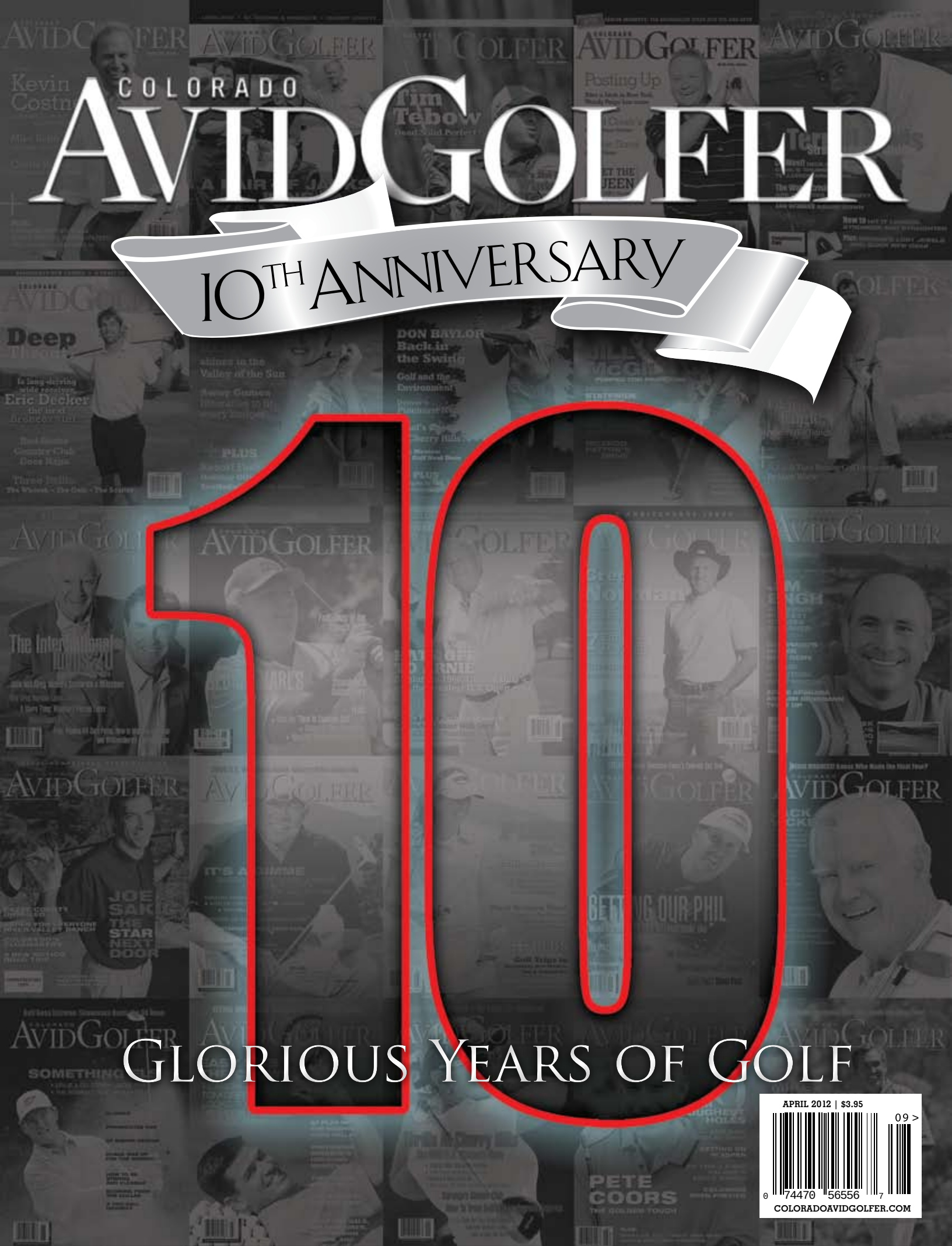
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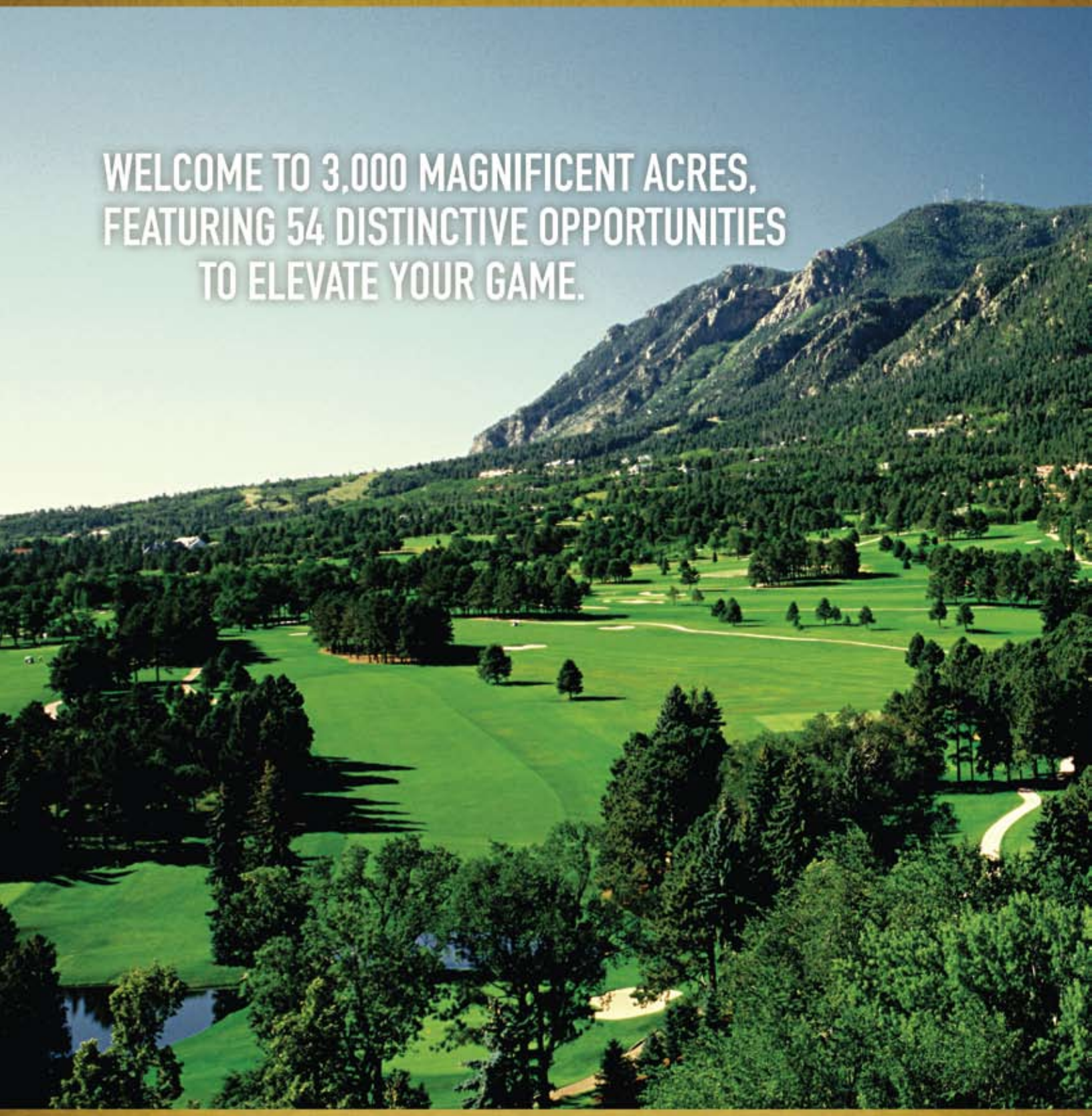

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Forethoughts

Put Us Down for a 10



With this issue, *Colorado AvidGolfer* celebrates 10 years of existence.

The only other time in my life this number carried so much significance was when I turned 10 on the tenth day of December in 1971. I noted at the time that my name also began with the tenth letter of the alphabet, and my favorite athlete, Walt Frazier of the New York Knicks, wore the number 10.

Why is a 10-year anniversary so significant? Wouldn't nine years or 18 years be more fitting for a golf magazine to celebrate? Maybe, but ten is a universal benchmark. It's the basis of the metric system and of Letterman's and *SportsCenter*'s nightly countdowns. It's the number of Commandments, of fingers, of toes. And, of course, it's the figure a braided Bo Derek indelibly imprinted on the priapic imagination of every American male in a 1979 movie (which certainly qualifies as another time *10* was significant in my life).

In the decade since our April 2002 debut, we've published 88 issues. In the same way that accomplished golfers can seemingly recall every shot on every hole on every course they've ever played, I can tell you who or what has appeared on every cover, and the issue in which almost every article has appeared. This magazine's subject matter has defined my last decade.

So, in tribute to our anniversary, this issue has a "10" theme. In addition to our regular battery of news and tips and our annual Private Club guide (page 55), we bring you a list of 10 cool products from the PGA Merchandise Show (p. 38), a menu of the Front Range's 10 best burgers (p. 47), and a contest to identify some of Colorado's best 10th holes (p. 112).

We also showcase 10 of Colorado golf's most memorable moments of the last 10 Years (p. 70), chart the courses that have opened and closed since 2002 (p. 84) and talk golf with 10-year-old boys and girls (p. 102).

What will the game played by these kids look like ten years from now? There are as many opinions about that as there are people in the golf industry. On page 104, two of Colorado's more outspoken individuals–Golf Convergence CEO J. J. Keegan and Colorado Golf Association Executive Director Ed Mate–crystal-ball golf's future.

That future will undoubtedly include *Colorado AvidGolfer*. What it will look like in 10 years is anyone's guess. But whether you receive it in print or digitally or even telepathically, the franchise we've built over the past 3,650 days will continue to aspire to a perfect 10.

–JON RIZZI





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RUNNING HIS COURSE: New owner John Curlander (left) has big plans for Tom Doak (right) and Ballyneal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DICK DURRANCE/DRINKER-DURRANCE GRAPHICS

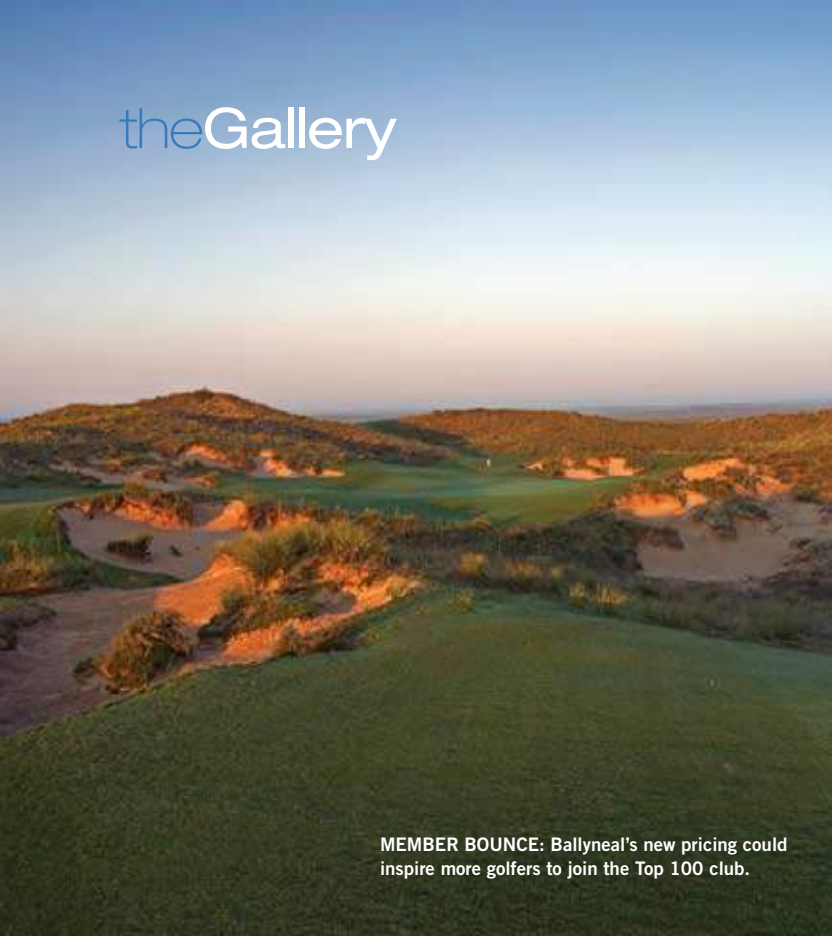
Ballyneal's Fresh Start

Dr. John Curlander's engineering expertise has created some of the world's most advanced GPS technologies. Now the Boulder-based computer executive is mapping out the future for Ballyneal, the internationally acclaimed but financially troubled private Tom Doak-designed golf club 2.5 hours northeast of Denver.

Curlander purchased the club at a March 7 foreclosure auction–"a nonevent," in his words, since he, as the sole secured lender on the property, had also been the one who foreclosed on it. The move wiped out the club's debt, much of it in the form of unsecured notes from founding members, and will allow "us to market the club more competitively," according to General Manager Matt Payne. This means dropping the initiation fee from $50,000 to $10,000 and annual dues from $6,000 to $5,000. Existing members are all invited to rejoin without paying the initiation, and founders and charter members will retain their statuses.

The new owner does anticipate maybe "10 or 15 percent" of Ballyneal's approximately 75 members won't stay because they suspect his approach won't differ from that of his brother-in-law, Ballyneal founder Rupert O'Neal, whose "mismanagement" put Ballyneal in dire financial straits, according to a letter signed by nine members lobbying to buy the club. Curlander believes he will "easily" make up any attrition by attracting new members with the reduced price. "And there's a good chance some vacating members will return after they see what we're going to do." That includes introducing a limited number of carts (with caddies) to the currently walking-only facility; instituting $20,000 executive/corporate memberships for up to four designees; increasing on-site lodging; eliminating hunting (except on demand); shortening the golf season (May-October); and adding nine more holes, instead of the 18 O'Neal hired Bruce Hepner to lay out ("My preference is to have Tom Doak do it," Curlander says. "The members think Tom's a god.")

As far as selling the club to its members, Curlander allows, "Once



MEMBER BOUNCE: Ballyneal's new pricing could inspire more golfers to join the Top 100 club.

Ballyneal gets over the hump, then that's all on the table. Right now, someone has to carry the load. It's me." In the meantime, a one-time payment of $10,000, plus another $5,000 annually could make you a member at a Colorado club ranked in every major golf publication's Top 100. "The price change will make it a little less exclusive for the rich guy," Curlander concedes. "But we can't get trapped into thinking we're something we're not. We're not Augusta, Pine Valley or Cypress Point. Selling memberships at a lower rate opens us up to a whole new demographic. That said, this opportunity will not be there next year." *ballyneal.com;* 970-854-5900.

By the Numbers

$6,500

is the rack rate for membership at **The Ranch Country Club** in Westminster. But if you put down $500 and pay monthly dues (currently $435) for two years, the club will waive the $6,000 owed on the initiation.

$40,000

in grant money from the Daniels Fund made it to **The First Tee of Denver** to expand programs to Aurora, according to TFTD Executive Director Paula Purifoy. Aurora Golf's commitment could double the number of available First Tee golf courses to 14 and initially serve an additional 300 participants.

Golf with Extra Cheese

If any confusion existed between Cedaredge 's DeerCreek Village Golf Club and Littleton's Deer Creek Golf Club at Meadow Ranch, it ended last fall when the Western Slope course changed its name to **Cedaredge Golf Club**. And if any confusion existed between Cedaredge's clubhouse restaurant and any of golfdom's standard burger-and-beer 19th holes, **Wildfire Pizzeria & Wine Bar** has emphatically ended it as well.

The brainchild of Curtis Smelser and his wife, Gayle Guadarrama–retired Seattleites who "know what food is supposed to look and taste like and didn't have anywhere to get it around here"–Wildfire transports diners to the Tuscan countryside. Bathed in honey-yellow and terracotta, the rustic décor radiates warmth and authenticity, as its wood-fired pizza oven turns out impeccable pies made with homemade cheeses and flour, meats and tomatoes imported from Italy. The Capricciosa–a Margherita pizza baked with mushrooms, Kalamata olives and artichoke hearts, then topped with a thin layer of prosciutto–is the most popular of Wildfire's ten distinctive pizzas.

Other Italian specialties, as well as well-turned steaks, chicken and superb elk burgers, round out a menu that finishes with made-from-scratch desserts. The six beers on tap include Peroni and New Belgium; the wine list spans the Italian peninsula; and the house red, a custom sangiovese blend from Woody Creek cellars, is outstanding. Since opening last July, Wildfire's business has steadily picked up. In addition to golfers taking on the Byron Coker design in the Grand Mesa foothills, residents of Cedaredge and the DeerCreek Village community–many of them, like Smelser, transplants from metropolitan areas–have become regulars. "We figured if we were missing having dining choices, chances are that others were too," he says. "We came up with a reasonably priced concept that would survive the winter. And you can't get a wood-fired pizza anywhere else in this area." *wildfirepizza.com*; 970-856-9200.



FOR PIZZA'S SAKE: Wildfire's wood-fired oven awaits a rush of Cedaredge golfers.

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Wilhelmina's a Model

Before passing away in 2009, PGA Professional Duffy Cannello asked his wife, **Wilhelmina Colvill**, to keep playing the game he'd just started to teach her. But after he died, each time Colvill–a former choreographer and the current owner of Evergreen's Walkabout Ridge Weight Loss Retreat and Spa–arrived at Golden's Applewood Golf Course, an unfamiliar combination of stage fright and melancholy consumed her. "I was depressed and kind of intimidated," the 70-year-old Colvill says today. "I didn't have the courage to start playing."

"She was a basket case," clarifies PGA Lifetime Member Ralph Haddad, who encountered her on the practice range. "She'd just buried her second husband and seemed really lost."

The avuncular Haddad took Colvill under his wing. Her natural athleticism and daily stretch classes helped shrink the learning curve. So too, she says, did the challenge of a game "one can never really master."

She soon found herself playing every day, always walking the course, and watching her scores drop into double digits. She not only joined Applewood's Women's Club; she's now its vice-president. As her confidence soared, she also became more competitive–with Haddad and with the other Applewood women on Tuesday mornings. In the 2011 club match-play championship, it took a birdie to beat her in a sudden-death playoff, and last April she earned Overall Low Net Score honors at a Pacific Senior Golf Association tournament in Rancho Bernardo, Calif.

Colvill's goals are to shoot her age by the time she turns 75 and "to see more women play golf. You make so many great friends playing this game. The more you laugh, the better you play."

"She's brought friends who've never played before, and some who had hung up their clubs years ago," Applewood General Manger Brian Melody says. "Her enthusiasm is that contagious."

"Golf helped her turn herself around," says Haddad, looking admiringly at his student. "She's an example of what you can do–at any age–if you have the desire."



BEGINNER'S PLUCK: Colvill intends to shoot her age within five years.

A Drivable Driving Range

Chad Bell's passion for golf knows no limits. Nor does his mobile golf academy, **Can't Beat Golf**. A one-time assistant PGA professional who owns C&B Waterworks Landscaping and the local C & B Waterworks Professional Golf Tour, Bell came up with the idea of a year-round practice and training facility on wheels. "It's a golf academy that comes to you," he says of the trailer tricked out with murals of palm-lined fairways, a video simulator and swing-analysis software for lessons and club fitting, a 15-foot putting green (Can't Beat Golf custom-fits Piretti Putters) and a net into which players can drive balls. The back of the truck opens to allow outdoor shots and to monitor ball flight.

Working with his friend, Richard Rizzo, Bell sought and got PGA accreditation for the unit, and three top local PGA Professionals–Tom Connell, Hank Hough and Mike McCutchen–to teach there. Two-hour private or group lessons start at $225, four-hour corporate lessons at $500. "My goal is to have two to three of these units circulating by the end of the year," says Bell, who envisions them at courses with limited practice facilities, at corporate and charity events, in cold-weather climates, and in golf-mad countries such as Japan, where space is at a premium. He also would like to see them in people's driveways–like David Duval's. "He let me bring it over so I could get some feedback," says Bell. And? "He was very positive about it." cantbeatgolf.com; 720-475-0861





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RETAIL DETAIL: The Country Club at Castle Pines

Shop Talk

The Country Club at Castle Pines ranks among the "100 Best Golf Shops" in the United States, according to *Golf World* magazine. The other Colorado shops so honored: **Cherry Hills Country Club**, **The Club at Flying Horse** and **The Broadmoor**. In an intriguing development, Castle Pines Golf Club, which dropped off the list in 2012, recently hired Merchandiser & Buyer Kelly Misuraca away from The Country Club.





RAISING ELS: Ernie swings to help his son, Ben, and millions of other similarly afflicted individuals.

Double-Teaming Autism

On July 30, **Colorado Golf Club** will host one of 30 Super Regional events in this year's **Els for Autism Golf Challenge**, the largest charity-driven international golf tournament in history. Players compete as two-person teams, and the $500 per-player fee supports the Els for Autism Foundation–which the South African golfer started after discovering his son, Ben, was autistic–and the construction of the first-of-its-kind Els Center of Excellence in Florida. The low net team and any team that raises at least $10,000 earns a spot in October's Grand Finale, hosted by Els at three Las Vegas courses–Bear's Best, TPC Las Vegas and Rio Secco. Other PGA Tour pros will also attend. The winners at the Grand Finale receive over-the-top prizes (last year's included luxury trips to South Africa, Chile, the U.K. and Ireland). *elsforautism.com; 888-890-9114*

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With a little know-how, your lawn can resemble the local fairways.

By Dave Hensley, Ballyneal Golf Club

Even if you pay a lawn service, you understand the satisfaction that comes from growing, mowing and showing off a golf-course quality lawn. The good news is that you don't need a maintenance facility full of state-of-the-art equipment and products to accomplish this. You just need some know-how and to start now.

AERIFY: Aerify or rake out thatch to relieve compaction and increase oxygen movement beneath the canopy.

WEED AND SEED: Decide if you need to grow new grass or take care of weed problems this spring. If your lawn suffered crabgrass or serious weed infestations last year, it would be beneficial to apply a pre-emergent herbicide and save seeding for late summer. Always read and understand labels on fertilizer and pesticides to determine the products relevant to your needs.

FERTILIZE: Plan on giving your turf three scheduled fertilizer applications throughout the year. The first application should occur when the soil temperature increases and the roots are actively growing. This spring application is important because it is helping the plant prepare for stresses it will endure during the summer. Keep in mind that applying too much nitrogen can lead to excessive leaf growth and unhealthy grass. Use lighter amounts of nitrogen in the spring than in the fall.

MOW: Make sure your lawnmower works properly and that the cutting blade is sharp. A crisp cut helps prevent tearing of the grass blades, which weakens the plant and welcomes pests.

The first mow can be lower to get rid of some of the dead leaf tissue. However, continuing to mow low causes a thinner canopy and exposes weeds to greater sunlight, which permits them to compete with the grass. The ideal mow height should be between 2.5 and 4 inches, with the height highest during the summer months.

Mow regularly and never remove more than one-third of a plant's leaf at one time. Recycle clippings back to the lawn as they are a great organic fertilizer.

WATER: When you think it is time to water…wait! Make the roots of your grass dive deep into the ground searching for water. Proper watering promotes a healthier rooted turf and this can be achieved by running greater amounts of water on a less frequent schedule. Instead of watering daily, water every third day and increase the run times. Always follow local watering restrictions.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that lawns demand more during the different seasons and providing a good growing environment will create a lawn that takes care of itself. Keeping it simple will minimize the amount of time spent on your home lawn and maximize the amount of time spent on the golf course.

For more information contact your local Golf Course Superintendent or visit RMGCSA.org.





SWEET SPOT: Applewood's renovated clubhouse.

Applewood Clubs Up

After 50 years of operating out of a clubhouse generously described as "modest," Golden's **Applewood Golf Course** will enter its second half-century with a structure worthy of the course's dramatic views of the North and South Table Mountains. Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows will frame those views from the building's completely renovated second story, which had been closed to the general public since 1985. With a ribbon-cutting scheduled for May 2, the venue, called The Vista, will seat up to 300, provide exceptional food and beverage and spill onto a newly constructed patio and ceremony garden near the first tee. "We're already booking events," says Applewood General Manager Brian Melody, who points out the $1 million project will also provide Applewood men's and women's club members with a legitimate restaurant, as well as a site for their annual awards dinners. *applewoodgc.com; 303-279-3003.*

Priority Quail

Fort Morgan Golf Course, the municipal layout that spawned PGA and Champions Tour star Dale Douglass, has a new name: **Quail Dunes Golf Club**. "It's hard to market a municipal course," says PGA Head Professional Tyler Tarpley, who successfully lobbied the city council last December to re-brand the mature layout overlooking the South Platte River.

The course comes by its new appellation honestly: "The course is stacked with quail," Tarpley explains, "and it's built on land that's 80 to 90 percent sand–especially the back nine." That half of the course, which opened in the 1960s to complement the original nine built 40 years earlier, features a four-hole string–nos. 11 through 14–"that will make or break your round," according to Tarpley. In addition to the name change, the course has recently undergone an overhaul of its irrigation system, added to its 6,600-yard length and purchased a new fleet of carts to whisk golfers around its tree-lined fairways and tricky push-up greens. A spruced-up clubhouse brims with merchandise bearing the new logo.





CADDIES' DAY: Grant Cassell, one of 10 scholarship winners.

Super Loopers

The Evans Scholars' Eisenhower chapter house at the University of Colorado will have ten new residents this fall. After being interviewed in February at Colorado Golf Club by members of the Colorado Golf Association, Colorado Women's Golf Association and Illinois-based Western Golf Association, nine men and one woman qualified for the **Evans Caddie Scholarships**, which cover four years of full tuition and housing at CU. The students, each of whom had to caddie a minimum of 50 rounds and averaged an unweighted 3.8 GPA, received their awards on the basis of caddie and academic record, financial need, character and leadership. They are: **Dylan Ahasic** and **Hector Morales** (Roaring Fork Club); **Garrett Heidrick** and **Grant Cassell** (Cherry Hills); **Hunter Kessler** and **Connor Smith** (Denver); **Kelly Baines** (Boulder); **Eddie Fundingsland** (Columbine); **Nick Tompkins** (Lakewood); and **Kent Hiller** (Ballyneal). *cogolf.org; 303-366-4653.*

'Net Score

For expanded coverage, breaking news and notes from across the Colorado golf scene, regularly visit **ColoradoAvidGolfer.com** on your computer, tablet or Smartphone. Friend us on Facebook and and follow us on Twitter (@coloavidgolfer)

Tarpley is enticing players to drive the 60 miles from Denver with stay-and-play offers, as well as discounts at local restaurants. Other draws include the Morgan Community College/Cargill Pro-Am (September 22 and 23) and the Dale Douglass Adult Classic (July 28 and 29), a charity event in which players with the low gross and low net score get to play a round with Douglass at Castle Pines Golf Club. *quaildunes.com; 970-867-5990*


NAME-CHANGER: Quail Dunes in Fort Morgan.



The Buzz at Flying Horse

The 7,300-yard Tom Weiskopf design at The Club at Flying Horse rates as one of the sweetest private layouts in the state. How sweet? The honey harvested from three of the four hives on the Colorado Springs course was recently voted the best of the 40 honeys competing in the "Light" (as opposed to "Amber" or "Dark") category at the Winter Meeting of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association.

Flying Horse's Director of Agronomy & Facility Operations Dan Hawkins established the hives last April after having a bee colony removed from an irrigation valve box. He learned that the warm, dry climate and presence of plant life and water on and around the course provided the ideal habitat for honeybees, which pollinate of one-third of the world's crop species. Their numbers, however, have dropped dramatically over the past few decades because of parasites, diseases, poor nutrition and pesticide applications.



SOWING BEES: Flying Horse hives produced 50 pounds of honey along the golf course.

So Hawkins and beekeeper Mike Halby placed four hives away from playing corridors and in highly visible areas with cleverly worded warning signs. Members and guests went unharmed, and the bees thrived. In October, Halby harvested 50 pounds of honey, an "uncommonly high amount for a new colony," he says. The yield is even more impressive when you consider bees visit more than two million blossoms and fly about twelve miles to produce just one pound of honey.

Hawkins hopes for two honey harvests this year. "Having the hives increases the overall honeybee population, ensures pollination and provides the club's restaurants with a steady source of honey," says Hawkins. "It proves that natural processes like pollination–which has been ongoing for millions of years–can coexist and thrive within the golf-course ecosystem." *flyinghorsecolorado.com; 719-494-1222*



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The Ridge at Castle Pines North offers golfers an idyllic passage to a high country experience at the foot of Colorado's infamous Front Range, the former stomping grounds of Calamity Jane and Buffalo Bill. Ample fairways marked by prominent rock outcroppings, sculpted bunkers, gracefully contoured greens and the panoramic views of Pike's Peak make The Ridge the number one daily-fee golf course in Colorado.

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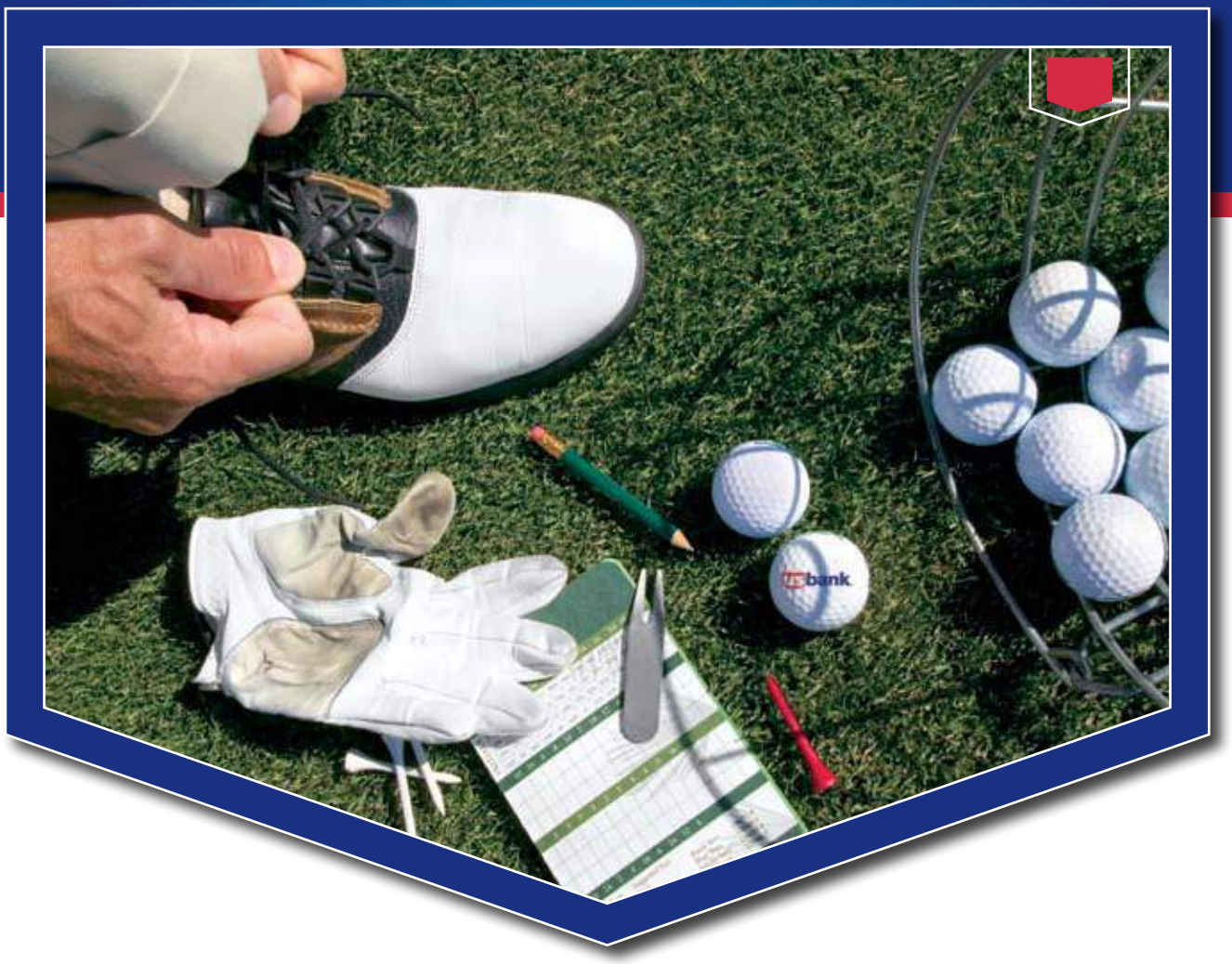

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EDIFICE COMPLEX: The views from the 13th green have changed as Denver has grown.

City Park Breaks 100

Denver's historic home course celebrates a milestone throughout the summer.

We're your neighborhood golf course, no matter what neighborhood you call home." So says PGA Head Professional Keith Soriano of Denver's City Park Golf Course. It's an appropriate slogan for a layout Golf Digest designated Denver's best municipal course and one that has played a pivotal role in the multicultural growth of the Mile High City. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the course originally designed by Tom Bendelow, a Scot who also authored the first 18-hole public course in the United States at New York's Van Cortlandt Park. A summer's worth of events will commemorate the centenary, starting this month with a ceremonial tee shot towards the skyline by City of Denver dignitaries and VIPs from Colorado's Allied Golf Associations. Members of City Park's men's and women's clubs will also compete in a season-long match play called the Centennial Cup, and Soriano has numerous "historically themed events" in the works. He has a rich history to draw from. The countless thousands who honed their games on the 6,704-yard course at York and 25th include PGA Tour player Jonathan Kaye, Olympic gold medalist Jerome Biffle, Colorado Golf Hall of Famer Dan Hogan, Colorado Golf Association Executive Director Ed Mate and former PGA Tour player Tom Woodard, who holds the course record of 61. It's a number the area's best players, who compete every July in the Denver City Amateur, have tried for years to beat. *cityofdenvergolf.com/citypark; 303-295-2096*

New Game

While some bemoan the lack of growth in the number of golfers, January's annual PGA Merchandise Show proved there's no shortage in the number of new products they can buy.

By James A. Frank

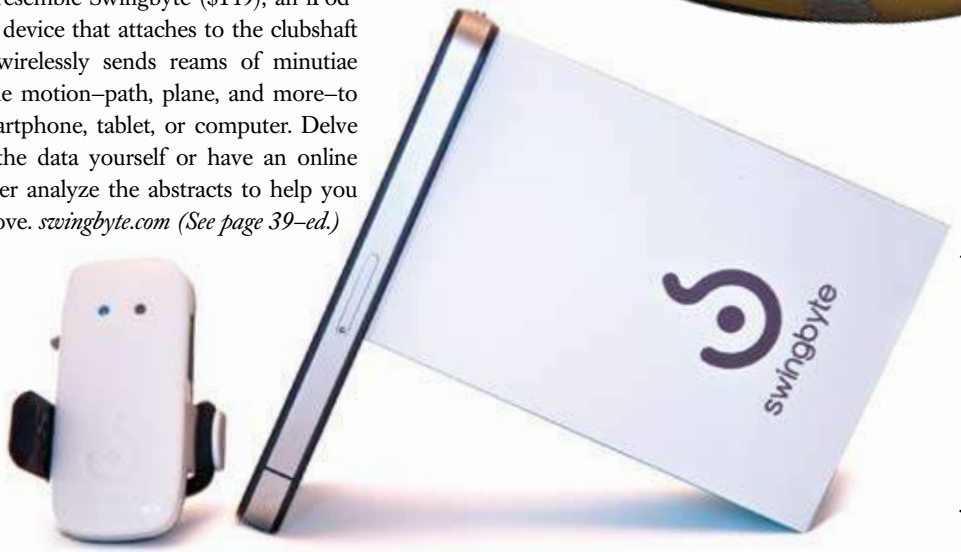
Wood You?

Inspired by persimmon drivers of the past, the Cleveland Classic (from $299) is a retro rocket. Its pear-shaped head evokes the finest old wooden clubs, but the titanium face is the largest, deepest, and hottest in company history. Available in three different weights and shafts. clevelandgolf.com



Swing, Data Data

If Apple made a golf product it would probably resemble Swingbyte ($149), an iPod-sized device that attaches to the clubshaft and wirelessly sends reams of minutiae on the motion–path, plane, and more–to a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Delve into the data yourself or have an online teacher analyze the abstracts to help you improve. *swingbyte.com* *(See page 39–ed.)*



Get Your Tweak On

Callaway may be a little late to adjustability, but its RAZR Fit Driver ($399) was worth the wait. The multimaterial head–forged composite crown, titanium face–is streamlined to reduce drag; "OptiFit" technology allows setting the face angle and uses two interchangeable weights to promote a neutral or draw bias. Just dial and smile. *callawaygolf.com*



A Walk on the Wide Side

The last few years have witnessed a revolution in golf shoes. Among the most comfortable new entries are the "slippers with traction" from TRUE Linkswear (from $100). Cut wide and made for walking, the different styles all have leather uppers, are waterproof, and connect golfers to the ground with a simple waffle-like sole. *truelinkswear.com*





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Funky Flatstick

Leave it to Nike to push the boundaries of putter design: The Method Concept ($199) looks like the illegitimate offspring of a blade and a mallet. But there's more than madness to this Method, its lightweight aluminum face attached to an asymmetrical stainless-steel back-weight proven to produce solid contact and true roll. *nike.com*





Green in Regulation

Now your golfwear can be good even if your game isn't. Shirts, pants, and sweaters from AUR may be available in a variety of styles and colors, but they're all green at heart, made from recycled plastic bottles, coffee grounds, and bamboo. This fashion with a function is also anti-odor, moisture-wicking, and easy-care. *aurgolf.com*



Over the Moon

RocketBallz may be a funny name, but it accurately describes TaylorMade's so-dubbed metalwoods and irons: They hit it long! The fully adjustable driver ($299) is aerodynamically shaped for speed; fairway woods and rescues ($229, $179) have low centers of gravity; and irons feature hollow-head construction and thin faces (from $699). *taylormadegolf.com*



Buddy System

Golf is supposed to be a quiet game, but players will want to hear what GolfBuddy GPS Voice ($199) has to say: Push a button and it speaks the yardage to the green–front, back, and middle. Preloaded with 35,000 courses, the Voice comes in eight languages, yards or meters, and clips to brim or belt. Say what? *golfbuddyglobal.com*

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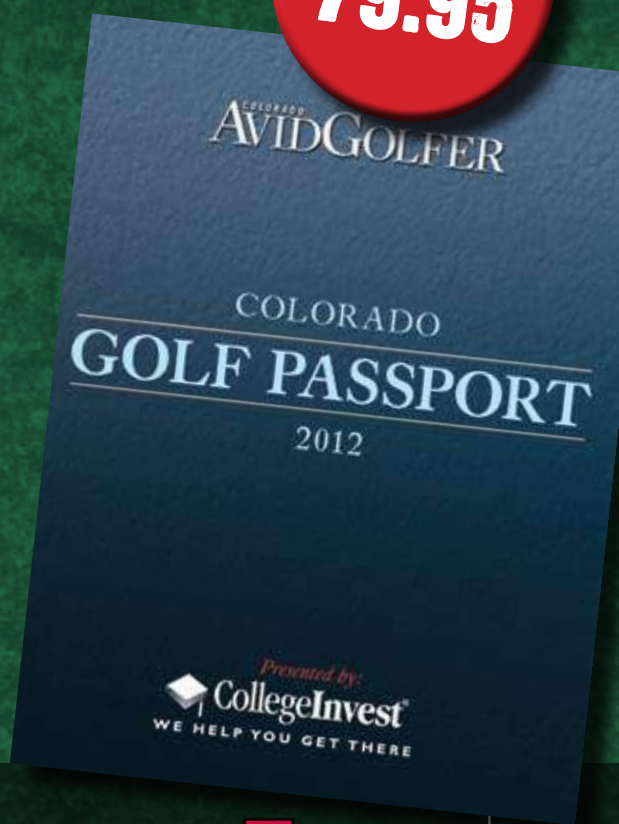

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Golf Courses	Rates starting at	Available Tee Times	Weekend Play	# of Rounds
Antler Creek, Falcon	$28	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 11am	Yes	3
Aurora Hills, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	$27/$29	Mon-Thur after 12pm, Fri-Sun & holidays after 1pm	Yes	1 per season
The Bridges, Montrose NEW!	$53	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	2
Broadlands, Broomfield	$32	Monday-Thursday after 12pm		3
Buffalo Run, Commerce City	$39	Monday-Thursday anytime		3
Cedaredge Golf Club, Cedaredge	$35	Any day, anytime	Yes	3
Colorado National, Erie	$45	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
CommonGround, Aurora* EXCLUSIVE!	$40	Shoulder: Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm Peak: Mon-Thur anytime	Yes	3
Deer Creek, Littleton EXCLUSIVE & NEW!	$40	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	2
Devil's Thumb, Delta	$35	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	2
Eagle Trace, Broomfield	$26/$34	Mon-Thur after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	2
Family Sports Center, Centennial*	$19/$21	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Fitzsimons, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	$25/$28	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun & holidays after 1pm	Yes	1 per season
Foothills, Denver	$33	Monday-Thursday after 1pm		3
Fossil Trace, Golden EXCLUSIVE!	$45	Shoulder: Mon-Thur after 1pm Peak: Mon-Thur before 7am, after 2pm		Shoulders: Unlimited Peak: 1 Round
Fox Hollow, Lakewood NEW!	$44	Mon-Thur after 1pm, Fri-Sun & holidays after 2pm	Yes	Shoulders: Unlimited Peak: 3 Rounds
Green Valley Ranch, Denver EXCLUSIVE!	$35	Mon-Thur before 9am, after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	1 per season
Heritage at Westmoor, Westminster	$40	Monday-Thursday after 11am		Unlimited
Heritage Eagle Bend, Aurora	$43	Monday-Thursday after 11am		2
Heritage Todd Creek, Thornton	$40	Mon-Thur after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Highlands Ranch GC, Highlands Ranch	$43/$53	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Shoulders: 2 Rounds Peak: 1 Round
The Homestead Golf Course, Lakewood NEW!	$34	Mon-Thur after 1pm, Fri-Sun & holidays after 2pm	Yes	Shoulders: Unlimited Peak: 3 Rounds
Indian Tree, Arvada	$33	Any day after 12pm	Yes	Unlimited
The Inverness, Englewood EXCLUSIVE!	$56	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	3
Kings Deer, Monument EXCLUSIVE!	$35	Monday-Thursday after 11am		2
Legacy Ridge, Westminster	$45	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 3pm	Yes	Unlimited
The Links, Highlands Ranch	$31/$36	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun after 12pm	Yes	1 per season
Littleton Golf and Tennis Club, Littleton	$27	1st Shoulder and Peak: Mon-Thur after 1pm 2nd Shoulder: Any day after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Lone Tree GC, Lone Tree EXCLUSIVE!	$44	Monday-Thursday after 1pm		1 per season
Meadows, Littleton	$37	Monday-Thursday after 1pm		3
Meadow Hills, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	$30/$34	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun & holidays after 1pm	Yes	1 per season

53 courses

5 new courses

42 courses with weekend play

15 courses with EXCLUSIVE Passport offers

Golf Courses	Rates starting at	Available Tee Times	Weekend Play	# of Rounds
Murphy Creek, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	$33/$40	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun & holidays after 1pm	Yes	1 per season
Omni Interlocken, Broomfield EXCLUSIVE!	$55	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri before 12pm, Sat-Sun & holidays after 12pm	Yes	3
Pine Creek, Colorado Aprils	$39	Any day after 12pm	Yes	4 per season
Plum Creek, Castle Rock EXCLUSIVE & NEW!	$40	Mon-Thur anytime, Fri-Sun & holidays after 12pm	Yes	2
Redlands Mesa, Grand Junction	$63	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	2
The Ridge at Castle Pines, Castle Rock EXCLUSIVE!	$50	Monday-Thursday anytime		3
Saddle Rock, Aurora EXCLUSIVE!	$35/$42	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun & holidays after 1pm	Yes	1 per season
South Suburban Par 3, Centennial	$9	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Thorncreek, Thornton	$27	Monday-Thursday after 11am		3
Mountain Golf Courses	1/1 - 6/30	Available Tee Times	Weekend Play	# of Rounds
Breckenridge GC, Breckenridge*	$99	Sun-Thur anytime, Sundays only Peak season	Yes	2
Eagle Ranch, Eagle	$35	Any day after 11am	Yes	2
Eagle Vail, Avon	$55	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	2
Grand Elk, Granby	$32/$37	Any day after 12pm	Yes	4 per season
Grand Lake, Grand Lake	$40	Sunday-Thursday after 11am	Yes	3
Headwaters, Granby	$40	Mon-Thur after 11 am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	Unlimited
Keystone Ranch, Keystone	$60	Any day after 11am	Yes	Unlimited
Lakota Canyon, New Castle	$65	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	3
Pole Creek, Tabernash	$45	Sunday-Thursday after 12pm	Yes	3
The Raven at Three Peaks, Silverthorne	$65	Sun-Thur after 12pm, Fri-Sun after 2pm	Yes	Unlimited
The River Course at Keystone, Keystone	$75	Any day after 11am	Yes	Unlimited
River Valley Ranch, Carbondale	$65	Mon-Thur after 11am, Fri-Sun after 1pm	Yes	3
Vail GC, Vail	$50	Monday-Thursday and Sunday after 1pm	Yes	1 per season

* Family Sports: 9-Hole Golf Course
* Breckenridge offer: Opening date through 6/30/12 (27 holes for $99); 7/1/12 through 8/31/12 (18 holes for $99, Sundays Only); 9/1-closing date $99 (27 Holes)
* CommonGround offer: Must be CGA or Golf Passport Plus member to get rate

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INSTANT REPLAY: SwingReader Golf lets instructors like Sherry Smith give students immediate feedback on her iPad.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TODD LANGLEY

Golf Geeks Out

Apps, GPS, sites and systems link us to the links like never before.

By Amy Freeland

As a sport deeply rooted in centuries of tradition, golf should surprise no one with its reluctant embrace of online and mobile technology. But finally, like everything else, golf is going digital. Online tools, smartphone applications and advanced training gadgets are changing the game for everybody and opening up possibilities for those who choose to indulge their inner geek.

Get Organized

Online tools and smartphone apps can help do anything from find an on-the-fly tee time to hold a shifty opponent to the Rules. Golf-specific social networking sites like **TheGolfSpace.com** provide a community of golf-obsessed users and a hunting ground for new on-course buddies. The site, created by Tony Korologos in 2006 after he realized there was no such place, now has about 6,000 registered users who "jump on to talk about equipment or Tiger Woods," Korologos says. Others golf social networks like **Greenskeeper.org** and **GolfBuddy.com** fill a similar role, while also providing green fee information and aeration schedules for specific courses.

The real fun begins when you move off the computer and onto your smartphone. Mobile apps like one from the **Golf Channel** (free on Android, iPhone and iPad) can keep users updated on golf news and favorite tour players' stats, no matter where they roam. If you're fond of roaming yourself, the mobile vacation planning assistant **Golf Trip Genius** (free on Android or iPhone) will help optimize pairings, manage travel and tee time logistics, and track tournament results for everyone in the party.

Other applications help manage the everyday details of being a golfer. Denver resident Brian Zeigler keeps his iPhone loaded with the **USGA Rules** application ($4, usga.org/mobile)which he has used to clarify questions about water hazard drops and out-of-turn play during match play tournaments. Zeigler also uses the tee time-scheduling site **GolfNow.com** and its accompanying mobile app (free on iPhone) to find impromptu tee times, whether at home or on vacation. "I play a lot by myself so it's really easy to look last-minute and see if there's a deal somewhere nearby," he says.

Get Distance

Mobile golf applications can really shine on the course since smartphones now can play the role of GPS range finder and digital scorecard. Such apps not only can replace expensive single-purpose tools, they also can track a player's game over time to help pinpoint weaknesses that deserve extra attention during practice sessions.

Native Coloradan Travis Giggy was playing with his dad and brother at Eaton Country Club when they realized their computer programming skills might just morph the phones in their pockets into golf distance tools. The resulting GPS range finder, **Swing by Swing** (free on Android, BlackBerry and iPhone), now houses satellite views and distance information for more than 35,000 courses. Highlands Ranch resident Marc Shupe used the app on all of the nearly 100 rounds he played last year and finds the system simpler and more convenient than his old GPS range finder. Shupe is particularly appreciative that the app can download course information to his phone from anywhere, negating the need to complete a lengthy pre-round

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C. James, GZ Comm, Atlanta, Georgia

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DIALED IN: Golfshot gives the distance.

ritual of charging, synching and repacking his GPS unit before heading off to play. "A number of times I showed up with a powered-up SkyCaddie, but no golf course loaded up to it. With this, you just show up and you're ready to roll," he explains.

While some GPS apps works on virtually any course, others are specific to a particular club, allowing a host of functions personalized for its own facility. **Green Valley Ranch Golf Club**'s mobile app, **gvrgolf** (free on Android, iPhone and iPad), provides GPS yardage markers and insider tips on each hole from a club pro. The club also can send users tee time specials and club news. Your group can post scores (and other comments) in real-time to each other–and, if desired, to Facebook. And since the app is designed specifically for Green Valley Ranch, it includes appetizing features like asking if you would like to order from the clubhouse as you near the turn.

Some purists bemoan the regularity with which phones now appear on golf courses, worrying that too much attention paid to mobile apps may slow the pace of play. Application developers argue that well-designed GPS and scorekeeping apps simply move standard golf conventions to a new venue. "Distance is an essential component of one's golf game. It's just a question of where you get that distance. Do you get it from your phone? Do you get it from binoculars? Do you get it from walking off sprinkler heads?" explains Craig Prichard, president of Shotzoom. The company's mobile GPS range finder and score tracker, **Golfshot: Golf GPS** ($30 on Android and iPhone), includes GPS distance information for more than 38,000 courses and lets users track foursome scores. The resulting statistics help identify specific problems, like high putting percentages, so users can tackle them in later practice sessions. Complementary instructional apps, like **Golfplan with Paul Azinger** ($5 on iPhone or iPad), integrate game statistics to create customized practice plans that help address a user's trouble spots.

Get Better

Video swing analysis has long been a trusted tool of teaching professionals. Smart-





HEAD GAMES: Software can build your brain.

phone and tablet applications simply make the process easier. Sherry Smith, a PGA and LPGA professional who teaches at Centennial's Valley Country Club, says **SwingReader Golf** ($3 on iPhone and iPad), a swing analysis application, has helped refocus her time with students on instruction rather than fiddling with equipment. "I used to have the camera, the television, the computer and the software. This just makes it so easy and instant. It takes a picture and ten seconds later I'm showing it to the student," Smith explains. She uses the iPad application to compare a student's practice swing to the stroke they use when actually hitting the ball, which she says can vary wildly. "Sometimes they can't believe they're doing what they're seeing," Smith says. The process provides instant evidence of a student's particular swing quirks and helps them correct issues quickly.

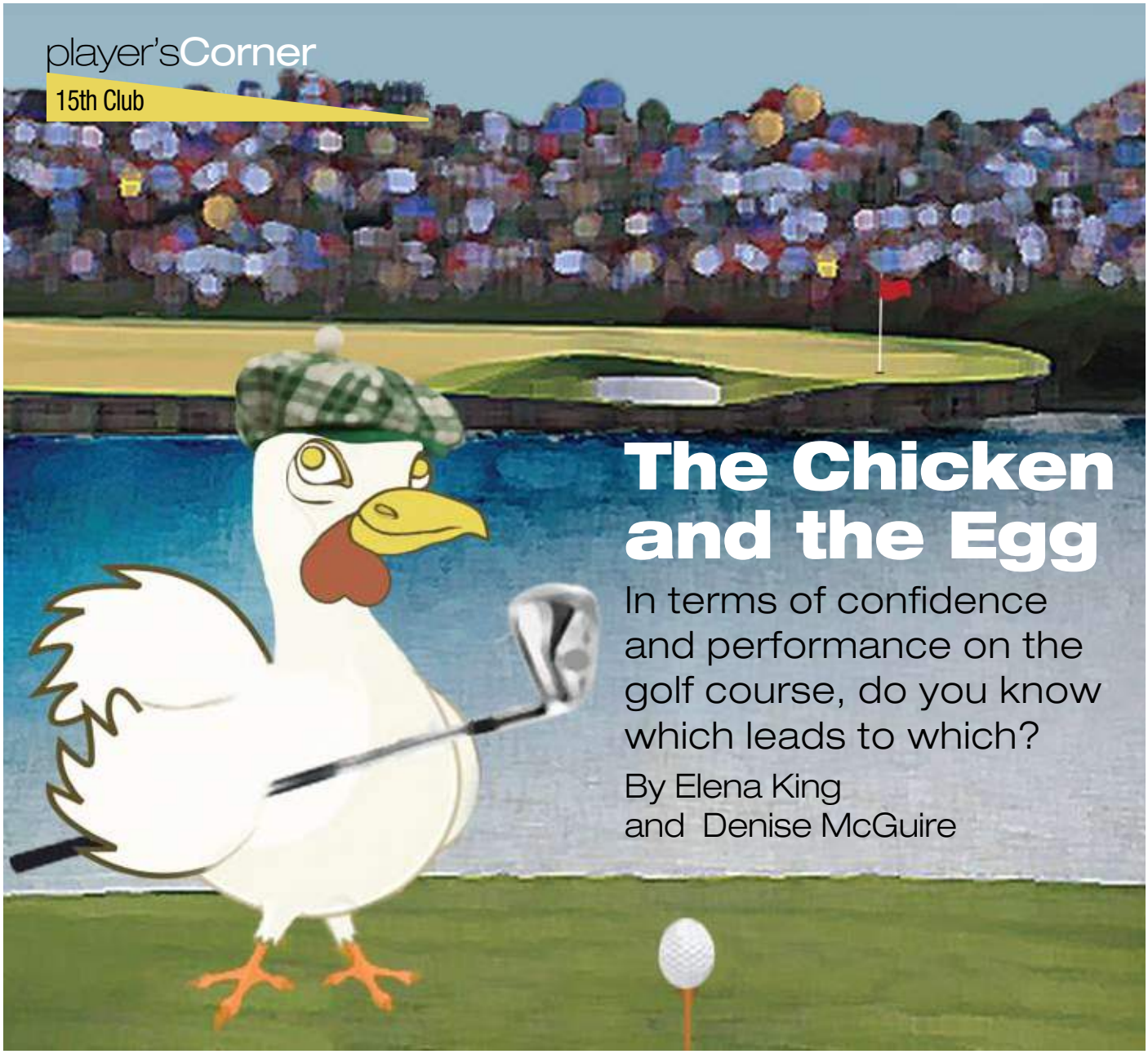
Launched in April, **Swingbyte** ($150, swingbyte.com) takes swing visualization to another level by combining a motion-sensing device with a swing analysis application. When company co-founder Alex Pedenko told Brian Payne, former Canadian Tour professional and soon-to-be co-founder, about his prototype, Payne immediately recognized something unique. "I own every training aid under the sun; I'd buy anything I thought could help my game," he says. Swingbyte's small, lightweight motion sensor attaches to any club shaft and uses Bluetooth to transmit swing information, like club head speed, swing path and impact angle, to an application on Apple or Android phones or tablets. The app instantly provides a 3D swing rendering that users can view from any angle and includes one year of access to online swing data storage and custom tips from Swingbyte instructors.

If you're happy with your stroke, but still missing tough shots, it may be your mind that needs a workout. **Pro Mental Coach** ($140; promentalcoach.com) can help strengthen key components of your mental game with a customized training schedule of brain-training "exergames," which adapt in difficulty based on your performance. A regimen of three 20-minute sessions at your computer each week can help you improve things like brain speed, focus and stress management–helpful outcomes both on and off the course.

In its many forms, technology may hold the keys to a better, more enjoyable game. And what could be more traditional than relishing a well-played round with friends? Perhaps, after all, technology has found a perfect match in golf.

Amy Freeland is a CAG contributing editor.





The Chicken and the Egg

In terms of confidence and performance on the golf course, do you know which leads to which?

By Elena King
and Denise McGuire

Confidence can seem like a mysterious phenomenon. Some days you wake up and feel confident; the next day you might feel apprehensive. The same thing can be true on the golf course. One day you make every putt; the next day you can't buy one.

What allows you to feel confident on the golf course? Do you need to see good results first? Maybe you haven't given this a lot of thought but we believe this is a critical point. Of these two diagrams below, which one best describes how you relate to confidence:

① **Performance** YIELDS **Confidence**

② **Confidence** YIELDS **Performance**

If you picked option 1, you are in the majority. Most people believe performance leads to feeling confident. The way most golfers relate to confidence is that it is fleeting, elusive or completely dependent upon results. In other words, you believe you are only as good as your last shot or round. This approach works well as long as you are playing your best, but falls apart when you are not. As Jack Nicklaus famously said, "It takes hundreds of good golf shots to gain confidence, but only one bad one to lose it."

Far be it from us to disagree with Jack, but if you picked option 2, you have an advantage. This approach is a completely different way of relating to confidence, whereby your state of self-assurance is what leads to optimal performance. You are capable of creating a confident state of being and bringing it to your first tee shot, and every shot after that.

If you have experienced feeling confident at any time in the past, that feeling is now part of you and can be re-created. Our experience has shown that confidence is a state of being–a combination of your

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thoughts, feelings and how these physically manifest themselves– that exists within you and is something you can tap into.

For Example:

Positive state of being

Mental: "I've got this!"
Emotional: Confidence, appreciation, determination
Physical: Good posture, eyes up, relaxed

Negative State of being

Mental: "I always miss three-footers."
Emotional: Frustration, disappointment, fear
Physical: Tension, holding breath, quick tempo

So, what can you do to have a more consistent and reliable state of confidence? It all starts with awareness of what you currently believe about yourself.

- What are your stories about your game, your "luck" or your chances of succeeding?
- What are you saying to yourself that undermines your confidence?

Words are powerful! Even the words that never come out of your mouth but make up your self-talk or the running monologue in your head create your reality. This internal chatter is almost always in action and it shapes the way you perceive your world, yourself and your potential. The mind is always judging and assessing the events of our lives and if you think this isn't true, you haven't really been paying attention to your own internal monologue and how it's running you! And if you aren't aware of how your mind is impacting your perception of reality or your everyday world, you don't have much control over deciding how it's working for you or against you.

Next, pay attention to how your beliefs and self-talk create an emotional response. Negative thoughts create negative emotions. Positive thoughts create positive emotions. How do you react to a missed shot? Notice how your emotional state affects your body. Look for signs of muscle tension throughout your body.

Example: Negative Process

Mental → Emotional → Physiological

"Don't hit in the water" → Fear → Quick Tempo

"I'm miss a lot of short putts" → Frustration → Tight Grip pressure

A few things to notice while you are on the course:

- Are you holding your breath?
- What is your posture like?
- Are you walking with your shoulders slumped and head down?
- Your body will reflect what is happening in your mind… PAY ATTENTION!



When you notice yourself in a negative state you can make it easier to generate a feeling of confidence just by changing your posture. Pick up your head, walk with a confident stride, breathe deeply and consciously remember what it feels like to hit a really good shot. Doing so will allow you to generate confidence while you are walking up to your next shot. Try it!

You have a choice about your state of being, and confidence is just one of the many states that you could choose. By knowing that you have the ability to generate a state of confidence, you can now start to work on developing that as a skill to use on the golf course–a skill that needs to be practiced just like the mechanics of your swing. Armed with this knowledge and ability, you can bring a feeling of confidence to the start of a round and build a positive experience in which the more confident you feel, the better you play and the better you play the more confident you feel. This can become a positive cycle that leads to optimal performance.

Performance Coach Dr. Denise McGuire (303-902-5008; denise@getinthezone.net) and Elena King, LPGA Director of Instruction, ExperienceGolf at CommonGround Learning Center (303-503-0330; eking@experiencegolf.biz) partner to deliver unique learning experiences that increase awareness of the mental and technical aspects of the game for optimal performance. Visit commongroundgc.com

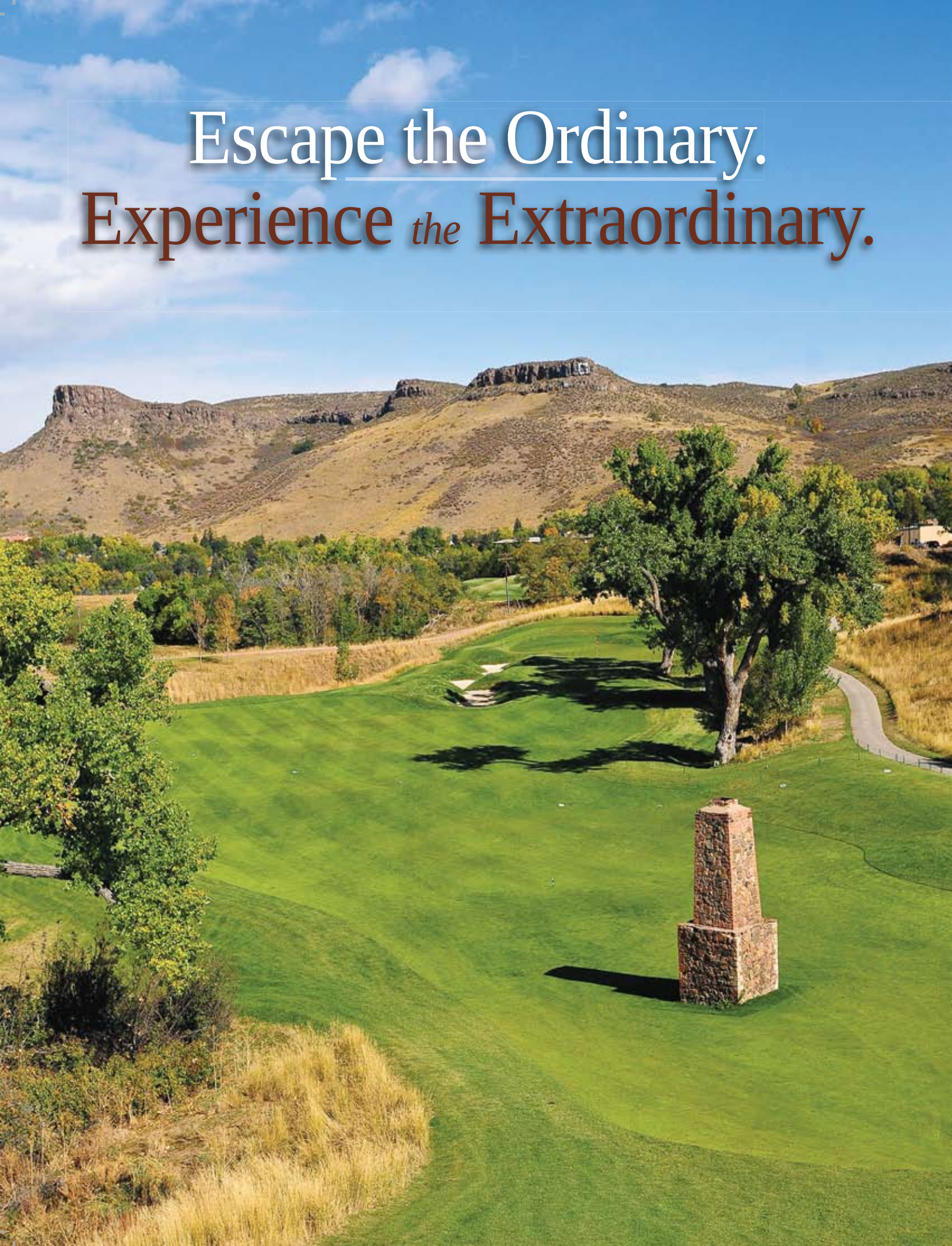
Weigh to Go

ACCORDING TO LARRY JACOBS, 70 PERCENT OF GOLFERS hit it fat. That's not to say they strike the ground before the ball. It means they are overweight. XXL. Oversized.

Jacobs, a food and weight-loss expert as well as an avid golfer, has a solution. He has reworked his very successful weight-loss program specifically for fellow golfers. "I can show any golfer how to go from being a fat-storer to a fat burner in two weeks or less without diet, calorie counting, or starving," he says. He prescribes a combination of the right foods, supplements, and exercise, while giving participants different ways to succeed.

The plan breaks the day into a front nine (morning) and back nine (afternoon/evening), and says that just as in a round of golf an occasional bogey isn't cause to give up the game. "You get back to trying to make pars." Check it out at *thingolfer.com.* —James A. Frank

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GOLDEN, COLORADO *Golf Club*

- Course opened in 2003
- Designed by Jim Engh - Par 72





THE PREHISTORIC CHARACTER

The Par-5 12th Hole at Fossil Trace *(top right)* has been voted as one of the 18 "Most Fun Holes in America" by *GolfDigest* magazine. When you've made it to the green, look to the left and you will encounter prehistoric trace fossils of palms and dinosaurs. The Par-5 1st Hole at Fossil Trace *(left)* has been awarded by *Colorado AvidGolfer* magazine as the "Best Starting Hole in Colorado" numerous times since the course opened in 2003. The incinerator on the lower fairway remains intact from the early 1900s.

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Experience the memorable Jim Engh layout nestled in the Foothills, only 15 minutes from downtown Denver. From perfectly manicured fairways, deep, white sand bunkers and undulating greens, the 18 signature holes at Fossil Trace Golf Club will make it difficult to leave without a lasting memory. Guests can take advantage of the Golden sunsets and twilight golf, a golf course dining experience unlike any other at Three Tomatoes Steakhouse & Club. An extraordinary golf experience is closer than you think.

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PHOTO BY LORI MIDSON

DRIPPINGLY DELICIOUS:
Cafe | Bar's bison burger.

Burger, She Wrote

Ten sizzlers worth the binge. By Lori Midson

BUD'S BAR

The hamburger is a nostalgic status symbol of what makes America great, and the burgers at iconic Bud's Bar, a rough-and-tumble roadhouse in Sedalia, are everything you look for when seeking old-fashioned fulfillment. There's nothing remotely fancy about Bud's burgers–no frou-frou toppings, no brioche buns, no artisan Colorado cheeses. But those are all unnecessary, because Bud's bloody burgers are so damn good that adornments, save for a slice of melty American cheese, would only ruin the infatuation. Take note: The joint doesn't do fries or onion rings.

Best side: Bag of chips.

5453 Manhart St., Sedalia; 303-688-9967

CAFE|BAR

At Cafe|Bar, a buzzy new joint in Washington Park, the char-grilled Colorado bison burger–the only burger that graces the menu–offers a terrific mouthful of meaty, juicy righteousness dressed to the nines with grilled onion leaves, thick, molasses-glazed bacon that retains its crunch and Barely Buzzed cheese, a fully-melted, nutty addition that takes this first-rate burger over the top.

Best sides: Wild game sausage and kale stew.

295 S. Pennsylvania St.; 303-362-0227;
cafebarcolorado.com



DONUT DECADENCE: Crave's Luther burger

CRAVE

Crave, a burger lover's never-never land, is packed to the rafters noon and night with a swell of bodies jammed into booths and knocking knees at the counter overlooking the open kitchen. The burgers, of which there are 21, are heart-stopping spheres of ground chuck, flipped on the flattop, and crowned with every ingredient under the moon–and some, like the Luther burger, are even served between sugar-kissed doughnuts. It's a fortress of fat, but isn't that the whole point?

Best side: Bacon shake.

3982 Limelight Ave., Castle Rock; 303-814-2829 and 7465 N. Academy Blvd., Colorado Springs; 719-264-7919, *craverealburgers.com/burgers*

PARK BURGER

Although both Park Burger locations do all of their hefty burgers with skill and finesse, the best of the extremes is the croque burger topped with ham, Swiss and a fried egg that leaks rivers of yolk down the sides of the griddled bun. It's the kind of burger that you eat silently, eyes half-closed, oblivious to the ear-splitting din that's a constant presence. And any burger that can make you speechless in a room ringing with clamor is a success.

Best side: Sweet potato fries.

1890 S. Pearl St.; 720-242-9951 and 2643 W. 32nd Ave.; 303-862-8461; *parkburger.com*



BLISS ON A BUN: Park Burger's straight-up sliders.

HIGHLAND TAP & BURGER

The burger menu is big–and so are the burgers themselves–at this convivial chow house in Highland. And if you were to add all of the toppings to your beef, lamb, or black-bean vegetarian patty–things like salt-cured foie gras, bacon, sautéed mushrooms, beefsteak tomatoes, Maytag blue cheese and three-pepper candied bacon–your burger would surely soar to the ceiling. Now matter how you build it, the results are spectacularly delicious, thanks to a well-seasoned grill, quality ingredients and soft, fresh buns.

Best sides: Duck fat fries, Napa apple slaw.

2219 W. 32nd Ave.; 720-287-4493, *highlandtapburger.com*

ELWAY'S CHERRY CREEK

Elway's may be celebrated for its (usually) flawless slabs of steak, but the burger, some contend, is even better than the seared steer. I'm not sure I'd go that far, but I've got to admit that the carnivorous cow temple turns out a stellar "Smash burger," a hand-molded orb, flipped and smashed, that's richly flavored with prime-aged beef, liberally seasoned, sky-scraped with white cheddar and bacon and oozing with crimson juices. Like the Super Bowl-winning quarterback for whom the steakhouse is named, Elway's smash burger is a champion.

Best sides: A loaded baked potato, creamed corn or bowl of steak chili.

2500 E. 1st Ave.; 303-399-5353, *elways.com*

ENCORE

Encore irreverently calls itself the "county club of East Colfax," but very few country clubs manage to achieve cult burger status, unless you have an affinity for burgers that double as hockey pucks–which we don't. Encore isn't a country club–it's a lovely restaurant, and chef Paul Reilly's stylish burger, a mix of ground chuck and sirloin elevated with a Gruyere-bacon-bleu cheese compote, gives us just one more reason to declare our love for red meat.

Best side: Fries drizzled with hot mustard.

2550 E. Colfax, 303-355-1112; encoreoncolfax.com

CHOLON

Perhaps no burger in Denver trumpets bigger flavors that the ChoBurger, an unassailable masterpiece that should be on everyone's list of ten burgers to eat before that final gasp of breath on earth. I'm fairly convinced they don't make burgers like this in Heaven; it's just too diabolical. Served on a brioche bun, the pudgy expanse of beef, roofed with Korean-spiced-and-marinated red onions, chile paste, leafy lettuce and a yolky egg that wiggles and jiggles, is paired with thick-cut fries that stand tall in a short vase and a togarashi-specked ranch dipping sauce.

Best side: Soup dumplings.

1555 Blake St.; 303-353-5223; *cholon.com*

PROVIDENCE TAVERN

The bar at Providence Tavern is filled with neighborhood regulars pounding pints of notable craft beers and sinking their incisors into the bar's more than admirable burgers. Its best one, a grease-saturated bomb of ruby flesh, is paved with nothing more that a single slice of artfully melted American. Sure, you can fuss it up with sautéed mushrooms, guacamole, bacon or barbecue sauce, but this is a burger that's best left unsullied by additional embellishments.

Best side: Black-and-tan onion rings.

5280 W. 25th Ave.; 303-462-5280; *providencetavern.com*

PHOTOS BY LORI MIDSON



STACKED TO THE SKY: Red Rocks' Ultimate burger

RED ROCKS COUNTRY CLUB

Unless you're a member–or know one–of Red Rocks Country Club, you may never have the privilege of wrapping your lips around the club's most heralded dish: the "ultimate" burger. That's not an exaggeration. It's a model specimen, a towering heap of mid-rare beef that benefits from a rainbow of colors: crunchy purple onions juicy red tomatoes that teeter, butter leaf lettuce, blue cheese and, for your maximum pleasure, a golden onion ring. And best of all, the bun, inexplicably, doesn't turn soggy from all the heft. Top that!

Best side: Clam chowder.

16235 W. Belleview Ave., Morrison, 303-697-4438; *redrockscountryclub.org* AG

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HOT NUMBER: One of BMW's magic 3-series.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BMW

More Than a 17 Mile Drive

Monterey is the proving ground for the latest from BMW and Mazda. By Isaac Bouchard

2012 BMW 3-series

Price range: $35,795-$58,195

Since I own a 2008 BMW 335i, my visit to Monterey, California, to evaluate the all-new, F30-generation 3-series was, for once, quite personal.

Even though this new 3 is a bit bigger than the current car, it looks almost the same, aside from some surface embellishments, such as the "3D" kidney grills, and variations to such items as the fog lamp surrounds that differentiate the three different model lines. The Sport, Luxury and Modern trims each showcase different wheels, amounts of chrome and unique interior treatments.

Whichever you choose, the newest 3 is quite a leap from its predecessor. The clean simplicity of that model is replaced by a much more contemporary amalgam of surfaces, with lots of dimensionality created by overlapping surfaces. iDrive and a color screen now come standard. Room inside the cockpit is more generous, as is trunk space.

So far, so good. I don't notice the more controversial changes until the driving begins. I start in the 328i, which has undergone the more radical surgery. Gone is the silken inline six-cylinder; in its place is a 2-liter, direct-injected four, force-fed by a twin-scroll turbo. Power climbs by 10 horses to 240, while torque increases massively from 200 lb-ft to 255 lb-ft, most all of it down the rev range

But before I get to feel that, I marvel at an engine that, at idle, sounds for all the world like a diesel. That's going to shock people, I think. But revved into the upper registers of the tach, the exhaust

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note takes on a wonderfully evocative rasp redolent of the original M3, which also sported only four cylinders. This new 328i would leave that classic for dead too; thrust is much more accessible, and there's almost no turbo lag, meaning I have a huge powerband to play with. Zero-to-60 comes up quicker, at 5.6 seconds and fuel economy jumps to 28/36 mpg.

Enhancing this is the introduction of an eight-speed automatic to all the 3s. Its broader gear ratios mean punchier acceleration and better fuel economy, with no loss of driver involvement–in fact, it is quite an improvement over my own BMW's six-speed auto, with faster shift times and better paddle shifters. The classic six-speed manual is still standard on both, and the 300hp/300lb-ft N55 six cylinder in the 335i carries over.

These I really get to explore over an entire morning at Laguna Seca racetrack in Salinas, and having spent a lot of track time in my own 3, the differences stand out. First off, the new 3s' front and rear tracks are increased, making the cars feel even better planted. And the brakes held up to track use without fatigue or fade, something that can't be said of many earlier BMWs.

The new, electric power steering doesn't affect things as much as I'd feared. While some of the subtle textures of the road surface–and quite a bit of steering heft–have vanished, an accurate readout of available traction is still available, and precision is uncompromised.

The most surprising revelation? The 328i is more fun on the track. While not as fast on the straights, and lacking the big hit out of corners, its turn-in to them and mid-corner poise are more neutral and engaging, as there is less mass over the car's nose.

I spent the afternoon on a very long drive along the Pacific Coast Highway, and a 335i Luxury model was my steed. Its less aggressive suspension tuning left little to be desired, even on this twisty stretch of tarmac; it not only rides better than the outgoing car, but controls body motions much better. Here I found the steering to be a bit of a letdown, however, as some of the emotional "connection" was lost. Yet I still had no trouble placing the BMW where I wanted it, even approaching its very high limits.

That this minor flaw was the biggest demerit of the new 3 came as a pleasing relief. Aside from 328i's off-putting, gravelly voice at low speeds, it is clearly superior to the old car, and makes the case for the excellent 335i that much harder to justify. As hard as competitors have worked to match or exceed the 3-series over the years, it must be quite depressing when each new BMW moves all the goal posts further down the road. For those of us who believe the 3 is the perhaps the finest family car ever built, its cause for celebration.

2013 Mazda CX-5

Price range (AWD): $24,140-30,415

Combining the practicality and usefulness of the best-selling Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4, the striking good looks of the Kia Sportage, unmatched driving dynamics, and some of best fuel economy numbers of any



SUV or crossover, Mazda's all new CX-5 appears to have it all.

If that's so, it's because it is the first Mazda to incorporate the full suite of Skyactiv technology. Skyactiv means obsessive optimization of the vehicle's structure, engine, transmissions, and suspension to improve efficiency and driver involvement. The resulting EPA numbers of 25/31mpg are testament to this, as is the fact that this SUV is faster around Laguna Seca racetrack than the smaller, lighter Mazda3.

The CX-5's 2-liter Skyactiv-G engine has the highest compression ratio of any engine in the world running on regular fuel, and generates 150 hp and 155lb-ft. The two transmissions (the manual comes only with front-wheel drive) are also all-new, being lighter and more efficient. The body and structure meets Mazda's goals by being between 288 and 575 pounds lighter than the outgoing CX-7.

None of this describes how the CX-5 feels, though. Which, in a word, is terrific. Imagine a Miata SUV and you'd be close: light, agile and eager to change direction, with accurate steering and excellent body control. Whether the tranny is auto or manual, it's both slick and sweet in use. The CX-5 also rides well and has good refinement– a quality that has eluded many Mazdas over the years.

The CX-5 is much more stylish than the more pedestrian Honda and Toyota, with a lot of the refined aggression SUV buyers want, thanks to the cab-rearward stance and strong shoulders, along with an athleticism that reflects the company's racing involvement. About the biggest knock is you can only get the bigger, better-looking wheels on the top trim level.

Inside, this Mazda is conservative; there's a cleanliness to the shapes, along with a quality to the materials, that helps it feel upmarket. The roominess is the same as the outgoing CX-7's, despite smaller exterior dimensions.

For those of us in Colorado, the AWD's powertrain is adequate, no more. To match the oomph of the turbocharged Ford, Kia and Subaru crossovers, buyers will have to wait two years for the Skyactiv-D diesel. In every other area, the CX-5 is the new class standard.



CX-5: Fast, fuel-efficient and fun.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MAZDA

Read more of Isaac Bouchard's automotive writing at nicedrivz.com and ColoradoAvidGolfer.com.





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Black Bear Golf Club

Thinking of joining a club? Better get on it. With the economy on the mend, this could be the last year some of Colorado's best private clubs offer reduced initiation fees and sign-up incentives. Take **Canongate Colorado**, for example…

With a two-for-one membership to Blackstone Country Club in Aurora and Parker's Black Bear Golf Club starting with a one-time entry fee of $1,500 (discounted from $3,000) and $185 in monthly dues, Canongate Colorado is probably one of the state's best values. The Canongate concept arrived in Colorado in 2009, but it's been around since 1965 and now includes more than two-dozen clubs, primarily in the Atlanta area–all of which offer reciprocity within the Canongate family.

"I have worked in the Colorado golf market for over 10 years and Canongate Colorado truly is a unique and exceptional private membership model," Tiffanie Trenck, the Sales Director for Blackstone and Black Bear, says. "I now have the opportunity to introduce new members to the best private-club value in Colorado while providing multiple-club access, remarkable course conditions, great facilities and a friendly atmosphere. Also, we don't stop at golf…we have an excellent state-of-the-art fitness facility, pool, spa, childcare, social events and more for all family members to enjoy!"

Even with the inevitable rise of private club memberships in the near future, should you take the plunge now? Only you can answer that question. But the club profiles that follow present information to help you to decide. You should base your decision on more than just cost. Joining a club can define your social life–and your family's. A private club is an investment in the experience of belonging–it's about the course, the people, the activities, and, for some, the networking. Club members do not simply pay dues. They contribute to the reputation, the atmosphere and future of the club.

Upon joining Canongate Colorado, a new member said, "Yesterday my wife and I and our two teenaged boys spent our first day as Canongate members. We had a great lunch and then spent three hours together playing golf. We had more fun than we've had together in a long time. Canongate gave me a gift that I will treasure the rest of my life."

The clubs featured on the following pages all offer similarly priceless experiences–some even at comparably affordable costs.

Grownups need recess, too.


Black Bear Golf Club







A Canongate Colorado Membership provides home club golf privileges at both Black Bear in Parker and Blackstone in Aurora. Both of our clubs offer a full calendar of social and dining events, with Blackstone also featuring tennis, swimming and fitness. Did we mention you also have access to 5 clubs in Houston and 23 in Atlanta as you travel?

CANONGATE

Join for as low as $500 and monthly dues starting at $135!

Call (877) 624-4201 for more information.

www.canongatecolorado.com

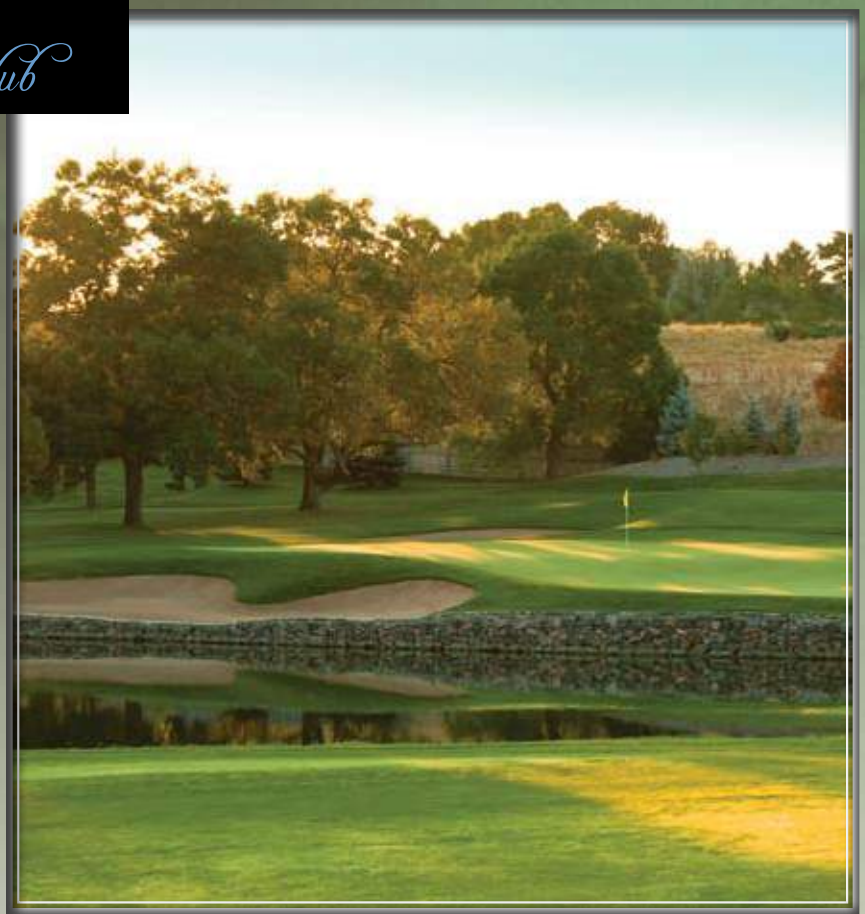
Offer applies to the Black Bear Classic Membership and requires a two year commitment; Canongate Colorado memberships begin at $1,250. This opportunity is available until April 30, 2012. Other restrictions may apply.




Blackstone Country Club

GENTLEMAN JACK
RARE TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Pinehurst Country Club
DENVER



CLUB FACTS

Address
6255 W. Quincy Ave., Denver

Initiation/Annual Dues
$32,000 initiation fee with several payment options available including a Junior Membership. Dues are $6,240 per year.

Course Yardage/Architect
6,894 yards/Press Maxwell

Amenities
18-hole championship course, nine-hole regulation course, Olympic swimming pool, 12 outdoor tennis courts (including two clay courts), four indoor tennis courts, luxurious newly renovated clubhouse

Contact
Tam Ford, 303-985-1551;
tford@pinehurstcountryclub.com.
pinehurstcountryclub.com

PINEHURST
COUNTRY CLUB

Standing on the first tee of Pinehurst's Maxwell golf course, you overlook downtown Denver and the Denver Tech Center to the east. The Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a beautiful Colorado backdrop for the clubhouse and the Pfluger nine-hole course to the west. Between those scenic views a myriad of leisure activities and social amenities await for Pinehurst members and their guests.

Pinehurst dates back to 1958 when a gentleman farmer, Leigh Norgren, developed a dairy farm into 27 holes of lush fairways dotted with lakes and challenging greens bordered by large trees. The club now also claims 12 outdoor tennis courts, a state-of-the-art indoor tennis pavilion and a sparkling Olympic swimming pool. A recently upgraded clubhouse provides a rich traditional atmosphere. Several member dining areas, wedding circle, large event center and Bogie's, the members' favorite sports bar, round out an unparalleled social experience.

In the present economic climate the most important aspect to consider when joining a private country club is its financial position. Smart planning on the part of committees and directors of the member-owned club has resulted in a facility that's in excellent physical shape with minimal debt service. The club management can now turn its focus on maintaining and building on its strong golf, tennis, and swim programs, providing a well-rounded environment for members of all ages.

Do yourself a favor and drop by Pinehurst soon to experience an unsurpassed private club environment.





CHERRY CREEK
COUNTRY CLUB

The Dream Becomes Reality

at Cherry Creek Country Club

Cherry Creek Country Club uniquely combines metropolitan amenities with country club indulgences-hidden away within the heart of Denver. Receiving the "Best Overall Experience" award in 2012, Cherry Creek continues to raise the standard in the Denver Country Club experience. Membership in Cherry Creek Country Club demonstrates an affinity for a sophisticated and refined lifestyle.

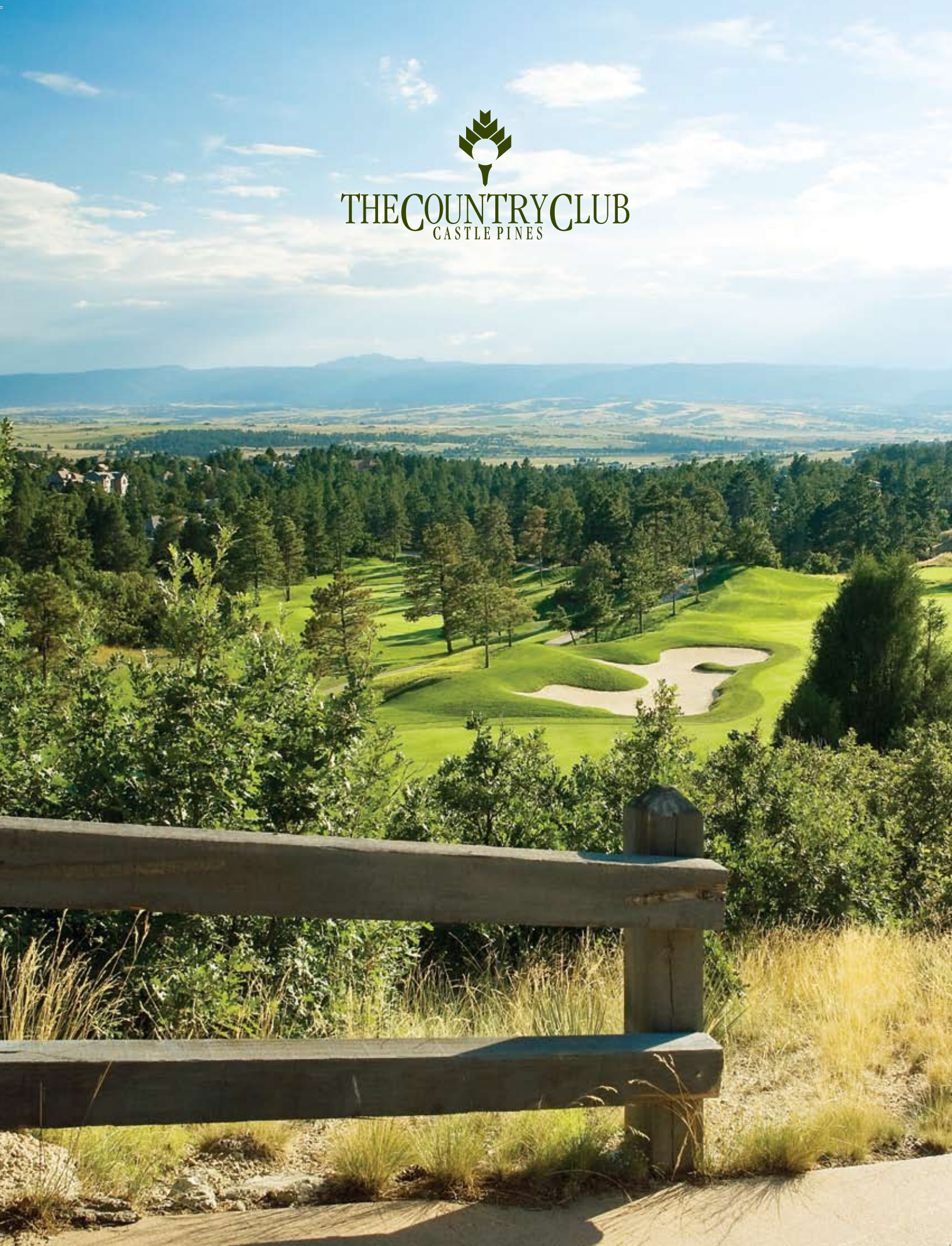
The stunning stone clubhouse is a great place to unwind after a hard day on the course, or dine al fesco on the expansive terrace overlooking the 18th hole. Formal or casual, quiet or social, the Library or covered patio can accommodate any request.

The newly renovated full-service Spa has five treatment rooms and a menu of services that includes massage, facials, manicures, pedicures, spray tanning and waxing. Members enjoy pumping iron in the state-of-the art fitness center; an expansive space filled with a full line of "Life Fitness" equipment, including treadmills, ellipticals, bikes and water rowers, each with their own T.V. and DVD/CD player. Adding to the Club's resort-like amenities are the private pool and tennis courts. The kid's pool is the perfect spot to host pool parties and is a hit during the annual Kid's Camp and on family nights.

The impeccably maintained Jack & Jackie signature golf course is sure to challenge the most skilled golfer, while a variety of tee boxes allow golfers of all levels to have an enjoyable round.

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year, Cherry Creek Country Club is approaching the $1 million charitable contribution mark; an honorable accomplishment the Club takes pride in. It's this spirit of holding true to tradition while providing a superior member experience that will separate Cherry Creek Country Club from other clubs.

2405 S Yosemite St. | Denver, CO 80231 | 303.597.0300


THE COUNTRY CLUB
CASTLE PINES



Enjoy Colorado's unrivaled beauty when you golf on our Jack Nicklaus Signature Designed Course—7,400 yards that starts atop a ridge which opens onto 150 miles of panoramic views of Long's and Pike's Peaks, Mount Evans and downtown Denver. Perfect your game on our world-class, 20-acre practice facility, driving range, putting and chipping greens. Then experience our incredible par 72 mountain course.

After playing a round that rivals any of the most challenging golf courses in the country, relax on our newly expanded Terrace, part of our stunning $5.6 million club house renovation.

THE COUNTRY CLUB
CASTLE PINES

Please call Kim Bartuccio, our
Director of Membership and Communications
for a private tour at 303-660-6807.

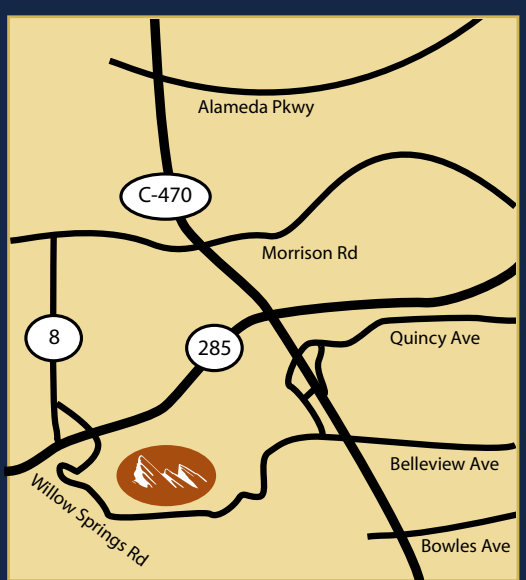
WWW.CCATCASTLEPINES.COM

GolfWorld 100 BEST GOLF SHOPS

a 501(c) (7) non-profit private club



Sieze the Moment



Conveniently located in Morrison, Colorado two miles west of C-470 on Belleview

Whether it's hitting the back nine, honing your swing on the range, relaxing by the pool, or savoring a meal together, Red Rocks Country Club provides the perfect setting for making those special family memories.

With a full line up of junior golf, swim team, a gardening club and other children's activities, as well as pool-side happy hours, themed dinners, fishing on the lake and golf six days a week, there's something for kids of all ages.

To learn more about membership opportunities, hosting a golf event or planning a wedding, please call **(303) 352-2030**.

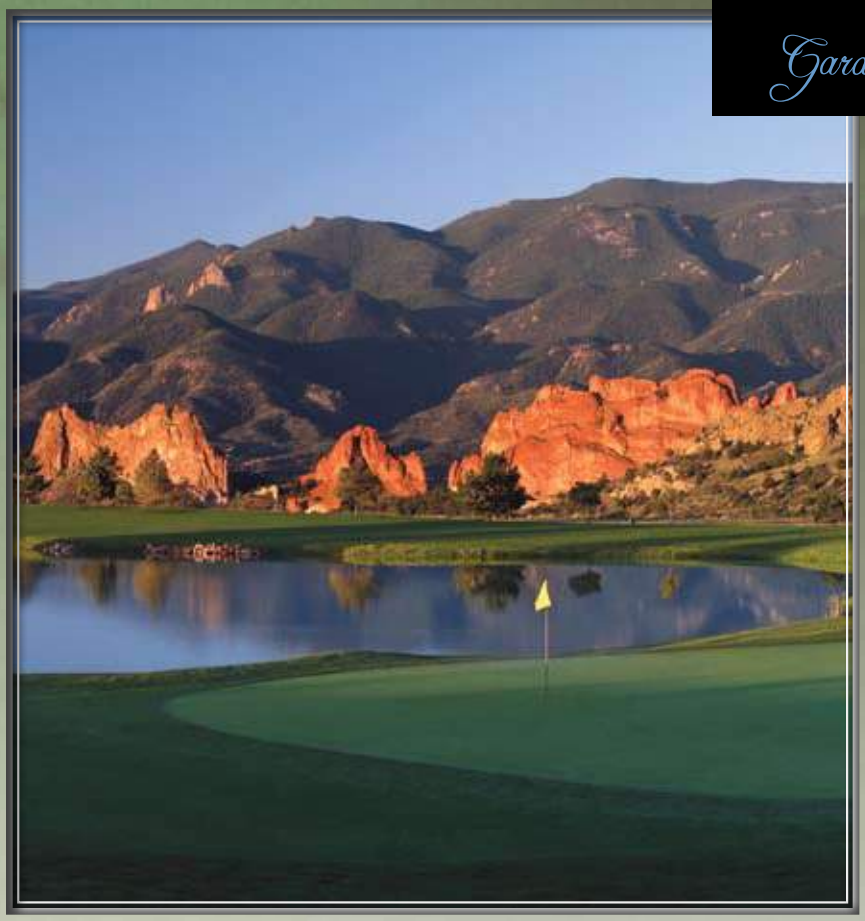
RED ROCKS
Country Club

www.RedRocksCountryClub.org

Red Rocks Country Club is a private club. All applicants are subject to the Club's membership application and screening process.

GENTLEMAN JACK
RARE TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Garden Of The Gods Club
COLORADO SPRINGS



With panoramic views of Garden of the Gods Park and Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods Club is a truly special place where members enjoy spending time with close friends, family, and each other. Whether playing a round of golf, competing on the tennis courts, staying fit at the sports club, relaxing at the spa, playing with their kids at the recreation center, meeting friends for dinner, or dancing the night away at one of the club's many parties, members find their days filled with activity, friends, and fun.

Press Maxwell and Mark Rathert designed Garden of the Gods Club's challenging 27-hole classic course, Kissing Camels, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Featuring well-bunkered greens, towering pines, and a lush mountainous landscape, the course spans on average more than 7,000 yards per 18 holes. A driving range, chipping area, and putting green make it easy for members to work on their games.

Garden of the Gods Club offers a variety of memberships to suit different lifestyles and budgets. The club's National membership, for example, is designed for golfers who live outside a 30-mile radius of Colorado Springs. With an early commitment offer of 50 percent off the initiation fee if paid by April 30, 2012, and with initiation fees scheduled to increase on May 1, 2012, there's never been a better time to become a member of Garden of the Gods Club.

Contact the club today to explore its membership opportunities and enjoy one of Colorado's best private golf experiences.

Address
3320 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs

Initiation/Monthly Dues
$12,500/$385-455 (Premier Golf), $9,500/$320-385 (Young Professional), $9,500/$245 (Associate), $2,000/$95 (National)

Promotion
Preview program available through April 30, 2013, with an opportunity to receive a 50 percent reduction in the initiation fee if paid in full by April 30, 2012.

Course yardage/Architect
North Course-3,494 yards; South Course-3,544 yards; West Course-3,507 yards/Press Maxwell and Mark Rathert

Amenities
27-hole golf course, driving range and practice areas, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, sports club, full-service spa and salon, gourmet dining, infinity pool, recreation center with junior Olympic-size swimming pool, playground, and children's splash park, lodging, private event space, and full calendar of club social events

Contact
Tracey Kalata, 719-520-4980; tkalata@ggclub.com.
gardenofthegodsclub.com

GARDEN OF THE GODS CLUB

2012 Private Club Directory

CLUB	ADDRESS	PHONE	INITIATION	DUES	WAITING LIST	MEMBER CAP
Adam's Mountain Country Club	1094 Frost Creek Dr., Eagle	866-490-2622	$60,000/$150,000	$750/mo.	No	**300**
Aspen Glen Club	0545 Bald Eagle Way, Carbondale	970-704-1905	$100,000	$835/mo.	No	**535**
Ballyneal	1 Ballyneal Lane, Holyoke	970-854-5900	$10,000	$5,000/yr.	No	**N/A**
Bear Creek Golf Club	12201 Morrison Rd., Denver	303-980-8700	$40,000	$790/mo.	No	**350**
Bookcliff Country Club	2730 G Rd., Grand Junction	970-243-3323	$3,500	$365/mo.	No	**520**
Boulder Country Club	350 Clubhouse Rd., Boulder	303-530-4600	$22,000	$455/mo.	No	**500**
Broadmoor Golf Club	One Lake Circle, Colorado Springs	719-577-5833	$60,000	$535/mo.	yes	**N/A**
Canongate at Black Bear	11300 Canterberry Pkwy., Parker	720-346-2367	$500-$3,000	starting at $135/mo.	No	**N/A**
Canongate at Blackstone	7777 Country Club Dr., Aurora	720-346-2367	$500-$3,000	starting at $135/mo.	No	**N/A**
Castle Pines Golf Club	1000 Hummingbird Dr., Castle Rock	303-688-6000	$135,000	$17,000/yr.	Invitation only	**350**
Castle Pines, The Country Club at	6400 Country Club Dr., Castle Rock	303-660-6807	Market-based	$525/mo.	No	**450**
Catamount Ranch & Club	33400 B Catamount Dr., Steamboat Springs	970-871-9300	$45,000	$8,500/yr.	No	**395**
Cherry Creek Country Club	2405 South Yosemite St., Denver	303-597-0300	$75,000	$550/mo.	No	**450**
Cherry Hills Country Club	4125 S. University Blvd., Englewood	303-350-5200	$120,000	$672/mo.	Invitation only	**500**
Colorado Golf Club	7803 E. Stroh Rd., Parker	303-840-0090	$50,000	$699/mo.	Invitation only	**377**
Colorado Springs Country Club	3333 Templeton Gap Rd., Colorado Springs	719-634-8851	$10,000	$380/mo.	No	**425**
Columbine Country Club	17 Fairway Ln, Littleton	303-794-2674	$30,000	$545/mo.	No	**420**
Cordillera, The Club at	655 Clubhouse Dr., Edwards	970-569-6480	$65,000	$12,500/yr.	Invitation only	**1,085**
Cornerstone Club	1000 Cornerstone Trl., Montrose	970-650-2000	$75,000*	$8,000/yr.	Invitation only	**500**
Country Club of Colorado	125 E. Clubhouse Dr., Colorado Springs	719-538-4084	$27,500	$365/mo.	No	**450**
Country Club of the Rockies	676 Sawatch Dr, Edwards	970-926-3080	$125,000	$9,000/yr.	yes	**350**
Denver Country Club	1700 E. First Ave., Denver	303-733-2441	$105,000	$630/mo.	Invitation only	**850**
Eagle Springs Golf Club	28521 U.S. Highway 6 & 24, Wolcott	970-926-4400	$60,000	$12,900/yr.	Invitation only	**250**
Eaton Country Club	37661 Weld Country Rd. 39, Eaton	970-454-2106	$1,000	$185/mo.	No	**485**
The Club at Flying Horse	1880 Weiskopf Point., Colorado Springs	719-487-2601	$39,000	$480/mo.	No	**450**
Fort Collins Country Club	1920 Country Club Rd., Fort Collins	970-482-1336	$5,000/$9,000	$440/mo.	No	**500**
Fox Acres Country Club	3350 Fox Acres Dr. E., Red Feather Lakes	970-881-2191	$97,500*	$13,500/yr.*	No	**250**
The Fox Hill Club	12389 E. Highway 119, Longmont	303-772-0246	$3,000	$390/mo.	No	**450**
Garden of the Gods Club	3320 Mesa Rd, Colorado Springs	719-632-5541	$12,500	$320-$455/mo.	No	**N/A**
Glacier Club	40290 Highway 550 North, Durango	970-382-7809	$30,000/$70,000	$625/mo.	No	**675**
Glenmoor Country Club	110 Glenmoor Dr., Englewood	303-257-1313	$40,000	$500/mo.	yes	**475**
Greeley Country Club	4500 W. 10th St., Greeley	970-353-0528	$1,500/$9,000	$200-405/mo.	No	**500**
Harmony Club	4176 Club Dr., Timnath	970-224-4622	$6,500/$12,500	$290	No	**350**
Hiwan Golf Club	30671 Clubhouse Ln., Evergreen	303-674-3366	$25,000	$470/mo.	No	**N/A**
Inverness Hotel & Golf Club	200 Inverness Dr., Englewood	303-397-7878	$4,370	$3,870/yr. renewal	No	**400**
Ironbridge Golf Club	430 Ironbridge Dr., Glenwood Springs	970-384-0630	$0	$298/mo.	No	**450**
Lake Valley Golf Club	4400 Lake Valley Dr., Longmont	303-444-2114	$5,000	$280-$336/mo.	No	**478**
Lakewood Country Club	6800 W. 10th Ave., Lakewood	303-233-4614	$30,000	$540/mo.	No	**450**
Maroon Creek Club	10 Club Circle Rd., Aspen	970-920-1533	$200,000	$20,500/yr.	Invitation only	**350**
Meridian Golf Club	9742 S. Meridian Blvd., Englewood	303-799-8412	$6,000	$340/mo.	No	**475**
Monument Hill Country Club	18945 Pebble Beach Way, Monument	719-481-2272	$2,000	$350/mo.	No	**1,300**
Perry Park Country Club	7047 Perry Park Blvd., Larkspur	303-681-3305	$4,000	$423/mo.	No	**300**
Pinehurst Country Club	6255 W. Quincy Ave., Denver	303-985-1551	$32,000	$520/mo.	No	**650**
Pinery Country Club, The	6900 E Pinery Pkwy., Parker	303-841-5157	$20,000	$395/mo.	No	**650**
Plum Creek Golf and Country Club	331 Players Club Dr., Castle Rock	303-688-2612	$1,750-$4,600	Annual renewal	No	**500**
Pradera, The Club at	5225 Pradera Pkwy., Parker	303-607-5672	$31,000	$399/mo.	No	**450**
Ptarmigan Country Club	5416 Vardon Way, Fort Collins	970-226-8555	$5,000/$7,500	$350/mo.	No	**500**
Pueblo Country Club	3200 8th Ave., Pueblo	719-543-4844	$1,000	$335/mo.	No	**850**
Ranch Country Club, The	11887 Tejon St., Westminster	303-460-9700	$6,500	$435/mo.	No	**425**
Red Rocks Country Club	16235 W. Belleview Ave., Morrison	303-352-2030	$7,000-$15,000	$440/mo.	No	**475**
Red Sky Golf Club	1099 Red Sky Rd., Wolcott	970-754-8400	$140,000	$8950/yr.	No	**425**
Roaring Fork Club	100 Arbaney Ranch Rd., Basalt	970-927-9000	$120,000-$200,000	$7000-14500/yr.	Invitation only	**500**
Rolling Hills, The Club at	15707 W. 26th Ave., Golden	303-279-3334	$45,000	$561/mo.+$60 food/mo.	No	**425**
Snowmass Club	0239 Snowmass Club Cir., Snowmass Village	970-923-5600	$50,000	$625/mo.	No	**375**
Valley Country Club	14601 Country Club Dr., Aurora	303-690-6373	$20,000	$600/mo.	No	**470**

*NUMBER BASED ON LAST SEASON. CALL FOR CURRENT PRICING.

ColoradoAvidGolfer.com is your gateway to Colorado private and public golf.

Our Website offers listings, directions, user reviews and details for all public, resort and private facilities. In May, look for the *Colorado AvidGolfer Golf Guide*, the state's official golf resource, containing information on more than 250 courses.

EQUITY	FACILITIES	COURSE ARCHITECT	CONTACT
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, fishing, spa, equestrian center	Tom Weiskopf (2007)	Joe Cranston
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness center	Nicklaus Design (1997)	Jess Westley
No	Upland bird hunting, bocce, practice facilities	Tom Doak (2006)	Matt Payne
Yes	None	Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay (1985)	Kirk Rider
No	Swimming, tennis	Dick Phelps (1958)	Kari Canaday
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1965)	Linda Oliger
No	All resort privileges	East: D. Ross (1918); West: R. T. Jones (1964); Mountain: J. Nicklaus (2006)	Sherry Clark
No	Privileges at all Canongate facilities	Jeff Brauer (1996)	Tiffanie Trenck
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, privileges (all at Canongate)	Jay Morrish (2006)	Tiffanie Trenck
Yes	Privileges at CC at Castle Pines	Jack Nicklaus (1981)	Keith Schneider
Yes	None	Jack Nicklaus (1985)	Kim Bartuccio
No	Swimming, tennis, private lake, water sports, fitness, skiing	Tom Weiskopf (2000)	Nicole Piret
No	Swimming, tennis, wellness center, spa	Jack Nicklaus/Jack Nicklaus II (2002)	Jason Murphy
No	Swimming, tennis	William Flynn (1922); Renaissance Golf (2009)	B.J. Johnson
Yes	Par-3 course, hiking and biking trails,fitness,indoor practice facilities	Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore (2006)	Tom Ferrell
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Dick Phelps (1957)	Debora Mallouk
No	Swimming, tennis	Henry Hughes (1956)	Darin Dickson
No	Swimming, tennis, Nordic center	Valley: T. Fazio (1997); Mountain: H. Irwin (1994); Summit: J. Nicklaus (2001)	Suzanne Morgan
Yes	Equestrian center, swimming, fishing, 25 miles of trails	Greg Norman (2007)	Brian Wallin
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, fishing, sailing	Pete Dye (1973)	Jessica Emerson
Yes	Facilities through Arrowhead development	Jack Nicklaus (1984)	Pentii Tofferi
No	Swimming, tennis, ice rink	James Foulis/Bill Coore (1902)	Marilyn Maxwell
No	None	Jay Morrish/Tom Weiskopf (1995)	Mike Steiner
50%	None	Frank Baumgarner (1968)	Shelly Bowden
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa, indoor golf facility	Tom Weiskopf (2005)	Wendy McHenry
No	Swimming, tennis, spa, golf school	Henry Hughes (1960); Pete Dye (2001)	Norman Nuwash
No	Tennis, fitness, fly fishing, spa, horseback riding	John Cochran (1983)	Joey Moncayo
Yes	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Frank Hummel (1972)	Heather Martin
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness,dining, spa, salon, lodging	Press Maxwell (1961)/ Mark Rathert (1997)	Tracey Kalata
No/Yes	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Arthur Hills (1974), Todd Schoeder (2004)	Nancy Bennett
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Pete Dye (1985)	Teri Ramirez
Yes	Swimming, tennis, racquetball, access to Ft. Collins & Fox Hill CCs	Perry Maxwell/Tom Bendelow (1932)	Amy Fiedler
No	Indoor, heated golf facility	Jim Engh (2007)	Renee Benzel
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness center	Press Maxwell (1962)	Daniel Sherman
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1974)	Dave Steinmetz
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Arthur Hills (2003)	Doug Rohrbaugh
No	Dining, practice facilities, private swim and fishing lake	Press Maxwell (1964)	Rob Mount
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Tom Bendelow/Donald Ross (1908)	Carol Kaiser
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness, spa	Tom Fazio (1995)	David Chadbourne
No	None	Jack Nicklaus (1984)	Jim Shoemaker
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell (1969)	Jim Nodurft
Yes	None	Dick Phelps (1969)	Herb Miller
No	Swimming, tennis	Press Maxwell (1960)	Kevin Vena
No	Swimming, indoor/outdoor tennis, fitness	David Bingham (1972)	Dan Padrnos
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Pete Dye (1984)	Alysse Cole
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Jim Engh (2005)	Tony Principato
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Jack Nicklaus (1988)	Ryan Flack
Yes	Swimming, tennis	Henry Hughes (1902)	Kevin Dowding
Yes/No	Swimming, tennis	Dick Phelps (1974)	Shaun Poe
Yes	Swimming	Stanley Harwood (1976)	Ali Canyon
No	Amenities through Vail Resorts	Tom Fazio (2002); Greg Norman (2003)	Mike Gibbs
No	Swimming, tennis, fly-fishing	Jack Nicklaus (1999)	Lauren Salzer
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	Press Maxwell/Dick Phelps (1967)	Aisha Oldham
yes	Swimming, tennis, fitness, cross-country skiing	Jim Engh (2003)	Dusty Diaz
No	Swimming, tennis, fitness	William Bell (1960)	Stephanie Grant

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. CONTACT THE CLUBS FOR DETAILS AND INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP LEVELS, PROGRAMS, PROMOTIONS AND INCENTIVES.

GENTLEMAN JACK
RARE TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Perry Park Country Club
LARKSPUR



CLUB FACTS

Address
7047 Perry Park Blvd., Larkspur

Initiation/Monthly Dues
$4,000/$423(regular)
$4,000/$351 (junior)

Course yardage/Architect
7,007 yards/Dick Phelps

Contact
Herb Miller; 303-681-3305;
hmiller@perryparkcc.com.
perryparkcc.com

Perry Park Country Club

Just a few miles south of Castle Rock sits Perry Park Country Club, one of Colorado's most scenic mountain courses. Nestled against the foothills of Pike National Forest, the club features one the state's most remarkable golf courses, where towering pines and soaring red-rock formations play host to tee boxes, fairways, greens and native wildlife. The Perry Park experience, which includes a 19th century-inspired clubhouse, transports visitors to a time when iconic Sentinel Rock overlooked a stagecoach stop.

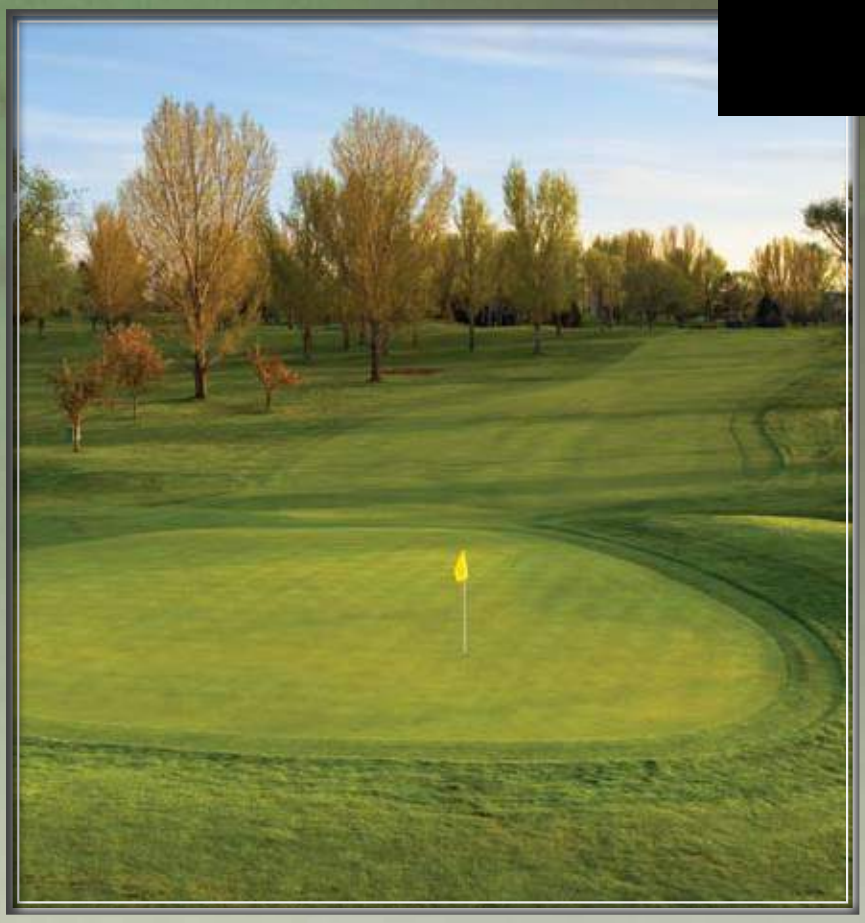
Perry Park has since 1969 functioned as a member-owned and member-governed country club, dedicated to providing members with exceptional golf and social amenities and creating a strong sense of community. The many events and social functions serve to assimilate new members and its women's program and renowned junior program help make everyone a part of the Perry Park family.

During the past decade, the club's members have been dedicated to bringing the 7,007-yard course up to modern golf standards. The original layout, masterfully executed by architect Dick Phelps, has changed little, but new irrigation systems, fairway upgrades, expanded tees, new on-course amenities and modern maintenance methods make Perry Park a modern course with a foothold in tradition.

One of Perry Park's major goals is to provide members with affordable golf, while maintaining the private-club experience.

Our members believe that the great game of golf means friendly competition, maintaining the dignity and etiquette of the sport and building lasting friendships.

GENTLEMAN JACK
RARE TENNESSEE WHISKEY



The Fox Hill Club
LONGMONT

CLUB FACTS

Address
1400 East State Highway 119, Longmont

Initiation/Monthly Dues
$3,000/$290-$390

Promotion
There is a $1,000 one-time fee, and you receive $1,000 if you refer a new member.

Course yardage/Architect
7,123/Frank Hummel

Contact
Heather Martin, 303-651-3777; hmartin@thefoxhillclub.com.
thefoxhillclub.com

Known as the Jewel of Northern Colorado, The Fox Hill Club tucks itself into an idyllic corner of Longmont, 30 minutes north of Denver and just minutes from Boulder. From the immaculate, 7,123 tree-lined yards of its golf course the to the strong sense of belonging, The Fox Hill Club offers members an escape from their everyday routines.

Founded 40 years ago on friendship, community and peace of mind, The Fox Hill Club values the sanctity of personal relationships and takes great pride in being a respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Members and their families enjoy good drinks, great food, and superlative golf on a layout that plays differently every day. The club also offers a pool to relax by, a place to drop off the kids, and four tennis courts to work on that backhand. It could be the warm and familiar greeting of the starter, or how the waiter knows the number of olives to put in your martini, but the staff at the Fox Hill Club understands how to make its members feel special.

Many people think joining a private club is not an option for them. But Fox Hill provides a wonderful experience for both its golf and social members. Whether you are a golfer, tennis player, or looking for a place for your family to create memories together, the Fox Hill Club has packages to suit everyone. And by joining The Fox Hill Club in one of our several membership categories and taking advantage of reciprocal play at Colorado National Golf Club, you can soon begin to feel the escape that comes with a membership at one of Colorado's best-kept secrets.

The FOX HILL Club

GENTLEMAN JACK
RARE TENNESSEE WHISKEY

The Club at Rolling Hills
GOLDEN



CLUB FACTS

Address
15707 West 26th Avenue, Golden

Initiation/Monthly Dues
Resident Golf: $45,000/$561 dues plus $60 food minimum
Social: $3,000/$231 dues plus $60 food minimum. (Subject to change)
Inquire about Social and Preview opportunities.

Course Yardage/Architect
7,125 yards/J. Press Maxwell

Amenities
Golf, indoor and outdoor tennis, swimming pool, fitness, casual and fine dining, outdoor dining, private banquet and event facilities, award winning junior programs, extensive year round social calendar

Contact
Aisha Oldham, 303.327.2400;
aoldham@rhillscc.org.
rhillscc.org

THE CLUB AT ROLLING HILLS
GOLDEN · COLORADO

Nestled in the foothills of Golden, The Club at Rolling Hills is a full service club that offers its members an 18-hole championship golf course; year-round tennis with four indoor and four outdoor courts; a full service pool facility including outdoor dining and full bar service; award-winning junior programs in golf, tennis, and swimming; first-class dining with breathtaking views of the surrounding mesas; and a social calendar for the entire family.

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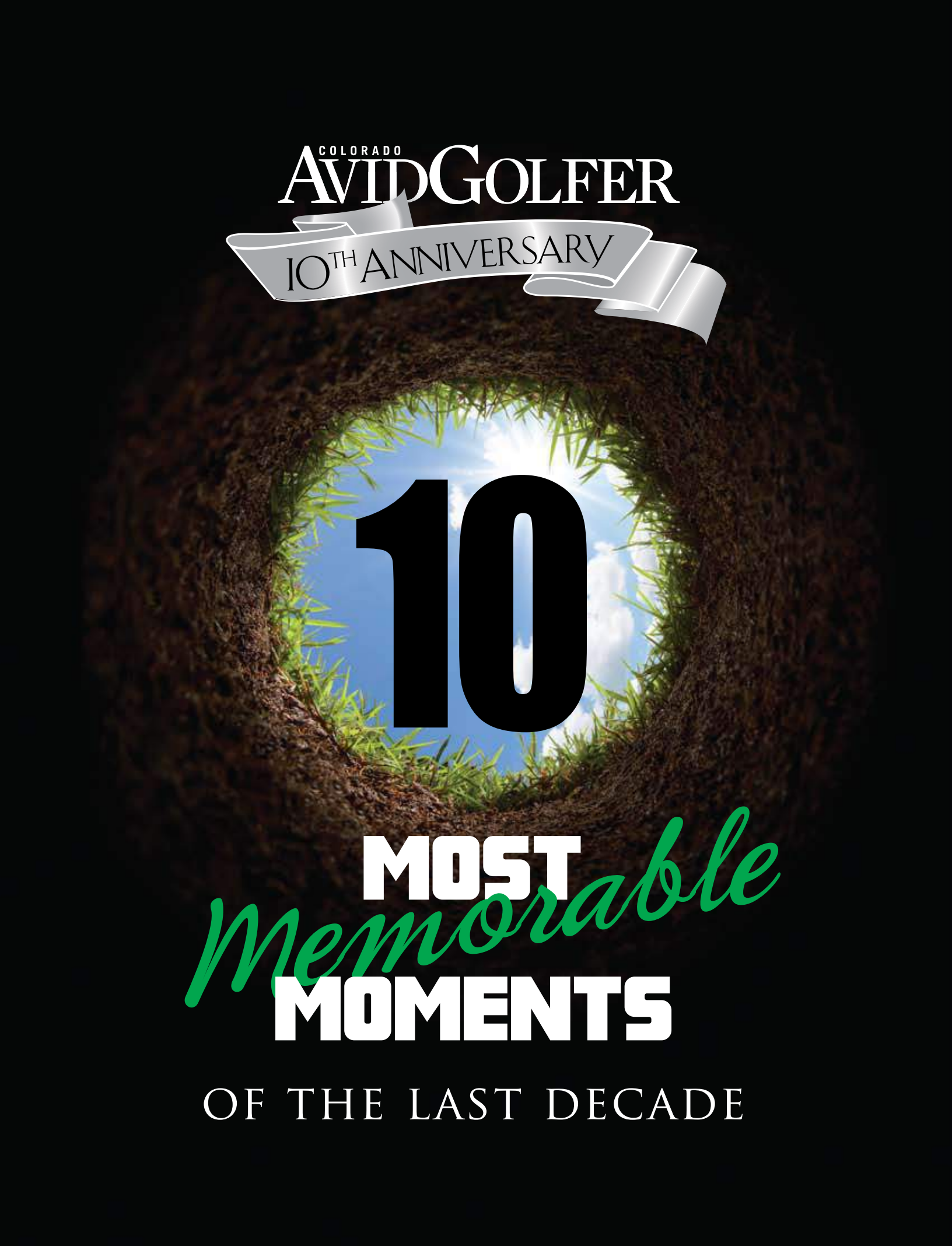

10 MOST Memorable MOMENTS

OF THE LAST DECADE



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ANN FINKE (TOP) AND JOHN TOLAN

2002 & 2003

Two 16-Year-Olds Qualify for the U.S. Open

Sixteen was twice as sweet at two consecutive U.S. Open Qualifiers at Columbine Country Club. In the 2002 event, ThunderRidge High School junior-to-be Derek Tolan (right) bogeyed three of the last five holes to finish in a first-place tie with Mike Reid and Mike Zaremba. On the first playoff hole, his 50-foot birdie chip curled into the cup to send him to New York's Bethpage Black. The following year, Cheyenne Mountain High School's Tom Glissmeyer (above) rallied from a first-hole triple-bogey to shoot a 3-under 141 and punch his ticket to Olympia Fields. Tolan and Glissmeyer, friendly rivals, would each miss the cut at the Open. They went on to play, respectively, at the University of Colorado and Southern California and both continue to compete on professional tours.



2002

Steve Lowery Almost Steals The International

Say what you want about the dearly departed International's Modified Stableford Scoring System, but it could make for fabulous drama, especially on the 492-yard par-5 17th, on which players could shoot for eagles (worth five points) and birdies (worth two). Prior to 2002, the hole yielded 285 eagles and one double eagle. Then came Steve Lowery. He had won the 1994 event in a playoff after eagling the par-4 14th and the par-5 17th, but outdid himself in 2002 by eagling the par-4 15th and *double-eagling* the 17th. By amassing 13 Stableford points in just two holes, Lowery closed within a point of the leader, Rich Beem, who had a record-tying 19 points in the final round. Had Lowery sunk his 15-foot birdie putt on the last hole, giving him a one-point victory, his charge might have gone down as one of the greatest comeback wins in Tour history.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE GRAYSON/GETTY IMAGES (TOP); TODD LANGLEY



2004

Pat Hamill Saves the Colorado Open

On August 26, 2003, as they played their practice round at Vail's Sonnenalp Golf Club, competitors in the Colorado Open learned the state's premier event had been cancelled due to lack of sponsorship. Within months, Oakwood Homes Founder, President and CEO Pat Hamill stepped in. He galvanized leaders in the Colorado golf and business communities to re-establish the event and its credibility. They brought the men's, women's and senior events to Hamill's Green Valley Ranch Golf Club and have secured HealthONE as a title sponsor, established the charitable Colorado Open Golf Foundation and The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch and in the process created a vigorous and sustainable business model for other state opens to follow.

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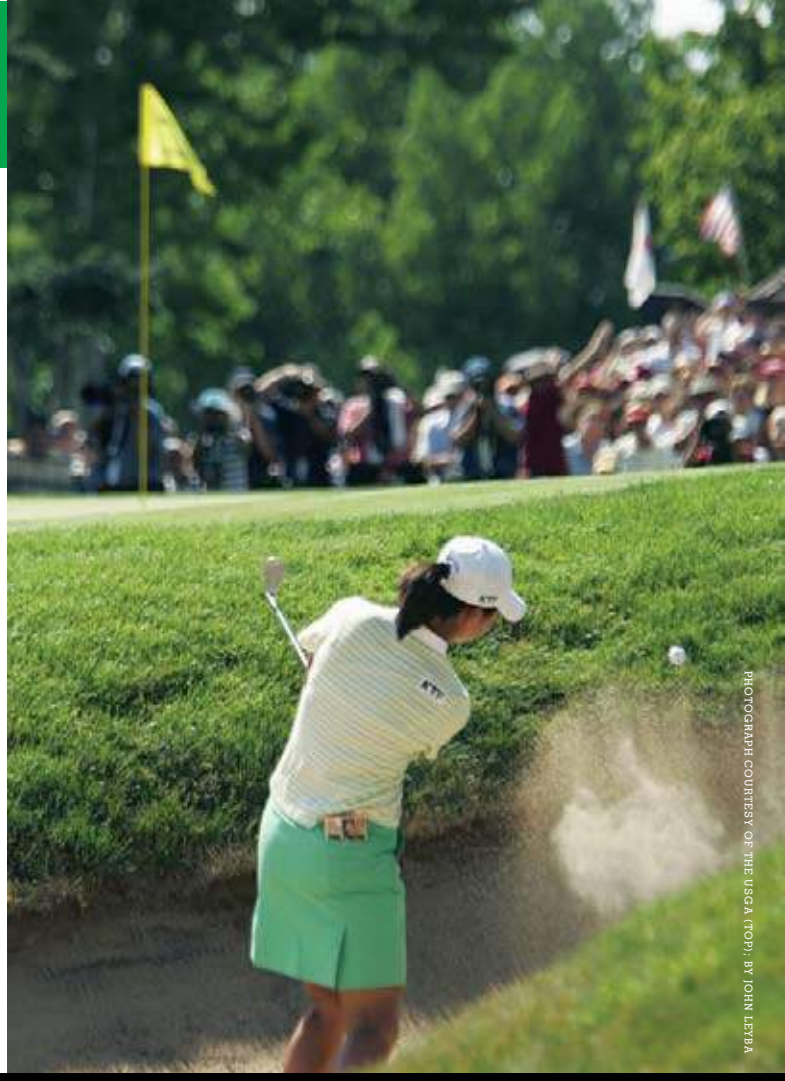
2005
Birdie Kim Chips In to Win the U.S. Women's Open

Going into the final Sunday of the 60th U.S. Women's Open, the buzz at Cherry Hills Country Club swirled around third-round leaders Michelle Wie, Morgan Pressel–both teenaged amateurs–and Weetabix Women's British Open champion Karen Stupples. By the time they reached the par-4 18th hole, Wie and Stupples had faded, and Pressel shared the lead with Birdie Kim, a player in the penultimate group who had made only 10 cuts in her previous 34 events. With Kim's second shot in the right front bunker, Pressel watched incredulously from the fairway as the Korean's shot exploded from the sand and trickled into the hole for the first and only birdie carded there that day. Kim, who had presciently changed her first name from Ju-Yun the year before, estimated it would take her at least 50 shots to replicate the one that secured her first major victory.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE USGA (TOP); BY JOHN LEYBA



2007
The International at Castle Pines Comes to an End

For 21 years, The International brought the world's best golfers to the rarefied air of Castle Pines Golf Club, where the Modified Stableford scoring system provided a break from the weekly stroke-play grind and Castle Pines founder Jack Vickers established a high-water mark for hospitality. But disagreements between Vickers and PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem surrounding event dates, coupled with dwindling TV ratings, the lack of a title sponsor and the absence of Tiger Woods forced Vickers to pull the plug. "If I can't put on the best damn tournament possible," he said, "then I won't put one on at all."

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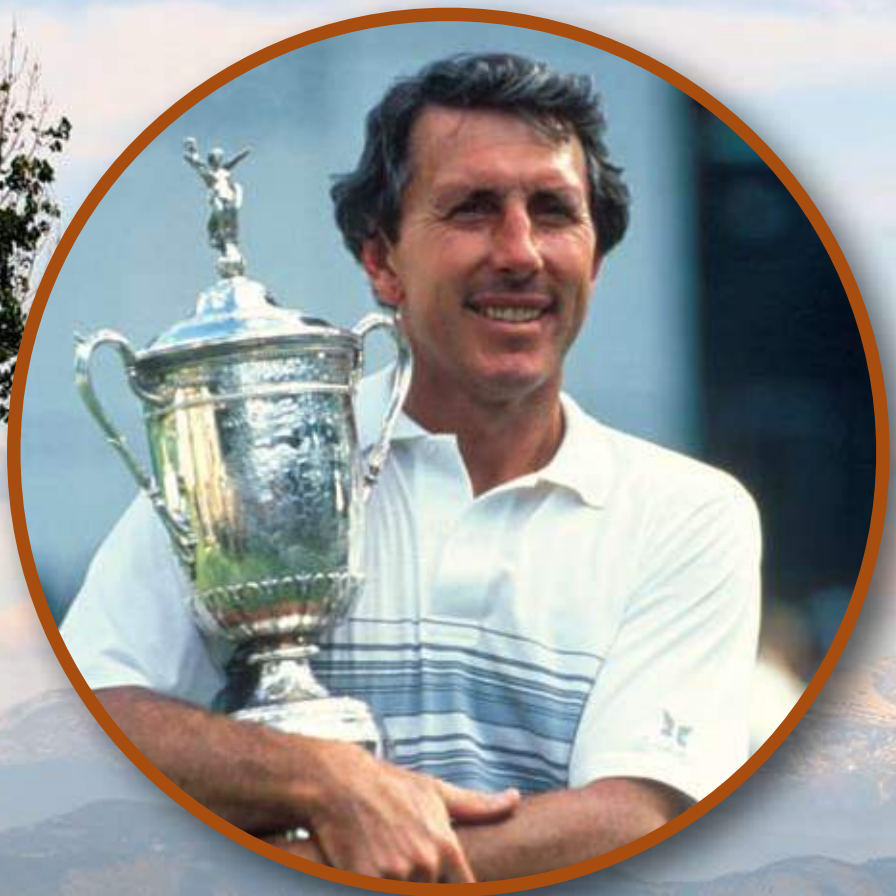

COLORADO GOLF ASSOCIATION cga 1915

COLORADO WOMEN'S CWGA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE BROADMOOR

2008

A Bear Plays Through at The Broadmoor During the U.S. Senior Open

Argentine Eduardo Romero, known as "El Gato" ("The Cat"), may have triumphed at the 2008 U.S. Senior Open, but it was "El Oso" ("The Bear") everyone remembers–and no, not Jack "The Golden Bear" Nicklaus. During the second round, an adult black bear gamboled across the back nine of the East Course at mid-day, crossing the forward tee box on No. 14 soon after Mark McNulty had teed off. Television golf analyst Dottie Pepper, among others, ran the other way on the 13th fairway. Berhard Langer froze. Amid shouts of "Bear!" the ursine invader departed as quickly as he arrived, through a drainage pipe onto the West Course, but not before being captured in images seen around the world. "You don't get that every week," John Cook said.



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OB SPORTS

2009
CommonGround Golf Course Opens

Although Tom Doak's 2006 design at Ballyneal gave Colorado another course among the world's Top 100, his work along the Denver-Aurora border could have a more lasting impact on the game. Located on the site of the old Mira Vista Golf Course and jointly run by the Colorado Golf Association and Colorado Women's Golf Association, CommonGround Golf Course opened Memorial Day "as a place for all, and all the game teaches." The par-71 course tests golfers of all abilities, especially on the greens, and has robust junior and caddie programs. "For us it's not, 'Are we making money?' but rather 'Are we growing more golfers?'" CGA Executive Director Ed Mate said. A site for statewide amateur championships, CommonGround, will serve as the supporting course to Cherry Hills during the 2012 U.S. Amateur Championship.

PHOTO BY SUE DRINKER/DRINKER DURRANCE GRAPHICS (TOP) AND COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



2009
Pioneers Finish 5th in NCAA Nationals

After the first round at Caves Valley Golf Club, site of the 2009 NCAA Women's Golf Championship, the University of Denver led the field by two shots–an amazing feat for a program that didn't exist until 1998 and lacks the competitive advantage of year-round warm weather. Led by Stephanie Sherlock, Katie Kemper and Dawn Shockley, DU would eventually finish behind Arizona State, UCLA, USC and Oklahoma State to earn a place among the country's elite.



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2010
Tom Lehman Wins the Senior PGA

For one glorious week, all the drama surrounding Colorado Golf Club and its unfinished clubhouse evaporated into the type of theater course architects Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw envisioned when they built the 7,604-yard course in Parker. Spirited Sunday rallies by Fred Couples (back-to-back eagles on 15 and 16) and David Frost (birdies on 15, 16 and 17) propelled them into a three-way playoff at 7-under par with third-round leader Tom Lehman. But with Lehman safely in the fairway on the first playoff hole, Couples and Frost both overcooked their drives, leading to double-bogeys and a victory for Lehman, who clinched it with par.





2011
Koreans Dominate The U.S. Women's Open

Golf fans will long remember the 66th U.S. Women's Open at The Broadmoor for two reasons: the numerous weather delays that pushed the event's final round into Monday; and the brilliant play of South Korea's So Yeon Ryu, whose dramatic birdie on the 72nd hole forced a three-hole playoff with compatriot Hee Kyung Seo. Ryu dominated Seo on the extra holes, winning handily. At her press conference, she credited as her inspiration Se Ri Pak, who won the event in 1998. She wasn't alone. South Korean players–including Pak, who finished 16 shots off the lead–comprised 23 percent of the total field at the event. AG

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2002

- Antelope Hills
- Bear Dance
- Cherry Creek
- Grand Elk
- Headwaters at Granby Ranch *(née Sol Vista)*
- Homestead at Fox Hollow
- Quint Valley
- Red Sky-Fazio

2003

- Colorado National *(née Vista Ridge)*
- Fossil Trace
- Ironbridge
- Red Sky-Norman
- Sumo Golf Village

2004

- Antler Creek
- Glacier Club (new 9)
- Lakota Canyon
- Highland Meadows
- Snowmass

2005

- Flying Horse
- The Bridges
- Pradera


Cherry Creek


Ironbridge


Lakota Canyon


The Bridges

COURSES OPENED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

2006

Colorado Golf Club

2007

Ballyneal

Bella Rosa

Blackstone

Brightwater

Broadmoor (Mountain)

Cougar Canyon

Cornerstone

Harmony

Heritage Todd Creek

Ravenna

2008

4 Mile Ranch

2009

CommonGround

2010

2011


Colorado Golf Club


Cougar Canyon


4 Mile Ranch


CommonGround

Colorado AvidGolfer 10th Anniversary

...AND COURSES THAT CLOSED (OR NEVER OPENED) IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

CLOSED

- **Antelope Hills**
- **Box Elder**
- **Brightwater**
- **Echo Basin**
- **Green Gables**
- **Mira Vista**
  (became CommonGround)
- **Mountain View**
- **Signature**
- **Vineyard**


Green Gables


Brightwater



NEVER OPENED

- **Bair Chase** *(Carbondale)*
- **Black Hawk** *(Gilpin County)*
- **Chenoa** *(Pitkin County)*
- **Crystal Valley Ranch** *(Castle Rock)*
- **Gateway Golf Course** *(Gateway)*
- **Jackson Creek Ranch** *(Sedalia)*
- **King's Point** *(Aurora)*
- **Macanta** *(Parker)*
- **Orvis Shorefox** *(Granby)*
- **Powderhorn Golf Course** *(Mesa)*
- **Red Rock Canyon** *(Colorado Springs)*
- **Shiloh Manor** *(Timnath)*
- **Stillwater Ranch** *(Silt)*
- **The Canyons** *(Douglas Co.)*

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1 MATCH POINTER

ERIK BILLINGER PGA Lead Instructor, Craig Koy Golf
303-752-7306 x2; craigkoygolf.com

When you stroke the ball instead of striking it, you'll get the ball rolling quicker, improve your touch and feel and, most importantly, develop a consistent and repeatable swing. Use a tennis ball to identify the difference between a strike and a stroke:



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2 POWER PLAY

Charlie Soule Lead Instructor, Green Valley Ranch Golf Academy
303-371-8700; gvrgolfacademy.com

Many of my students are plagued with an inability to take advantage of the power generated by their core because of a weak left arm (for right-handed players). When the left arm breaks down, it leads to countless problems, including loss of distance, poor ball contact, coming over the top and an excessive slice. Try keeping your left arm straight by focusing on a shorter swing (think about 75%). It's guaranteed to increase power and consistency.



3 GOLF IS A SPORT

Ann Finke PGA Director of Instruction, Country Club of Colorado
719-538-4080; ccofcolorado.com

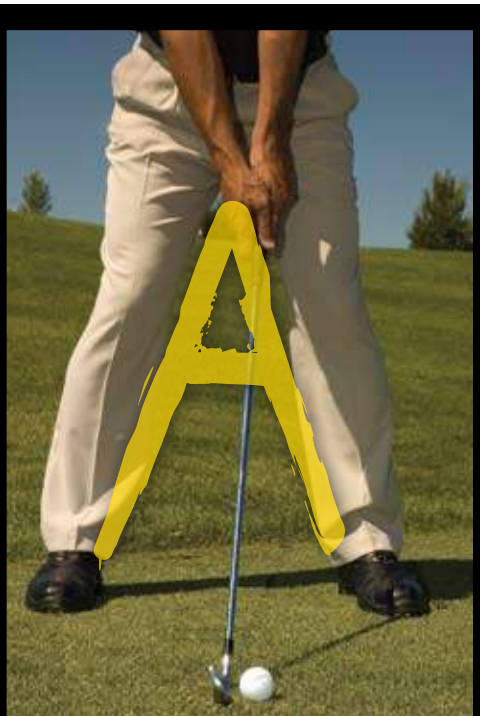
Teaching young kids–especially boys–proper posture can sometimes be challenging. I have them compare the golf posture to other games they have played, like tennis or basketball. By assuming a "ready" position to receive a serve in tennis or play defense in basketball, they'll learn to bend from their hips, relax their knees and allow their shoulders to come forward. Stressing athleticism helps kids see that golf is an athletic game and posture is the key to swinging consistently.

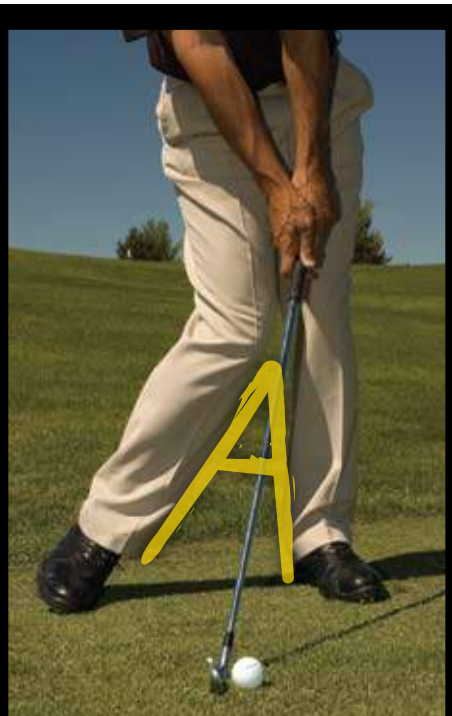


4 BRING YOUR "A" GAME

Eli Haskell Instructor, Green Valley Ranch Golf Academy
303-371-8700; gvrgolfacademy.com

To develop a more powerful and consistent golf swing, you need to understand the setup and impact positions are not the same. You need to turn the "Big A" formed by your lower body at setup into a "Little A" at impact.





Big A

Create the "Big A" by keeping your feet a little wider than shoulder width and your knees bent slightly with weight distributed equally on the balls of both feet. Keep your head even with–or just behind–the ball.

Little A

To achieve the proper impact position, change your "Big A" into a "Little A" by moving your right knee close to your left knee and keeping your left leg somewhat straight. You can easily accomplish this by turning your hips so that your belt buckle faces your target. Make sure your head stays behind the ball until impact.

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5 GET IT RIGHT

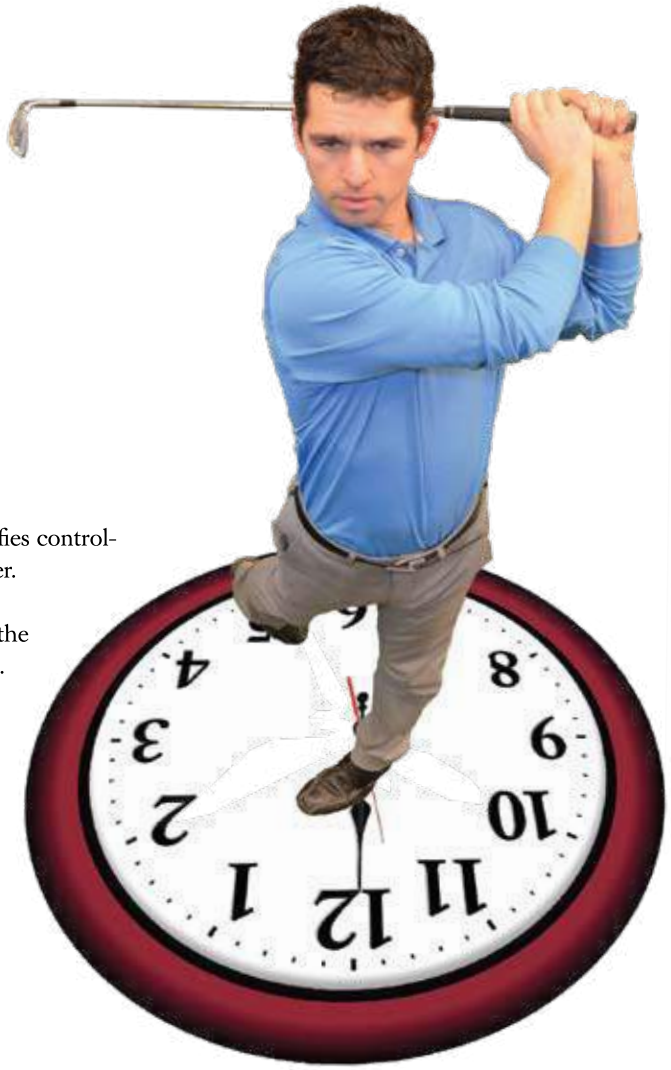
John Ogden PGA Head Professional, Cherry Hills Country Club
303-350-5200; chcc.com

A great way to make a better turn on your backswing is to think about turning your right shoulder instead of your left (for right-handed players). Turning your right shoulder will help you have more of a rounded swing, resulting in improved distance and consistency.

Practice this by setting up with a closed stance and take continual practice swings while focusing on your right shoulder passing behind the parallel of your right foot. You'll begin to notice your right shoulder relaxing and turning with greater ease. I'm confident you'll like the results.

6 TIME TO BUCKLE UP

Mark Kelbel
PGA Head Professional, The Broadmoor Golf Club
719-577-5790; broadmoor.com



Here's a tip I give all my students that greatly simplifies controlling ball flight–use your belt buckle as your barometer.

Picture your body surrounded by a giant clock on the ground, with the "12" pointing directly at your target. If your belt buckle is pointing one o'clock instead of twelve o'clock when you finish your swing, then the ball will almost certainly fly in that same direction. This is a very common error and one that's easily diagnosed with this tip, as it provides immediate feedback.

Hit balls with your feet together as a drill and work on getting your hips to fully rotate on your follow through.

7 THUMB A RIDE

Luke Brosterhous
Head PGA Professional, Haymaker Golf Club
haymakergolf.com; 970-870-1846

Hooking or pulling the ball results from turning over the club on impact. Try extending your left thumb (for right-handers) vertically down the shaft as you grip the club. A "long" left thumb will prevent you from turning it over.







8 GOLF PONG

Andy Hilts
PGA Master Professional, GolfTEC
303-779-9900; golftec.com

In order to hit crisp pitch shots, the sole of your wedge *must* bump the ground and not just brush the grass. When the sole of a wedge properly bumps the ground and strikes the ball at the same time you will see the ball pop up in the air and land softly on the green. A ping-pong ball in place of a golf ball on your living room carpet will help guarantee crisp contact with your wedges–and prevent damage to your home.

With the clubface of your sand wedge a couple degrees open at address, take some short pitch swings with the sole of the club thumping the carpet in the same spot each time. Place the ping-pong ball where the sole of the club is contacting the carpet. Listen closely for the thump of the carpet and click of the ping-pong ball to occur at the same time.



9 IMPACT POSITION

Geoff Greig
Founder, EvoSwing Golf/PGA Director of Instruction, Park Hill Learning Center
303-333-5411 x33; www.evoswinggolf.com

How do the pros get all that distance and maintain robot-like consistency? Simple. They square the clubface as late as possible before impact. If the right hand (for right-handed players) squares too early then you'll be prone to hitting slices, pulls and fat shots.

To get a feel for the proper impact motion and position, put your left hand behind your back and make a full swing with just your right arm.

1 When your hand is directly below your right shoulder, your palm should be parallel to your target line and facing away from you.





2 Immediately after impact, when your right arm is parallel to the ground and even with your belt, the palm should have rotated 180 degrees, facing inward.

Once you're comfortable with this motion, add a club and try to replicate in your swing.



KUNI HONDA on Arapahoe

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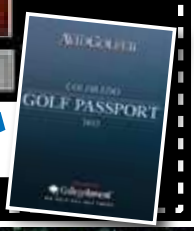

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10 ROUGHIN' IT

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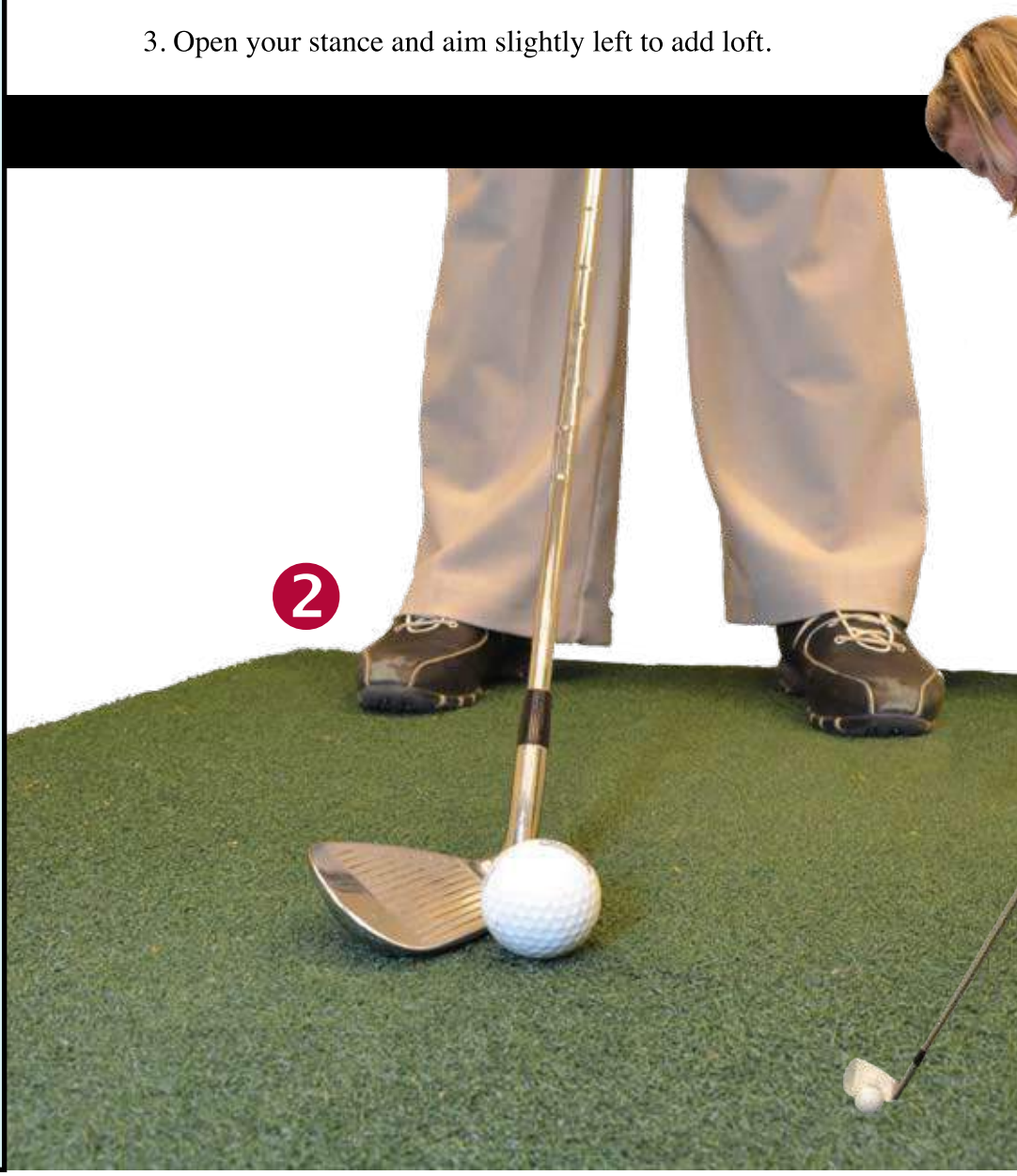
PGA Head Professional, Colorado Golf Club
303-840-5400; coloradogolfclub.com

Playing from deep rough is a problem golfers face every single round. Use the following three steps to escape and save your score:

1. Take an extra club, choke down about an inch and grip tighter than usual.

2. Open the clubface by a few degrees. This will help the blade slide through the grass, resulting in crisper contact.

3. Open your stance and aim slightly left to add loft.





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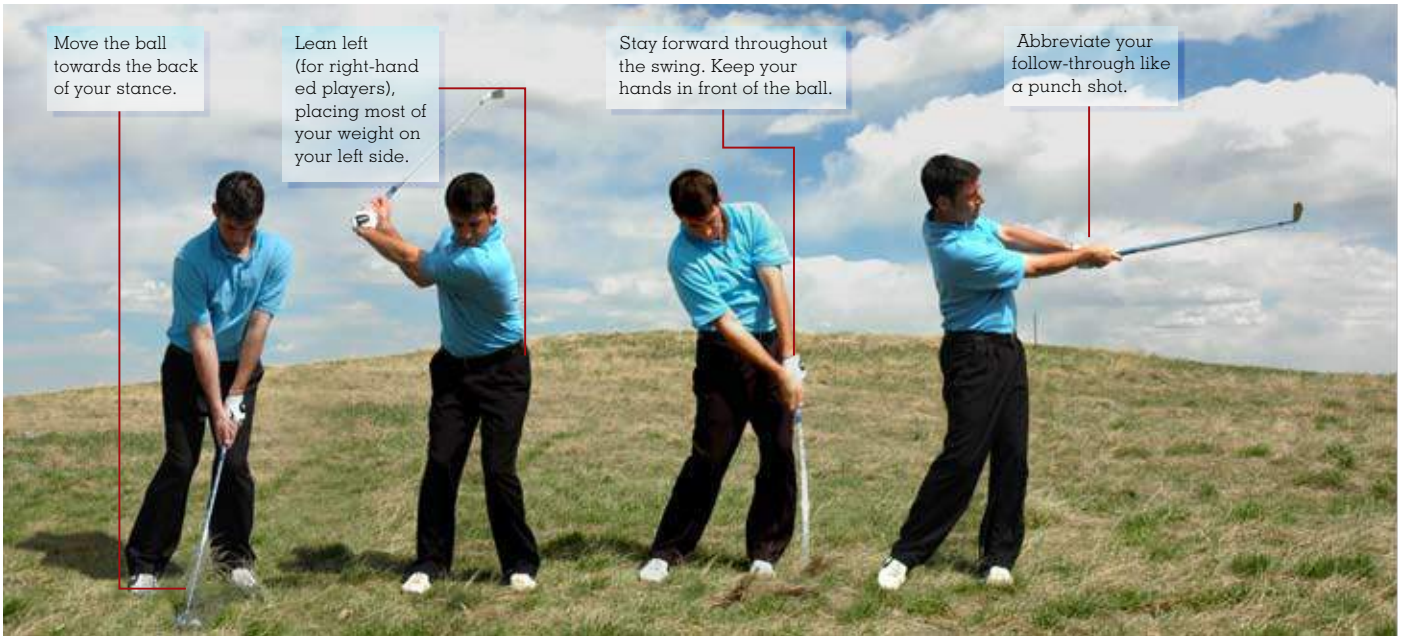
11 THE GOLFER IN THE RYE

Whether you wind up tangled in the weeds, buried in a bunker, or have the misfortune of settling into a divot, a steep swing can get you out of heaps of trouble.



Set up with the majority of your weight on your left foot (for right-handed players) and slightly drop your left shoulder.

Don't make your normal, full shoulder turn. This will allow you to take the club on a steeper swing plane.

Tighten your grip pressure to prevent the club from torquing in deep grass.

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NORMAL



STEEP



1 Set up with the majority of your weight on your left foot (for right-handed players) and slightly drop your left shoulder.

2 Don't make your normal, full shoulder turn. This will allow you to take the club on a steeper swing plane.

3 Tighten your grip pressure to prevent the club from torquing in deep grass. AG

Trent Wearner
PGA Instructor, Trent Wearner Golf Academy
720-234-4653; trentwearnergolf.com

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THE SWING OF CLUBS

What's in your bag? A decade makes a big difference.

By Ted Johnson

2002

DRIVER | Callaway '97 Big Bertha 290cc titanium head

3-WOOD | Orlimar 13-degree Trimetal with steel maraging face

5-WOOD | Cobra Baffler persimmon, circa 1980

3-IRON | Mizuno MP33

4-9 IRONS | Mizuno MP33

PW | Ping Eye2 circa 1987

SW | Cleveland model 588, 56-degree

LW | Ping Eye2 circa 1987

PUTTER | Odyssey White Hot 34-inches

BALL | Titleist ProV1

BAG | Ping Hoofer, the most popular carry bag in college golf



2012



5-WOOD & 3-IRON
Cobra Baffler Rail Hybrid stainless steel 17- and 19-degree

Rails on sole get ball out of rough; thin, high-strength clubface for distance. 3-iron now used as fireplace poker and, on occasion, cane.



3-WOOD
Rocketbalz 13-degree, with adjustable face loft, lie angle technology

Same face and tech as driver; composite head = greater distance.



DRIVER
TaylorMade Rocketballz 460cc composite head

50 grams less due to head and Ultralite shaft means higher clubhead speed.



4-9 IRONS
Adams IDEA pro a12

Mizuno 33s had amazing feel, but the IDEA pro a12's easier to hit, longer.

WEDGES



Cleveland 588 model, 52 & 56 degree

The classic "player's wedge" for aggressive fairway play.



Titleist Vokey Spin Milled 60-degree

Vokey line offers good spin but take care of the face.



PUTTER
TaylorMade Ghost Spider Belly putter 50-in.

White Hot matched well with urethane balls, but belly's stability is unbeatable.



BAG
SunMountain Swift ZG

Purist in me remains; love to walk.



SunMountain SV1 Speedcart

Walking is now much less of a burden.

BALL
Bridgestone B330S

Paid nearly $100 for first ProV1s on eBay; new B330s better, more durable.

Perfect 10s...

These seven aspiring golfers share the same 2002 birth year as Colorado AvidGolfer—and the same love of the game.

By Kasey Anna Crosby



Ben Zimmerman

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "I love golf because it is an individual sport. If I don't do well, it's all on me. I really like the pressure."
- **When did you start playing?**
  "I started putting and chipping when I was three, and I started playing rounds when I was five."
- **Who is your favorite person to play golf with?**
  "I love playing with my dad. He knows when I am not having a good day. He always plays from a harder position so that he can be competitive with me."
- **What do you like least about golf?**
  "The point of the game is to hit the ball the fewest amount of times, but all I want to do it hit the ball more! I wish all holes were super-duper long."
- **Who is your favorite golfer?**
  "Rory McIlroy because he's young & always keeps his cool."



John Marble

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "It teaches you responsibility, perseverance, and respect."
- **What do you like least about golf?**
  "I don't really like the competition at such a young age. I think it is much more important to just have fun."
- **Where is your favorite place to play golf?**
  "Raccoon Creek. Everyone knows me, and I have a lot of friends who play there."
- **What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while playing golf?**
  "On the fifth hole at Indian Tree, I had a 50-foot putt. The ball curved to the left, curved to the right, curved back to the left—and finally went into the hole."

"John is a joy to be around. I really enjoy working with him. He really works hard to improve his game, and he's always getting better."
—Trent Wearner, PGA Professional, Trent Wearner Golf



Tyler Fuhs

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "It is a very interesting sport and it's always a challenge."
- **What do you like least about golf?**
  "I don't like that the hole is so far away."
- **Who is your favorite golfer?**
  "Tiger Woods because he plays such a great game."
- **What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while playing golf?**
  "One time a beaver walked on the course right in front of us."

"Tyler has an amazing demeanor for the game. He stays calm through both good and bad shots, and is very easy to work with." —Steve Beach, PGA Professional, Glenmoor CC



Roman Hamilton

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "I really just enjoy the game. It is very friendly and peaceful. I also really enjoy the competition."
- **When did you start playing?**
  "When I was three. My dad taught me to play. He is always on my side. "
- **What do you like least about golf?**
  "I don't like when people yell 'fore.' I also really don't like getting hit in the head with balls."
- **Where is your fa<vorite place to play golf?**
  "Green Valley Ranch. I have a lot of friends at the course, there are a lot of people to compete with, and the course is beautiful and full of animals. I really like when I see snakes out there."
- **Who is your favorite golfer?**
  "Tiger Woods. He is just smooth. He putts great. He's who made me start watching golf on TV.
- **What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while playing golf?**
  "At Emerald Greens my mom hit a ball off a tree and it bounced back and almost hit her. "

"Roman started his lessons and he was already very advanced. We decided to focus his energy and provide him with a challenge by giving him a leadership role with the other kids. That really helped him to learn more patience and become a better golfer. "
—Shane Wahbeh, PGA Professional, The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch



Marie Jordaan

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "I like to play with my older brother and sister. I also really like to travel to play in tournaments, and meeting new people."
- **What do you like least about golf?**
  "During the winter you can't go outside to play in Colorado. I also don't like putting on sunscreen."
- **Where is your favorite place to play golf?**
  "The Wigwam in Phoenix."
- **What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while playing golf?**
  "At Saddlebrook Resort in Florida I saw an alligator."

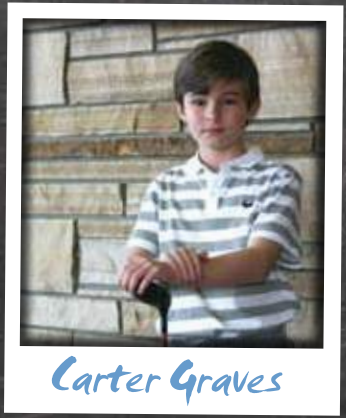
"Marie is a great golfer because she loves to play with her older brother and sister. She travels for golf often so that she can play year-round."
—Steve Beach, PGA Professional, Glenmoor CC



Emma Fey

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  "Because my dad tells me it is hard to learn when you are older. I also really like playing nine holes with my family."
- **What do you like least about it?**
  "I really don't like carrying my bag."
- **Where is your favorite place to play?**
  "Glenmoor."
- **Who is your favorite golfer?**
  "My dad."

"Emma doesn't play in any tournaments yet, but she is a great golfer who loves to play with her family. She has improved a lot since she first started lessons."
—Steve Beach, PGA Professional, Glenmoor CC

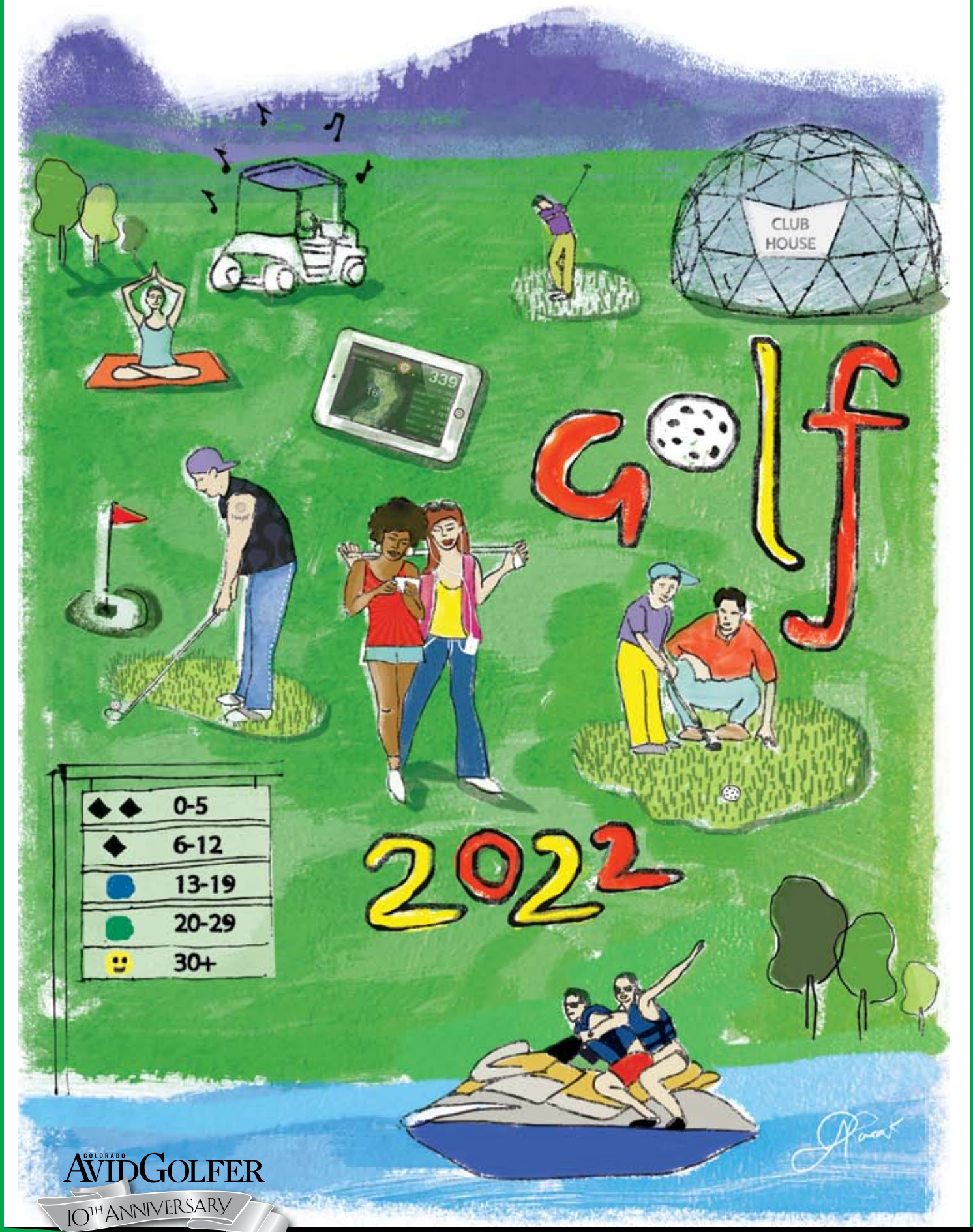


Carter Graves

- **Why do you love to play golf?**
  " It's always a challenge. You experience harsh weather, and on new courses, you never know what is coming up."
- **Who is your favorite golfer?**
  "Luke Donald because he has good hair, and that is important when you are wearing a visor."
- **What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you while playing golf?**
  "One time the sprinklers turned on, but we ran out of their way."

"Carter's game is great because of all the tournaments that he plays in. He is also a wonderful baseball player. I think Carter is one of the most improved students that I have."
—Steve Beach, PGA Professional, Glenmoor CC

Colorado Avid Golfer 10th Anniversary



COLORADO AVIDGOLFER
10TH ANNIVERSARY

NOW AND TEN

BY
J.J. KEEGAN

IN 1899, WHEN 307 GOLF COURSES EXISTED IN THE UNITED STATES, Thorstein Veblen, the author of *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, expressed his opinion that individuals participated in golf as a way to demonstrate their conspicuous consumption of leisure. In other words, as America transitioned from an agrarian to an industrial society, individuals were attracted to the sport as a way of showing off their superior financial position and to flaunt their lack of need for work.

At that time, Colorado was represented by two courses: the City and County of Denver's Overland Park and Colorado Springs' Patty Jewett. Overland Park, which opened in 1895, was both the fifth municipal golf course in America and the fifth course opened west of the Mississippi River. Play at Patty Jewett commenced in 1898.

From that humble beginning, golf in the United States has grown to a $24.8 billion industry in which 26 million golfers play 460 million rounds while frequenting 15,882 facilities. In Colorado, more than 460,000 golfers spend nearly $400 million while playing 7.9 million rounds on the state's 256 golf courses.

Despite that growth, more than 110 years later, golf has not lost its elitist brand. Two-thirds of the rounds are played are by those with a household income of at least $85,500, and their median age is 41.9. The national median household income is $51,618, with a median age of 37.1. For every round played in America by someone who is Hispanic or African-American, Caucasians play seven rounds. For every round played by a female, men play 5.1 rounds. With Generation Y playing 58 percent less than baby boomers, this is hardly the foundation for an industry hoping for dynamic growth.

Why is golf challenged? Our time-crunched society is an antithesis to leisure. With the cultural changes stimulated by the evolution of technology and our quest to be constantly updated in an experience-based economy of endless choices, we have witnessed a lifestyle integration of work and play. In addition, as Madelyn Hochstein, president of the eminent social science and marketing research firm Daniel Yankelvoich Group, stated at a recent Golf 20/20 conference, "We have become a child-centered society in which status is now earned by demonstrating how busy we are."

The harsh economic environment combined with adverse weather during the past several years, golf is a struggling industry in which the supply of facilities exceeds the demand. During the past six years, 257 more U.S. courses have closed than opened. To balance the industry, my strategic consulting practice, Golf Convergence, forecasts 1,659 facilities should close in the United States. That's 10.4 percent of the current total.

In Colorado, we believe the courses likely to be at risk are in the hinterlands, where a paucity of population exists or where courses are clustered in tight groups in the suburbs. Don't be surprised if four or five courses in the Denver metro area, as well as courses in Cañon City, Glenwood Springs, Gypsum, Ft. Collins, Longmont, Loveland, Pueblo, Trinidad or Walsenburg close in the next 15 years. A more frequent occurrence than heretofore will be private clubs opening their facilities to the public. In 2011, private clubs such as Garden of the Gods, Ravenna and Red Rocks sponsored open golf outings for the public. Expect more clubs to follow suit over the coming years.

Colorado, however, will likely be spared losing 10.4 percent of its courses. This owes in large part to: 1) the fitness orientation of its



AUTHOR AND AUGUR: Keegan takes the long view of the game's future.

citizens, Colorado being the least obese state in America; 2) the median income in the state, which exceeds the national average by 6 percent; and 3) the number of municipal golf courses, which is double national averages, as highlighted below.

Course Type	United States	Colorado
Daily Fee	58.10%	44.92%
Municipal	15.06%	31.25%
Private	26.04%	23.83%

In the short term, net losses at municipal golf courses can be covered by general fund reserves and capital improvements funded through favorable borrowing. Only to the extent that net losses exceed the cost of maintaining open park space, $1,500 per acre per annum, municipalities aren't likely to close their golf courses, although accelerating fringe benefits paid government employees and utility costs are a growing concern.

New course construction, at an average cost of nearly $8 million, will grind to a halt. Since the average life of a golf course's infrastructure is 20 years, renovations will become in vogue as the median Colorado course was built in 1981. The City and County of Denver's Wellshire and Louisville's Coal Creek are the first courses likely to see major improvements. A renovation at Denver's City Park is long overdue. Water conservation efforts will make brown the new green on golf courses. Considering these multiple factors, we need to ask, "What does the future hold for the golf industry?"

At the national level, we don't need a crystal ball. We just need to understand the motivations of those who influence the game and the business of golf.

One of game's influencers, the United States Golf Association, is steadfast in its adherence to maintaining tradition by applying a single set of rules and uniform equipment to level the playing field for national championships. In 2000, at the PGA Merchandise Show, then Executive Director David Fey stated, "It is from the innate difficulty of the game that enjoyment emanates and that the rules needed to be consistently applied." Current Executive Director, Mike Davis, reiterated that philosophy at the USGA Annual Meeting in February, 2012.

In contrast, Arnold Palmer stated is his book, *Playing by the Rules*, "I'm sure that I could watch the golfers at one of my clubs for a while on any given day and be able to disqualify half of them for this or that infraction. But why would I want to? Golf should be fun. And those of us who love the game should be encouraging fun and recreation, not building roadblocks for future golfing generations. The USGA would be well served by adopting that attitude."

Think about it: Golf is the only major sport that doesn't have a bifurcation of its rules or its equipment to encourage the beginner to learn or the less skilled to play more frequently. Baseball, for example, gradually increases distances between bases as players mature and improve; football has its flag leagues with shorter fields and myriad weight and age restrictions for younger players; and basketball features lower rims for juniors and variable 3-point lines for different levels of competition.

Golf is expensive to play and difficult to learn. It can be very time-consuming, as evidenced by the six-hour round during the 2012 Pebble Beach Pro-Am. And frankly, if one isn't skilled, it isn't a lot of fun. For the individual not focused on score or championships, golf's only socially redeeming value is that the course is a fabulous nature preserve to enjoy and share the fellowship of family and friends.

Thus, the USGA and the state golf associations–which I perceive as licensed franchisees performing sales and administrative duties–exist to protect the status quo and portend to stymie the economic success of the golf industry.

While the USGA's focus will remain on the game of golf, the 7,000 members of the National Golf Course Owners Association, the 28,000 members of the PGA, and the

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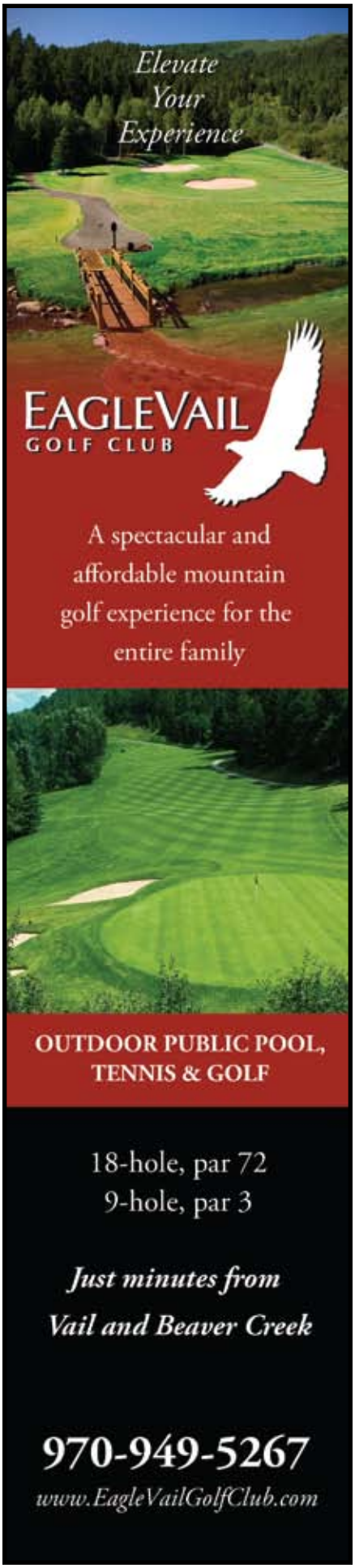

1,377 members of the LPGA will become increasingly focused on the business of golf, which provides each their living.

This translates to recruiting new players by emphasizing youth, women and minorities, and motivating former players to return with greater urgency. We are already seeing this in new golf-industry initiatives such as Golf 2.0, Get Golf Ready, Tee It Forward, Family Golf Monthly, and Play Golf America.

These programs will redefine golf and shatter the hallowed traditions on which the industry's brand image has been formed. Bastions like Castle Pines Golf Club, with its properly reserved reverence from Mr. Vickers; Cherry Hills, with its championship pedigree; and Denver Country Club, with its blue-blood orientation of Denver's finest, will be unaffected as a small segment of society will seek to preserve an aristocratic lifestyle. But the remaining 90 percent of facilities will undergo massive changes.

To open the entry door to the game in order to compete for the entertainment dollar, the industry will adapt to the cultural changes in our society. Denim, tee shirts, and golf hats worn backwards will be accepted. Cell phones will be welcomed. Roaming beverage carts will disappear as golfers use their mobile devices to place food and beverage orders while playing.

Tee markers will be based on ability, not gender or age, similar to the signage used on ski slopes. Courses will become easier and the slope rating, currently at 127, will probably decrease as renovations will make the courses more player-friendly. Those difficult golf courses in remote areas, such as the Sand Hills of Nebraska, are targets for closing. As they do for skiing, customers of all abilities will be able to rent better equipment at municipal and daily fee courses instead of having to invest $1,000 or more for a set of golf clubs. This is going to open up the game to the infrequent player who wants to play with the latest gear.

At private clubs, high-equity initiation fees will be replaced by low non-refundable initiation fees and monthly membership fees for not only golf but for a wide range of activities. Memberships in multiple clubs will subside, thanks to the evolution of concepts like the Outpost Club and, at a different level, Canongate. Clubhouses will be transformed to sports bars, fitness facilities, and day-care centers. The fixed orientation of an 18-hole course will lessen, and golfers will be encouraged to play merely the number of holes they desire, whether 3, 6, 9, 12 or 15, with flexible rate schedules introduced.

At all golf courses, the number of women professionally employed in the business of golf, currently 5 percent, will dramatically and fortunately rise. The LPGA and the PGA will consolidate their educational programs and raise the certification bar significantly based on expertise in business practices. Those organizations could downsize by 25 percent without jeopardizing the supply of required business professionals. The conflicting forces of sexism and feminism, so prevalent today, will abate, but unfortunately will not be eliminated.

Yield management, customer segmentation, and CRM marketing that leverages social media will become standard business practices. Golf Channel (NBC/Comcast) will likely become the leading technology supplier in the golf industry. The

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development of software that can run the course on "auto-pilot," will help streamline and improve efficiency.

Counters will disappear, as golf shops will be transformed into retail stores like Apple and Microsoft. Carts will become more like entertainment centers, with GPS, adapters for iPods, music systems and beverage/snack compartments. New clean bathrooms, rather than porta-potties, will be the primary capital improvement at golf courses to render them more women-friendly.

What do these changes mean? For people who have pondered about learning the sport, it is a great time to walk through the entry door. Golf course owners and PGA Professionals will be striving to provide value-based entertainment for you, your family and friends in a warm and welcoming environment. For the avid and core golfer, equipment manufacturers will be continue to introduce fabulous new designs to make your round more competitive. All will benefit from third-party consolidators placing downward pressure on green fees so that cost of playing golf will become affordable.

Are these predictions likely to occur? The theory as to what should occur is well documented. Thus, in an industry known for firmly preserving the status quo, the only thing known for sure is that capitalism creates and capitalism destroys. The golf business is in the entertainment sector of the nation's economy. In spite of all that is financially negative about the golf industry as it exists today, I believe it can successfully adapt to the changes in our society. In that case, if the golf industry were a common stock, it would make for a wise long-term investment. AG

J. J. Keegan, a Golf Magazine panelist, is the managing principal of Golf Convergence and the author of The Business of Golf–What Are You Thinking? *He formed his opinions from flying more than 2.5 million miles during the past two decades visiting over 4,000 golf courses in 41 countries, counseling golf course owners and managers how to maximize their investment return. As his few friends frequently say, "He is often in error, but never in doubt." For more details and stories, please visit ColoradoAvidGolfer.com and become a follower of CAG on Facebook and Twitter.*





DIGGIN' OUR NICHE

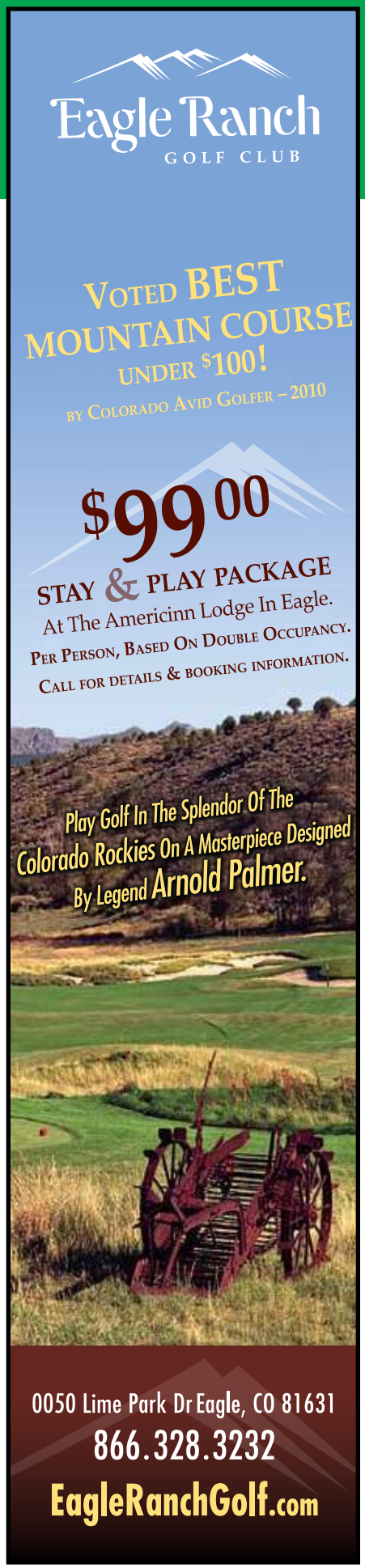




IN TEN YEARS, GOLF WILL LOOK MUCH LIKE IT DOES NOW—AND THAT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE IT GREAT. BY ED MATE



FOUR YEARS AGO, I ATTENDED A GOLF industry meeting where Joe Beditz, president and CEO of the National Golf Foundation (NGF) spoke about the state of the game. After his presentation I asked him this question: if golf were a patient being admitted into a hospital today, how would you classify its condition–grave, critical, life-support?



Without hesitation, Joe's answer was "stable."

His reply surprised me. This was 2008 after all, a time when the housing bubble burst, the mortgage crisis had the country in all-out panic mode and the golf industry, an industry that rode the coattails of the housing and mortgage boom, seemed to be at ground zero of the collapse.

Why stable? Joe reminded me that golf has been, and will likely always be, a niche sport loved and adored by an incredibly stable socioeconomic strata (an affluent 10 to 12 percent of the overall population) who would sooner give up their left…lung than the game of golf. Joe reminded me that every market ebbs and flows and that the current oversupply of courses would correct itself over time. His comments were a welcome relief to the "deer in the headlights" mentality that dominated the mood of the industry then and are, in my opinion (as well as Joe's) equally accurate and germane today.

While the fear of 2008 has subsided, the golf industry seems to have settled into a mid-life crisis. The conservative and reliable spouse that was once golf is now thinking about getting a tattoo and buying a Harley. The staid traditions of the game of golf are now viewed as boring, too slow and out of touch with the high-tech, "that's-so-15-seconds-ago" mentality that permeates today's culture. A sport that historically attracted players on the basis of its inherent challenges is now dominated by equipment manufacturer's promises of "forgiveness."

This paradigm shift is most evident in the area of junior golf. Yesterday's junior golfer thought that hanging around older people was cool, learning to play a difficult game was fun and rewarding, and being outside was a welcome relief from school. Today's junior golfer doesn't want to be around boring old people, defines challenge and adversity as getting to level 12



GRATEFUL ED: Mate appreciates golf's traditions.

on Angry Birds and thinks riding in a car without air-conditioning is child abuse. But even more important than the mindset of our children is the power and control they wield over the decisions of their parents. Ward Cleaver is dead, "The Beaver" is nearing retirement and "The Beaver's" son is driving eight screaming 11-year old girls to a Taylor Swift concert. Is it the game's fault that today's kids don't bond with golf? Should the game change to reach out to families who are so overscheduled that a four-hour round of golf constitutes a family reunion?

These questions are particularly pertinent to the Colorado Golf Association (CGA). The CGA was formed in 1915 to promote and serve the best interests and true spirit of golf in the state of Colorado, or, as we say, to "keep the game you love the game you love." As Executive Director of the CGA, I consider it my professional obligation to preserve the traditions of the game; and as someone who grew up as a caddie, I consider it my personal obligation to pass along these traditions to my children and some day to my children's children. For nearly 100 years the CGA has conducted state championships, administered the statewide handicap system, served as the local authority on the Rules of Golf and Amateur Status, promoted caddie programs and the Evans Caddie Scholarship, and otherwise represented the honorable traditions of the game. At the very core of these traditions is the philosophy that golf, like life, is not easy. Golf, like life, is not fair. But if you play by the Rules and do the right thing, you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you withstood the test.

So what does Joe Beditz of the NGF say

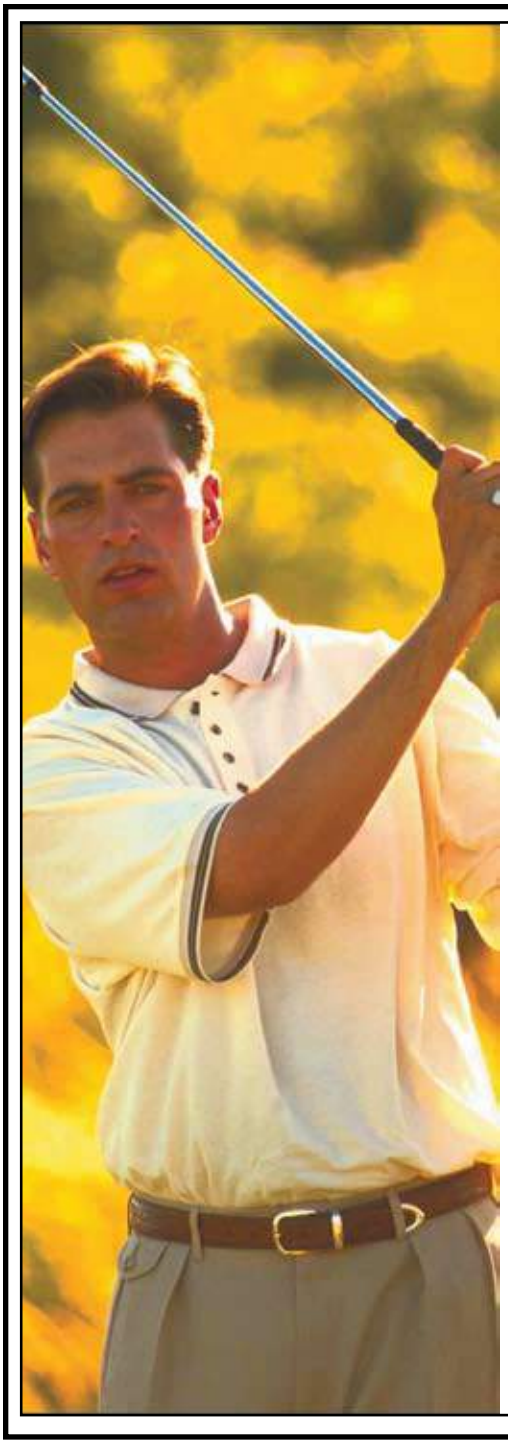
today? Guess what, same answer–stable. The gross oversupply of golf courses is slowly thawing (for the sixth straight year golf course construction had "net negative" growth–i.e. more courses closed than opened), participation has stabilized and the NGF predicts slow steady growth in participation as the economy improves. Golf is a great game. Golf has stood the test of time. The biggest risk we face isn't doing nothing; it is changing a great game to accommodate the 90 percent of the population that has never connected with the sport.

"Golf develops the good qualities of man's nature and softens the poor ones," the venerable Walter Travis wrote more than a century ago. "It is a developer and builder of character without peer. It is a leveler of rank and class, where rich and poor meet on common ground. It cultivates patience and endurance under adversity and yet keeps alive the fires of hope."

It is these qualities that make golf great and that allow it to endure. The game is stable because it was built on the bedrock of these traditions. Now is not the time to change them–it is the time to celebrate and embrace them. Yes, certain golf "traditions" of elitism, snobbery and plain old discrimination need to go the way of the feathery, and it's taken a century of social and economic progress for the game to become the "great leveler" Travis described. But the basic fabric of a game that doesn't see color, age, gender or physical limitation–an individual pursuit of golfer versus self and player versus course; and the rewards that come from sticking with a very difficult, time intensive, and, yes, often frustrating game–shouldn't be messed with.

Oh, and by the way, your smartphone can't download a perfectly struck drive or a walk up the 18th fairway with your granddaughter. There's no app for that. AG

Ed Mate has been the Executive Director of the Colorado Golf Association since 2000, and has been a part of the CGA as a junior player, caddie, Evans Scholar and summer intern for many years before that. He serves on the Board of Trustees for The First Tee of Green Valley Ranch and previously worked as the Tournament Director for the Colorado Section of the PGA of America. For more details and stories, please visitColoradoAvidGolfer.com and become a follower of CAG on Facebook and Twitter.



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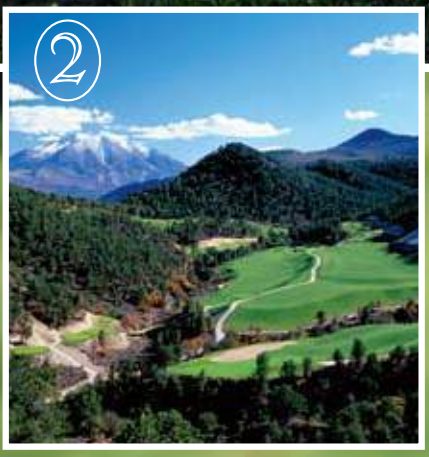









7 (BONUS)



Back-Nine Beginners

Because tenth holes, like tenth anniversaries, are worth celebrating.

Not as nerve-racking as a No. 1 or as decisive as a No. 18, a tenth hole can nonetheless define a round. The first hole after that burger, that beer or that bathroom break at the turn sets the tone for the eight that follow. It can represent a fresh start, the first step in getting even after losing the front side. Or it can open a window of opportunity for opponents you've dominated for nine holes. The roads to ruin, triumph and redemption all start on No. 10. The road to a great prize also begins there if you can identify the Colorado courses on which these tenth holes (and one tenth hole marker) appear.

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