

2023

GOLF GUIDE



The Mendota Reporter and The Amboy News
Wednesday, May 3, 2023



Summer

RATES

SUMMER RATES

Monday-Friday

9 holes w/cart \$18

18 holes w/cart \$29

Saturday & Sunday

9 holes w/cart \$23

18 holes w/cart \$39

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The modern game of golf is believed to have origins in Scotland.

How golf got its start

Many people cannot think of a better place to spend an afternoon than out on the links. From prestigious and private country clubs to public courses, more than 15,000 golf courses dot the American landscape, while there are 2,298 golf courses in Canada.

The early days of golf

The modern game of golf is believed to have origins in Scotland, although ball-and-stick games are attributed to other areas as well. For example, in the 13th century, the Dutch played a game with a leather ball being hit to reach a target. According to The Golf Historian, others trace the roots of golf as far back as 100 BCE in Rome and a game called “pagancia.”

Golf was played for some time in Scotland, but in 1457 King James II prohibited the game because he saw it as a distraction from archery practice and other training required for defense of the country. By 1500, golf bans were lifted and even royalty were playing — helping to spread golf’s popularity throughout Europe, according to the history resource Historic UK. In fact, Mary, Queen of Scots was believed to have played the game and brought it to France when she studied there, while King Charles I brought the game to England.

Golf officially became a sport in 1744 when the first club was formed by the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith. Later, the St. Andrews Society of Golfers was formed to compete in its own annual competition, using Leith’s rules. St. Andrews in Scotland is often recognized as the historic hometown of golf.

Golf equipment

The earliest golf clubs were made mostly from apple, beach, holly, and pear wood. The balls were made of wood or hard leather. Other historic documents reference balls stuffed with feathers.

North American golf

While many other parts of the world took to golf very early, the United States was late to the game, with only a smattering of people playing during the 18th century. The oldest permanent golf club in North America was not an American creation; the first club was established in Montreal in 1873. It was not until 1894 that the United States Golf Association was formed, according to the Keiser University College of Golf.

Professional golf recognition

The Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) was established in 1916 after a meeting of golf professionals and several leading amateur golfers at Taplow Club in New York City. Its purpose was to raise the status of people earning their living from playing the game, according to the PGA. Today, there are more than 8,000 members in 80 countries. PGA professionals learn the latest skills and participate in annual PGA Tour competitions testing their prowess. The top five winningest PGA Tour players are:

- Sam Snead: 82 wins
- Tiger Woods: 82 wins
- Jack Nicklaus: 73 wins
- Ben Hogan: 64 wins
- Arnold Palmer: 62 wins

Golf is played all over the world. It may have ancient roots, but golf remains popular among people of all ages.

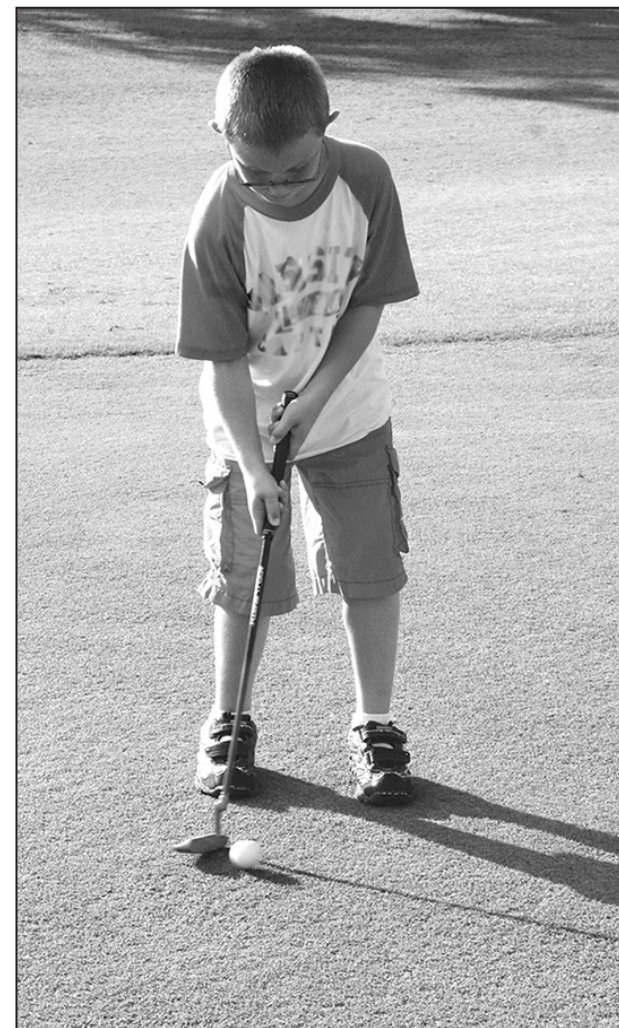
How to get kids into golf

When a global pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020, parents were left scrambling for fun and healthy ways to keep their kids occupied. Virtual learning sessions replaced days spent in the classroom, and many extracurricular activities were canceled in an attempt to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Parents tried to find activities that kids could enjoy while still adhering to social distancing guidelines, and that led many moms and dads to consider golf.

Golf is an outdoor activity that does not require a large group of people, making it an ideal recreational activity during the era of social distancing. In fact, the number of youth golfers skyrocketed during the first six months of pandemic. According to Youth on Course, a nationwide program for children between the ages of six and 18 that offers access to more than 1,000 golf courses for a nominal fee, the number of rounds played by program members between January 2020 and July 2020 increased by 76 percent over the same period a year earlier.

Golf isn’t just beneficial during the age of social distancing. It’s also a great way for parents to get kids to exercise and keep them off of their devices as they enjoy the great outdoors. Golf is a difficult game, and that difficulty may discourage some youngsters from playing. However, parents can overcome that hurdle and others as they try get their kids excited about playing golf.

• Enroll kids in a youth organization. An organization like Youth on Course excites many youngsters



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because they see children their own age playing golf. That means they can go golfing with friends and talk about the game when they’re not on the course.

• Get the right gear. PGA of America recommends getting kids a putter and a wedge that are made for kids their height, noting the availability of clubs specifically made for juniors. An age-appropriate wedge is short and easy to get in the air. That should make it easier for kids to play, increasing the chances they’ll enjoy themselves.

• Keep it light and fun. Golf can frustrate even the most skilled professionals. It’s important to downplay any frustration kids feel. Parents playing alongside their children must avoid growing frustrated if their own rounds aren’t going well. PGA of America advises parents to not put any expectations on youngsters as they learn the game, focusing instead on how much fun it is to play a round at a beautiful course.

Golf is a great game for people of all ages, including youngsters.



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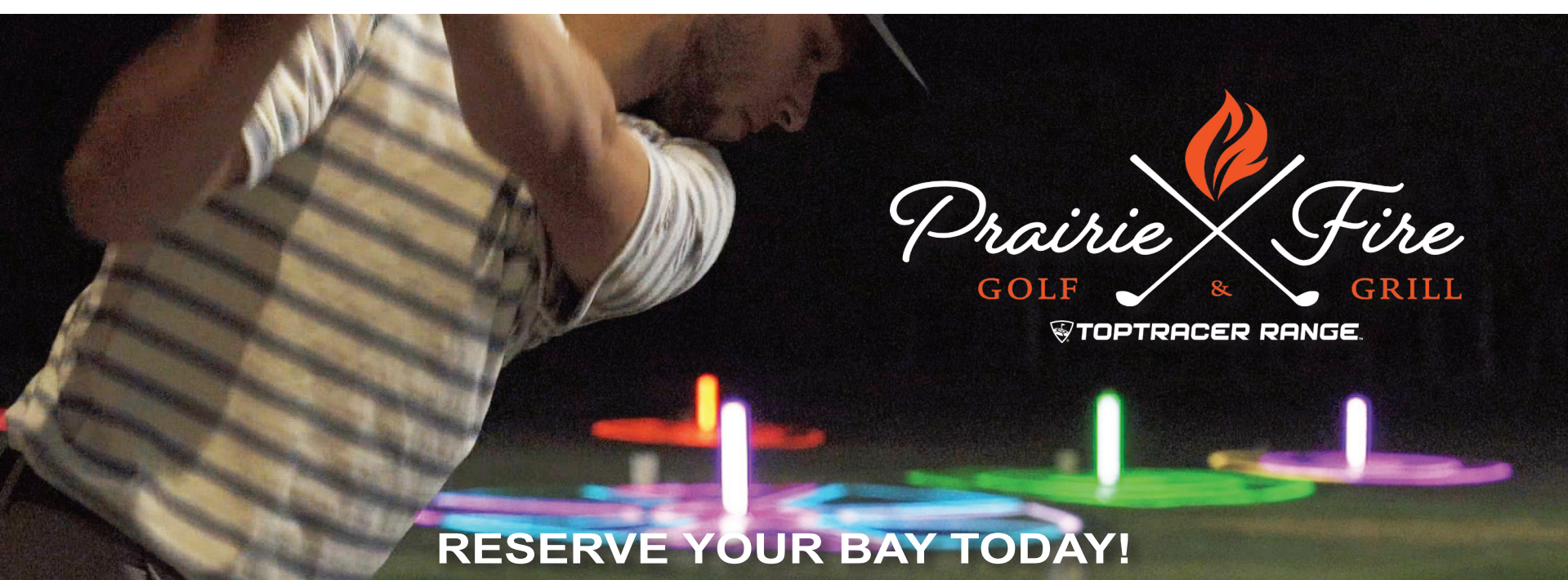
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Reporter office located at 703 Illinois Ave. Phone 815-539-9396.**

6 ways to improve your putting skills

Golf requires mastery of a wide array of skills. Many novice players focus on improving skills related to their swings. Yet they shouldn't overlook the importance of improving their short games as well.

In golf, short game refers to the golf shots golfers must make when they're near or on the green. According to Golf Distillery, a golf play information and tips site, shots like bunker shots, chips and putts are part of the short game. Improving these skills can go a long way toward bettering one's game.

1. Learn "green-reading" techniques. According to a Golf Magazine-sponsored study through Pinehurst Golf Academy, 65 percent

of golfers under-read the break on a typical putt. Incorrect reads can add to many lost strokes. Reading the green involves determining the correct slope and distance. Golfers who take depth-perception tests and continually practice their skills at reading both the distance and the slope can improve their putts.

2. Change perspective. Different putts require different perspectives in order to assess both distance and slope, according to Todd Sones Impact Golf Schools. If the putt is downhill, Sones suggests reading it from behind the hole. If the putt is uphill, read it from behind the ball.

3. Practice consistent putter travel distance. While the

total length of a putt stroke depends on the length of the putt, many golf instructors recommend consistency with the distance the putter head travels. Keep the same distance on the back stroke as on the forward stroke. This will help create a nice, even roll. Most beginners tend to short their back strokes and increase their forward strokes, resulting in less ball control.

4. Focus on an imaginary channel. When putting, imagine a three- or four-inch channel from the ball to the hole. Rather than staring at the ball, golfers can track their eyes down that imaginary line, suggests the experts at Golf Digest. Keeping a simpler focus rather than overthinking



things can improve putting. 5. Keep a steady head. Instead of following the ball with one's eyes, a golfer should hold the focus on the start of the putt to foster a steadier head.

6. Change ball placement. Try moving to position the ball just forward of the center of the stance. This helps the putter make contact at the right moment to achieve the slight lift

needed for a successful putt. Practicing at home or with a golf instructor is a good way to improve putting skills. A strong short game can be the key to improving your overall game.



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The Timber Ridge Golf Club of Lacon, IL (formerly Lacon Country Club) is excited to announce that we are currently offering memberships for the 2023 calendar year. Not only will we be offering a top notch golf course but we will be hosting many different types of events at the new Timber Ridge Golf Club. Timber Ridge Golf Club features the Eagles Nest Sports Bar and the 1923 Steakhouse. The bar and steakhouse are open to all members and the public.

2023 GOLF MEMBERSHIPS

ALL GOLF MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE:

- Cart Fees • Green Fees • 10% off Food and Beverage in the sportsbar/steakhouse*
*alcohol not included

Corporate Partnership \$2500 includes sponsorship name on scorecard
Social Membership \$200 • Senior/Single \$800 seniors must be 55+
Family Membership \$1100 includes spouse and children age 22 and under
Junior Membership \$175 Junior members must be in high school

309-246-1131 Go to our FB page Timber Ridge Golf Club to download an application

The game of golf can be a good thing for your health

Golfers can rest assured that their time on the course is as healthy as it is fun. A recent experiment from Dr. Steve Otto, director of research and testing at The R&A, found that the average distance golfers walked during a round of 18 holes at the Royal County Down Golf Club in Northern Ireland was 6.6 miles. That's great news, as walking has been linked to a host of health benefits, including improved cardiovascular fitness.



Popular golf courses around the world

The Masters Tournament is the first of golf's four major championships in the calendar year. Competitors tee off at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., every April. Fans are always eager to see who earns the fabled green jacket this year.

Televised golf competitions often inspire people to hit the links. People with a passion for golf may want to check out some of the top courses in the world, as ranked by leading golf resources and experts.

• Ballybunion: This Irish course was touted as "nothing less than the finest seaside course" by famed golf writer Herbert Warren Wind. The course hosted the 2000 Irish Open, but lack of other tournaments can be attributed to its remote, albeit beautiful, location.

• Cypress Point: This club sits at the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains at the tip of the Monterey Peninsula in California. Located in coastal dunes and on rocky coastlines, Cypress Point is often noted for its dramatic holes along the Pacific Ocean.

• Pine Valley: Located in Pine Valley,

NJ, this course, which is more than 100 years old, boasts some formidable hazards with sophisticated green expanses.

• St. Andrew's: This historic course in Scotland has hosted the Open Championship (once known as The British Open) a record 29 times. Historians believe golf originated in Scotland, and people have been playing on this course since the 15th century. Massive greens, cavernous bunkers and a brilliant layout contribute to its distinguished history.

• Shinnecock Hills: This course in Southampton, NY, is a very old club built in the tradition of Scottish courses. This was likely the inaugural American golf course design, and the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club was one of the five founding members of the United States Golf Association.

• Augusta National: Home to the Masters, Augusta is considered a golf paradise by many. The sheer beauty of Augusta has made it a staple on many golfers' bucket lists, even if only a few may get to walk its fairways with club in hand.

Golf has a storied history, and that history is on display at various jaw-dropping courses across the globe.

ROLLIN' OUT THE GREEN CARPET FOR YOU!

The semi-private Mendota Golf Club is a challenging 18-hole course—6,186 yards from the championship tees and 4,863 yards from the front tees—with very challenging par 3's. With five sets of tees, meandering creeks, strategic ponds and more than 35 bunkers, golfers of all skill levels can enjoy the par 70 course. A full-service bar has a limited menu food service, and the pro-shop is fully stocked. Mendota has both men's and ladies leagues, club parties and golf outings.

Contact John Hanson to get more information about letting MGC host your next golf outing.

New Member Special

Have you been looking for an opportunity to join one of the nicest golf clubs in North Central Illinois? Here is a deal you can't pass up. This offer is available to new members only. We are confident that you will enjoy your experience at Mendota Golf Club. **Hurry offer ends soon!**

Individual \$500 • Married Couple \$550 • Family \$600



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