greens and Tahoma 31 tee boxes along with the improved turf on the fairways,” said Lococo.

Golfers will enjoy the driving range, putting and chipping greens and sand bunker practice area as well as new carts and the improved cart paths.

“A lot of places are having trouble getting new carts, but Lynn Williams, a long time member, had some influence with Club Car and we just took delivery of a new fleet,” said Massingill.

Pickens Golf Club... continued on page 12

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Clemson wins big on Pinehurst #2

Patton and Gordon share individual championships as Tigers win by 16 shots

When the Wake Forest Invitational ended in a tie for medalist honors it could have presented a problem.

With only one trophy for the winner one of the two golfers would leave Pinehurst #2 empty handed.

Turns out it wasn't a problem after all.

Clemson teammates and roommates Colby Patton and Zach Gordon tied for the championship. They both got to take the trophy home.

When it came time to hand out the team trophy there wasn't any problem either.

Clemson dominated play on the legendary golf course to top several ACC competitors and the rest of the field to win the championship by 16 shots.

Duke finished second with the host team from Wake Forest in third place.

The Tigers impressive wire to wire team win was highlighted by the two Clemson golfers competing for the individual title.

Super-senior Patton held the lead after the first 36 holes. Gordon led during the first round and was just 2-shots behind Patton to start the final day.

While other golfers challenged the pair of Tigers, Patton and Gordon ended the 54 hole event tied at 2-over par to share the win.

"Colby really drove the ball well and his high ball flight on his approaches to the green were effective," said Clemson coach Jordan Byrd. "We thought Zack



Clemson's Zach Gordon and Colby Patton shared medalist honors at Pinehurst #2 as Clemson won the Wake Forest Invitational by 16 shots. The shared victory by the two Tigers was the first time Clemson golfers were co-medalists since 1987 when Patton's father Chris, and Kevin Johnson shared the title at the Gamecock Intercollegiate. (Clemson Photo)

would do well here because he has played the course a lot and had success in the North & South," he said.

This was Patton's second college win. His first came in his freshman year at the Hummingbird Invitational.

"I really didn't do anything great," said Patton. "I kept the ball in front of me and didn't get short sided and never had any shots I was uncomfortable with," he said.

Last summer Gordon made a run at the North & South Amateur title and knew patience and confident bunker play would be important.

Gordon got up and down from bunkers for pars on 16 and 17 and carded a birdie from the 18th hole bunker to tie Patton.

"Making pars here is always good and birdies are great. I tried not to get too excited and only attack the pins I knew I could go for after playing here this summer," said Gordon.

Both golfers finished at 2-over par 212. Patton got to the number with rounds of 73-68-71, while Gordon shot rounds of 71-72-69.

Patton, who is using his extra (Covid) season to earn a business marketing masters, does not get to spend a lot of time with his teammates.

"My classes are in Greenville in the afternoon so I don't get to practice with the team very often and I miss hanging around with them so this week was really special," he said.

The team title was even more impressive when you realize the Tigers won without their All-American Jacob Bridgeman, who was winning a qualifying tournament for the PGA Canada Tour the same week.

Sophomore Carter Pendley shot a final round even par 70 to tie for 7th place. While another Super-Senior Kyle Cottam carded a 2-under par 68 to give the Tigers their fourth golfer in the top-10 in 8th place.

The teams performance produced Byrd's first tournament title as the Clemson head coach after what had been an uneven start to his first season.

"I was pleased with our performance for the entire tournament," said Byrd after the victory.

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Converse golf celebrates 10th anniversary

Valkyries program growing up to match up with other D-IIs

When Converse decided to offer an NCAA Division II golf program the school was still called a college

Ten years later the College is a University and the campus which until recently was women only is now co-ed.

In 2015 Converse hired Spartanburg native Patti McGowan to guide the Valkyries' young program.

McGowan played collegiately at Furman before transferring and graduating from Florida International University.

After playing professionally for a time she turned her attention to teaching.

McGowan spent many years working with David Leadbetter at the Leadbetter/IMG Academy.

After refining her teaching skills McGowan went on to be recognized for 15 years as one of Golf Digests' Top 100 teachers.

She was on the initial Golf Digest "Top Women Teachers list and is still recognized as one of the areas top instructors.

But since becoming Converse's coach most of her instruction has been work-



Converse University golf coach Patti McGowan congratulated the three graduating Valkyries seniors after the Converse Invite tournament at the Carolina Country Club, Katie Spurling, Sydney Grimes and Emma Reid have helped the program now in its tenth year continue to grow. (GolfClub Photo)

ing with the Valkyries golf program.

As a new program McGowan has spent several years building recruiting relationships that are starting to pay dividends on the course.

There have been some successes as the program competes against established and relatively well funded Division II programs in the area.

The Converse program has produced a Conference Carolinas Freshman of the Year, a Player of the Year as well as a number of Academic All-Conference selections and over a dozen All Tournament team selections.

McGowan has raised the quality of golfer enrolling at the Spartanburg school and believes some very good days are ahead for the program.

"Going co-ed will certainly help with recruiting and the University has helped by increasing our budget," she said.

Besides improving the teams visibility through recruiting Converse has also benefit from the NCAA Transfer Portal..

"This year we have one player who transferred in and we have another who graduated high school early and joined the program for the spring," she said.

Elizabeth Madden was a member

of the state championship teams at Blythewood and has stepped right up to college level play leading the Valkyries in scoring at several events.

"With the recruits we will be bringing in I think we have a solid foundation to build from going forward," said McGowan.

This year's team will graduate three important players who have helped build a foundation for the program.

"I can't say enough about what outstanding teammates and great ladies our seniors are and how important they have been to our program," she said.

At some point in each senior's career they have earned All-Conference or Academic All-Conference honors.

Sydney Grimes from Virginia earned both Academic and All Conference honors.

Emma Reid from Flat Rock, NC and Katie Spurling from Byrnes High School also earned post season honors while helping to advance the program.

Now with a little more visibility and funding McGowan expects the program to take the next step.

"When I first got here good teams would shoot 310 for a competitive finish in tournaments, now it is below 300 so we have to step up our game and I think we are capable of doing that," said the Converse coach.

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The Golf Club at Star Fort is now The Fort Club

New owners, new name and new staff start in April

Say good bye to The Golf Club at Star Fort and say hello to The Fort Club.

Two Greenville businessmen, Jeremy Revis and Shane Birckbichler are the new owners of the club near Greenwood.

The new owners are avid golfers who intend to use their golf knowledge and business skill to revitalize the George Cobb designed course.

The two bought the course from Doyle McBride who had operated Star Fort for 15 years.

“We knew that he wanted to make sure Star Fort continued as a golf course and that is our intention,” said Revis.

Revis is a former Greenville County Amateur champion and Birckbichler played college golf at Furman.

Birckbichler is a part owner of the successful Paris Mountain Country Club in Greenville and the two want to use that club as a model for The Fort Club.

“Playing a lot of golf, we both know what golfers want to see. Golfers want a course with good greens, in good condition all year and that is our goal,” said Revis.

One other important factor is the way golfers are treated when they choose a course to play.

“We want to create an atmosphere here where golfers want to play the course, but they also want to be around the club even when they are not play-



A new name and new logo for The Fort Club as new ownership takes over the course in Ninety Six. Cole Patterson is the new general manager and golf pro.

ing,” said Revis.

The new owners have hired Cole Patterson to be the manager and golf professional at the club.

Patterson, like Revis, is a former Greenville Amateur champion who played college golf at Presbyterian.

After college he gained valuable experience in the food and beverage industry and for the last year has been an assistant professional at the Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta.

“We have a lot of work to do, but we have the facilities and the resources to make the improvements that are needed,” said Patterson.

The Fort Club has hired John Franklin from Woodside Plantation in Aiken as the new superintendent.

“We are fortunate to get John to join us and also glad that Tom Taylor, who has been with the club for many years, will help with the transition,” said Patterson.



The George Cobb designed course opened in 1968. It will operate as a semi-private club open to all golfers with membership opportunities.

“I’ve been a member at Green Valley (also designed by Cobb) and when I play here I can see the same kind of outstanding design. Now it is up to us to improve it and make it a fun and challenging course again,” said Revis.

Like all courses The Fort Club has to blend the wishes of a younger generation with those who are traditionalists.

“What we can do for both groups is make sure we have a well maintained golf course and very good food and beverage service and just make it a fun place to be,” said Patterson.

The Fort Club will host the return of the SCJGA Junior Four-Ball championship in October.

Revis is working with the SCGA to schedule some other events at the club as well as developing some week-

end tournaments like those played at Boscobel and Southern Oaks.

“The course has held tournaments in the past and we will be doing that again to give golfers from outside the area a chance to come and experience the course,” said Revis.

Some of the projects to improve the course will be noticeable to golfers and others may not at first.

“We are going to flip the nines so golfers finish right at the clubhouse. We have a very nice dining room and area outside the club where golfers can gather to watch the last hole,” said Patterson.

The club will have all appropriate licenses for beverage service.

New carts are on order, but supply chain issues mean their arrival will be delayed.

Working on improving the cart paths is high on the list of projects needing attention and improving the condition of the greens is at the top of every list at The Fort.

“As a tournament golfer I judge most courses by the quality of the greens. We have champion Bermuda greens and we are going to work very hard to make sure they are something every golfer will enjoy playing,” said Revis.

The club is in the process of adding a website at www.thefortclub96.com to be in operation soon.

Currently a Facebook page (Facebook @thefortclub) has information about the clubs operation.

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Pickens Golf Club...continued from page 8

Golfers will also see the end result of more than half a million dollars worth of golf course maintenance equipment that is now helping superintendent Bentley Suduth make sure the greens are cut and maintained at the proper height along with other regular maintenance functions that had been hit or miss in the past.

The golf shop is in a large trailer now because the old clubhouse is gone.

The focal point of the club and resort will be a new clubhouse built on the location of the old tennis courts.

The two story 9,000 square foot building will have golf course views from a deck as well as a full service restaurant and bar, fitness center and the golf shop.

When the RV resort is completed it will also serve as the check in location for visitors,

Tennis and pickle ball courts, a chipping green and fun putting green, all near the clubhouse are in the plans.

The new clubhouse will boast a 12,000 square foot resort style pool and lazy river next to the clubhouse so guests will be able to see the pool and the course from the deck.

Recent supply chain issues have caused the new owners to slow some of the improvements, but their enthusiasm for the club and the future RV Resort has not wavered.

"We had a Thanksgiving wing-ding and both John and James (Small) flew in to play in the tournament and meet the members. They really are enthusiastic about what is happening here," said Massingill.

During the transition the membership ranks fell, but many of the old members are coming back as they see progress has been made not just promised.



Longtime member Ben Massingill (l) is now the Director of Member and Guest Relations while Pickens Country Club veteran Matt Hightower is the Golf Shop manager at the newly renamed Pickens Golf Club. (GolfClub photo)

Pickens will operate as a semi-private club with daily fee golfers welcomed.

Currently there is no initiation fee for new members. The Club offers several membership options that are outlined on its website at www.pickensgolfclub.com.

Tee times can be made online or by calling the golf shop at 864-878-6083.

"We still are the same friendly Pickens for everyone who has been here before, but we are better than ever and getting better every day," concluded Massingill.



Club member Lynn Williams used some influence to help speed up the delivery of a new fleet of carts to the club.

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Spartanburg Co. Amateurs benefit The First Tee

Delaney's Irish Pub, Budweiser of Spartanburg sponsor 50th County Am

by Jed Blackwell
Associate Editor-Publisher

Kevin Moore can trace his golf background back to his childhood.

Moore, the co-owner of Delaney's Irish Pub and a board member with First Tee of the Upstate, is passionate about the group's mission of building character through golf.

"I've always loved First Tee," he said. "I was in something that was like a version of it when I was a kid in Arkansas. It was a great chapter for years and years. I got to understand and know the ideas then. When my youngest daughter turned four, I talked to John Combs at Woodfin Ridge and asked him if I coached, could she start at four, and he let us do that. I saw the impact immediately with her. They're not teaching you golf. They're teaching you how to be a good kid and how to be a good, responsible adult later in your life."



Kevin Meegan (l) from Budweiser of Spartanburg and Kevin Moore (c) from Delaney's Irish Pub will sponsor the 2022 Spartanburg County Amateur championships. The two joined with First Tee Upstate's Michael Pius in looking forward to the Men's Championship at Three Pines July 15-17 and the Senior Championship at Woodfin Ridge on May 20-21. Registration information is available at www.firstteeupstate.org events tab.

One of the first lessons – to shake hands and look the person you're talking to in the eye – was something Moore immediately saw his daughter embrace.

"We'd had two classes," he said. "She's really shy, really quiet, and she asked me if she could play with our neighbors' little girl. I told her to go knock on the fence and ask if she could play. I knew she'd get halfway through the yard and come back. I looked over, she's shaking their hands, looking them in the eye, and playing with their little girl. At that point I realized how import-

ant this is. What First Tee does for the kids, for the community is amazing. I knew at the pub, we could help. And over the years we've been able to do that. I didn't really understand what we were doing. I don't think I do enough most of the time," he offered

What Moore is doing is having a big impact on golf in Spartanburg County. Delaney's is sponsoring the County Amateur Tournaments for the third year, in conjunction with Budweiser of Spartanburg and their Michelob Ultra, and Langers brands.

"The response has been great," Moore said. "Especially among the older golfers who appreciate the fact that the community is helping the whole process. It's good for the community that we're all working together."

Moore is hopeful for a great year of County tournaments.

"We're hoping to really make some moves as to how we set up the tournament, that everyone is in the right flights. I've played in nine of the last 11 tournaments. I can play against myself or against the course every day, but that's the one time of year people like me who still want to get out and compete can play against someone else. It's a great, great feeling," said Moore

He also wants to further the mission of the First Tee by growing the game.

"At the end of this, I want Delaney's and First Tee to be kind of one and the same, mentioned in the same breath. I want people to know that we're supporting golf and supporting these kids. The more we get these kids involved, the better society is going to be. They'll have integrity and know the core values that really make a difference," said Moore.

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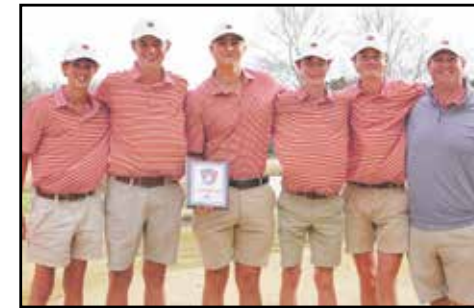
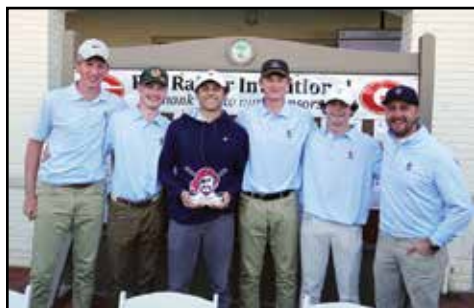


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Christ Church (left) got the new season off to a fast start when the Cavaliers topped a strong field to win the Red Raider Invitational. Greenville (right) won the Rebel Invitational topping Mauldin. Spartanburg (center-left) won the Spartanburg County High School Championship. Walker Greene (center-right) from Boiling Springs was the medalist at the Spartanburg County Championship.

Vikings, Raiders and Cavs start strong

Spartanburg claims county title, Greene wins individual title

The first month of the high school season has set the scene for what looks to be a very competitive race to the state championships.

The new season started with Christ Church winning the Red Raider Invitational.

Led by future Gamecock Walker Jennings and his younger brother William along with solid scores from veterans Jay Lowder and Jack Roberts the Cavaliers earned new coach Levi Horner his first win.

“We know we may be considered the favorite at a lot of tournaments, but you still have to go out and perform. If you don’t play well any team can beat you. Our job this year is to control the expectations and work to get better every

SC High School Golf Coaches March 24th Rankings

AAAAA	AAAA	AAA	AA&A
1 Chapin	1 A.C. Flora	1 Bishop England	1 Christ Church
2 Spartanburg	2 Greenville	2 Oceanside	2 C Pageland
3 Boiling Springs	3 N Augusta	3 Woodruff	3 St. Joseph’s
4 Nation Ford	4 S Aiken	4 Wren	4 P Simmons
5 Fort Mill	5 Eatside	5 Fox Creek	5 Chesnee

day,” said the coach.

Greenville’s Tip Price topped both teammate Hugh Faulkner, the Jennings brothers and Boiling Springs’ Andrew Gregory for medalist honors.

At the Rebel Invitational, Greenville got a solid team effort to top Mauldin for the team title.

“Our guys were disappointed after the Red Raider and they wanted to come back and do something much better, and they did, in probably the hardest conditions we will face all year with this wind,” said Greenville coach Andy Newton. “It was a total team effort,” he said.

Boiling Springs’ Andrew Gregory and River Bluff’s Ashton Eubanks each finished regulation play at 1-under par 71 to force a playoff.

On the second playoff hole Gregory won the title with an eagle on the 18th hole at River Falls.

“I need to do some work on my long irons to keep improving, but I’m pretty happy with the way things are going,” said Gregory.

Spartanburg had a couple of top-five finishes coming into the Spartanburg County Championship and put together a solid performance to win the title by nine-shots over Boiling Springs.

“Our guys have played steady to start the year and now we are seeing some lower numbers,” said the Vikings’ coach Todd White.

The Spartanburg line up included two seniors, James Fulmer and Davis Gaubert, sophomore Hugh Lemonds and freshmen Connor Williams and Ben Fulmer.

“We have set some challenges for each golfer and the team and we are having fun working to meet those challenges,” said White.

The individual title was won by Walker Greene from Boiling Springs.

Greene stepped up to play in the number one spot for the Bulldogs when the teams usual number one golfer could not play because of a family funeral.

Greene shot a 4-under par 68 to win the county championship by four-shots.

“It is really a good feeling to have shot a 68. I know now I can do it and I think I might even be able to do better,” concluded Greene.

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Greenville Country Club honored club members who had outstanding accomplishments in both club events and success away from the club. Brent Delahoussaye claimed the 2021 men's club championship (left) and was recognized by Chanticleer head professional Kyle Stam. The Christ Church golf team won another state championship and the club recognized the team and retiring coach Kristen Rooke, who led the team to nine state championships during her time as coach. Johnny Dennis, a nine-time men's club champion was recognized for his CGA Super Senior championship. (Greenville Country Club photos)

Greenville County Club honors its own

Delahoussaye, Dennis Rooke and Christ Church team honored

The Greenville Country Club honored its own members at a Champions Dinner and had some outstanding achievements to recognize.

The club recognized club and event champions from the 2021 golf year.

Brent Delahoussaye was recognized for his win in the men's championship as was Barbara Anderson for the Ladies club championship.

The special evening also honored retiring Christ Church boys golf coach Kristen Rooke and members of the state championship team.

Rooke, who also was recognized for a pair of club event championships she won during the year, led the Cavaliers to eight straight state titles.

Last years South Carolina AA championship team included Jack Wofford, Walker and William Jennings, Jay Lowder and Jack Roberts with William Jennings winning the individual title.

Being an accomplished golfer and rules expert Rooke had helped coach girls teams before accepting the job as the boys coach at Christ Church.

"Actually the athletic director at the school called and asked my husband if he would be the coach, he said no, and volunteered me," she recalled.

The first Rooke coached team won a championship even though she wasn't sure of what she was doing.

"I think that year the boys were coaching me," she joked. "We won every year except the second year and I think our team learned a hard lesson that even though we were favored we still had to go out and play well," she said.

While the state championships

are always a goal for every season last year's win at the Southern Cross Championship could top a state championship in Rooke's memory.

The Southern Cross brings teams from all state classifications as well as private school teams to the Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken.

The Cavaliers topped all the teams that went on to win public and private school championships a few weeks later.

After the victory last May, Rooke summed up the teams effort.

"They (Cavaliers) may not be the best team in the state, but they beat the best teams in the state," concluded Rooke.

After adding nine championships to the state record of 18 titles held by Cavalier golfers, Rooke decided to retire.

"It was time. I love the boys and I am their biggest fan. It was very nice for the club to recognize us," she said.

Johnny Dennis is a 9-time mens club champion and his wins have not dropped off as he has aged into senior and super-senior golf.

This year Dennis won the CGA Super-Senior title, The Chanticleer National Super-Senior title and the Senior Capers Cup.

During his outstanding amateur career Dennis has won both the SCGA and CGA Senior titles.

With a year full of trophy winning performances, Dennis believed his play in last year's club championship might have been his most satisfying.

"At 73 I finished second and had a chance," Dennis sad. "I stayed with Brent (Delahoussaye) the first two days. I would have liked to have gotten one more win," he said.

Former PGA Tour golfer and Georgia State golf coach Joe Inman was the guest speaker.

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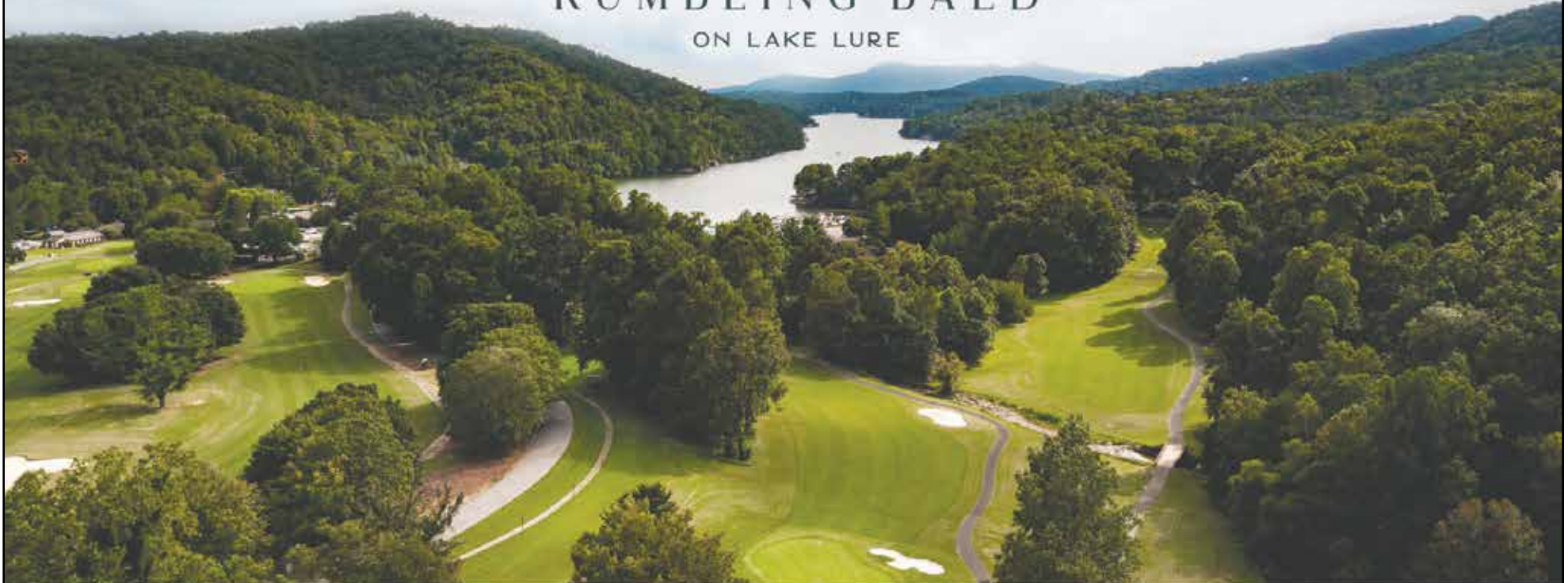
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