

# River Ridge News

Spring/Summer 2016

## Please Welcome Jeff Smith!

**J**eff grew up in the Santa Ynez Valley playing golf for both Santa Ynez High School and Hancock College. After one year of college, Jeff enlisted in the U.S. Army. Following three years of service, he returned to Hancock College, played one more year of golf, and transferred to Fresno State to complete his B.A. in History.

Jeff's passion for golf lead him back to Buena Ventura Golf Club in 1995 where he worked under former River Ridge staff member, Mark Wipf. In 1999, Jeff moved to Escondido and began a 15-year career at Meadow Lake Golf Course. Last year, he decided to move back to Ventura to be closer to friends and family. Within weeks, Jeff reconnected with Wipf and began working as his assistant golf coach at Foothill Tech High School in Ventura.

Through this job, Jeff ran into our very own Jon Gomez who is the St. Bonaventure High School golf coach, and within a few weeks, secured a spot on the River Ridge team. Jeff has now been with us for two months and he is a very pleasant addition to River Ridge. Please introduce yourself and help us welcome Jeff. §

**Junior Lessons** Whether your child or grandchild wants to participate in weekday summer camp or a weekly class, our SCGA Junior Program provides both opportunities. Summer camps run Tuesday-Friday (ages 7 and up) with starting dates of June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and August 9<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday-Thursday classes are conducted on our large practice facility from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. On Friday, camp hours run from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and include lunch and a play day on the course. The cost is \$149 per child with a maximum of 10 students per class.

The 10 session weekly instructional classes are for children aged 10 and older. There are two beginner classes and two intermediate classes both starting the week of on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$70 per student. Go to [www.scgajunior.org](http://www.scgajunior.org) for times and sign ups for both the camp and weekly class options. §



## What's New at River Ridge?

**W**hile many things seem the same, there is always change occurring at River Ridge. Since the last newsletter we have:

- New furniture in the atrium and pro shop. The new look is far more inviting and comfortable and our customers are really enjoying it.
- The new food & beverage management team has settled in and are setting records in the banquet room, especially for the slow winter months.
- A new/rebuilt fairway bunker on the first hole of the Vineyard Course that adds some risk-reward to the opening tee shot.
- A new first hole for the FootGolf Course to accommodate the bunker work mentioned above.
- New leadership for the starter/greeter/marshal force with Phil Henry and Jon Gomez jointly taking the reins from Mike Tasker and Bill Walden who both retired.
- Hosted our fifth American Junior Golf Association three-day tournament. This event brought 78 of the best junior players in the country to Victoria Lakes. Very few of them had ever seen the course and we had some miserable weather, but the boys' low was even par (blue and black tees) and the

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# City Championships

**O**n June 18-19, River Ridge will host the 31<sup>st</sup> Oxnard Gross City Championships on the Victoria Lakes course. The event is open to all amateur players with a GHIN index of 5.0 or below. If you do not have an index but are qualified, you may enter. As in the past, the course will play firm and fast but will be a fair test for the field. With a field of 90 players, the prize funds will be over \$4,000 and one third of the field will receive pay-outs. Even if you play woefully on Saturday, there is still the possibility of cashing in for the low round on Sunday for non-winners. Entry is \$150 before June 10<sup>th</sup> and includes green fees, prize fund, range balls, and lunch on both days. Entry fees will increase to \$165 after June 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you are not a 5.0 or below player but would love to see great golf, come out for either or both days to watch these young high school and college athletes and some cagey veterans weave their way through Victoria Lakes. There is no spectator fee for this event.

The following week on June 25-26, we will host the 31<sup>st</sup> Oxnard Net, Senior Net (50 years +), and Senior Gross Championships. These tournaments are open to all amateur players with an established index below 25. Like the gross championship, entry is \$150 before June 17<sup>th</sup> and includes green fees, prize fund, range balls, and lunch on both days. Fees will increase to \$165 for entries after June 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, like the gross championship, we will pay one third of the field. Flights will be determined by the number of entries and range of indexes. §



## Superintendent's Corner

We're finally finished with the spring aerification and we are really excited to see the results in the next few weeks. We're going to continue on the Lakes Course with slicing the roughs in an effort to thicken up some strategic areas just off the fairways. The new "GREAT" water source, coupled with the new piece of equipment called "the Shockwave," have us looking forward to this summer and expecting great course conditions.

The fairway bunker complex on the Vineyard first hole is also just about finished. There are still three bunkers, but there is probably a little more square footage in sand now with a more pronounced risk/reward value. The more you try to carry on your tee shot, the easier/shorter your next shot will be. You can also skirt the bunkers completely, but your route to the green becomes longer.

Our water situation at River Ridge is enviable in that our reclaimed water quality is wonderful and the quantity is only limited by financial constraints; however, we will continue to look for areas on the course we can remove from irrigation while integrating them into the courses seamlessly.

Finally, if you haven't done so already, now is the time to get busy on your lawns and gardens at home. In fact it's almost past time, but you can still get it done and have a great summer. Obviously, water is scarce; you'll be much more efficient in using it by checking your irrigation and landscape regularly and learning how to program your irrigation clock. Instead of running a ten-minute cycle of water, use a three-minute cycle and start it three times with a half an hour separation between the starts. You'll use less water and do a better job of watering your plants. Come on out and see us, we've planted a lot of pars, birdies, and a few eagles too! §

## What's new at River Ridge?

girls was one-over from the white and gold tees. AJGA has committed to returning again next April.

- Have a new tee sheet and point-of-sales system in the pro shop. We have elected to use EZ-Links for these functions as well as their call center for tee times.

And we're not finished! By the time you receive the next newsletter we will:

- Have a new fleet of E-Z-Go Textron TXT golf carts. The new ones have parking brakes, so we'll have to re-learn how to set those. The great news is that you won't have to worry about carts dying over the next three years. While the price of these carts has skyrocketed, we'll keep our existing price for customers by only ordering 124 carts instead of 144, and then we'll lease an extra twenty carts for the two busiest months of the year.
- Be using a brand new, updated, easy to use web site that should get you where you want to be in less than three clicks.
- Have hosted the City Championships and a U.S. Senior Open qualifier!
- Be hosting a new NFL team practicing on the fields next to the 13<sup>th</sup> tee at Vineyard. The L.A. Rams are using the facilities right now for "Other Training Activities" (OTA). All NFL teams have OTA before the official summer camp to introduce new players to their systems and go through conditioning drills etc., but without pads or contact. The Rams will be here until the first week in June, then they leave for their summer camp at Cal Lutheran, and the Dallas Cowboys will return the last week of July. The two teams will play each other in the first pre-season game in Los Angeles.
- Have all new FootGolf cups that are far more user friendly.
- And just maybe, a new wine bar and Golf Boards...business as usual! §

## From the Kitchen

**T**he River Ridge Golf Course has a brand new Food and Beverage management headed by Belinda Bichard and our new kitchen manager, Brian Landry. Brian has brought many new and delicious menu items, and plenty of daily specials. River Ridge isn't just for the avid golf buff. Everyone is invited to drop by throughout the day to enjoy a tasty breakfast or lunch in our warm and friendly café.

With the summer months fast approaching, we have extended the café hours from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm from Monday through Thursday. Fridays and weekend hours have also been extended from 6:30 am to dusk. During the upcoming summer months, we will have the BBQ operational on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This is a great opportunity to come out and enjoy our variety of mouth-watering tri-tip sandwiches, juicy hamburgers, and famous hot dogs. River Ridge has also renovated its banquet facility in order to better help you fashion your next event. We have a fabulous staff so you can just relax and let us do all the work for you.



Call us anytime and let us set up and plan your next company party or holiday celebration. From room rentals to customizing every detail of an elaborate wedding... our team will be there for you to ensure everything goes flawlessly. If you would like more information on how to plan your next event and tailor it to fit your budget, please contact Belinda Bichard or Valerie Feland at (805) 981-8724 or email us at [www.catering@riverridge-golfclub.com](mailto:www.catering@riverridge-golfclub.com). §



## Tip from the Pro

by **Susan O. Sipes**

**O**nly have five minutes to practice? How do you spend those moments? There is no right or wrong answer to this question; it comes down to individual preferences. Some say that the drive sets up the hole. Some want to make sure their first wedge shot isn't struck fat or thin. For me, I want to practice my short and long putts. Why? I know that within the first three holes I will probably see both varieties. If I haven't taken the time to test the speed of the greens on the practice green (which by the way should be a good indication of course conditions), I can't possibly have a feel for the speed of the greens. This can be really disconcerting on 40-foot putt, where a 15% error will leave me with six more feet. If I happen to lag it to three feet, I want to have a feel for that length as well. Remember a three-foot putt is an opportunity not to be missed! Did you prepare correctly? §



**C**ongratulations to the River Ridge Women's Club for winning the Ladies Net Team Play Championships on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Olivas Links Golf Course. The River Ridge Team played eight of its twelve members in four partner's better-ball matches against a talented Cypress Ridge team. Each match was worth 18 points and our team was down 29.5 to 24.5 after three matches, a seemingly insurmountable lead. Cypress was celebrating and River Ridge was brooding. But then, Kathy Egidi and Jessie Chen walked off 18 having won their match 13.5 to 4.5. This brought the trophy home with a final tally of 38 to 35. Again Congratulations RRWGC! §

## *River Ridge Golf Club*

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