

NWO GOLF LINKS

October 2015

A professional headshot of David Bronner, a man with light brown hair and blue eyes, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a red patterned tie. The background shows an indoor setting with a staircase and railings.

David Bronner

Creating a
Stronger Alabama
Through Golf

Golf Lifestyle: Cigars and Wine

Plus:

- Why Core Strength and Range of Motion Drastically Impact Your Golf Game!
- Golfer Patriotism Stirred During Pledge of Allegiance
- Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 816 Driver Review

Golf Is A Sport For Everyone



FRED ALTVATER



If you are going to throw a club, it is important to throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up.”

~Tommy Bolt

LAST MONTH I HAD THE opportunity to travel to Lake Charles, Louisiana and visit several golf courses. The L'Auberge and Golden Nugget both offer world-class accommodations, plus two of the most pristine golf courses I have ever seen. When you are planning your next 'Golf Getaway' consider Lake Charles, LA.

BTW, the food is plentiful and FANTASTIC!! You can read more about them in our golf travel section this month.

I was also invited to play in a golf outing hosted by BW Golf at Deme Acres Golf Course in southern Michigan. It reinforced several reasons why I LOVE Golf.

Several teams featured two couples sharing an enjoyable round of golf together, with music blasting, adult beverages flowing and copious amounts of laughter. We even witnessed a cart-wheel or two from the group ahead of us.

Couples that play Golf together, stay together!!

It gave me the chance to meet a business associate, who had traveled from Nashville to spend an enjoyable early fall round of golf. In addition, we were paired with a father/son twosome, who were out for a day of bonding on the golf course.

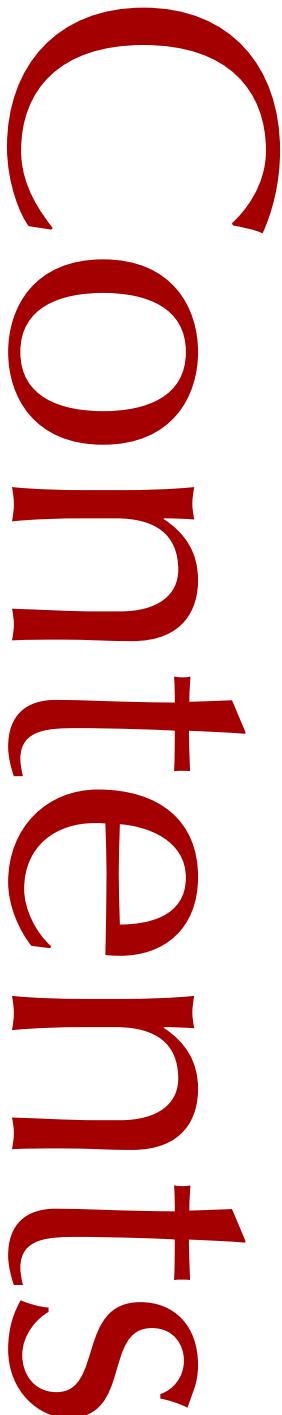
There is nothing in the world I enjoy more than spending time on the golf course with my sons and to watch the Hawes having such a great time was energizing.

Fall is rapidly approaching our neck-o-the-woods and I hope you take the time to get out on the course and spend some quality time with people that mean the most to you.

If you do I'll catch you on the 'Back 9.'

You may be a golfaholic if your Facebook profile picture includes a golf club.

- 4** Alabama Reaps the Reward of The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Envisioned by David Bronner
- 10** A Golfer's Patriotism Stirred During Pledge of Allegiance
- 11** Father's Rule
- 12** Monroe Golf & Country Club's Grosvenor Mansion Has a Rich History
- 14** What Is The PHIT Act? It's H.R. 1218
- 16** Why Core Strength and Range of Motion Drastically Impact Your Golf Game!
- 18** I Survived A Harrowing Golf Cart Mishap
- 20** Toledo Golf Show Features Treetops Golf Resort
- 22** Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 816 Driver Review
- 24** Toledo Metro News
- 26** Golfers and Cigars: A Perfect Combo
- 27** Go Play ... In Lake Charles, LA!
- 30** Real Zinfandel
- 32** Fall Golf in the U.P. at Sweetgrass Island Resort and Casino
- 35** Golfaholicism is a Serious Affliction
- 36** NWO Golf Links Contributing Authors
- 37** Our Favorite Videos



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o
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ALABAMA REAPS THE REWARD OF THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL ENVISIONED BY David Bronner



MOST GOLFERS IN the northern portion of the United States are familiar with Alabama's Robert Trent Jones (RTJ) Golf Trail, but they don't know how it came about.

The Retirement System of Alabama (RSA) has been managed by David Bronner since 1973. His stated mission for the investment fund has always been to effectively diversify the assets of the state's pension fund to help the state.

The philosophy being, a stronger Alabama will make a more lucrative Retirement Systems of Alabama.

He found the idea of a system of golf facilities throughout the state of Alabama to be a perfect fit for that investment philosophy.

Bronner grew up in the upper Midwest and worked in his father's pool hall. He learned early the tenets of hard work and the basics of business. He continued his education at Mankato State University earning a Bachelor's, as well as, a Master's Degree in Finance. He later added a PHD and Law degrees from the University of Alabama before taking his combined education and skill set to the Retirement System of Alabama.





He has led the retirement fund into several high-profile investments, such as, inner-city real estate, office buildings, newspapers and a string of golf courses.

All have made the Retirement System of Alabama one of the strongest investment funds in America and helped create jobs, increase tax revenue and gain the admiration of other states around the country.

In the early 1990s, the idea was initiated that a good way to bring growth to the state was to build a golf course. Bronner always looked for the biggest bang for his buck and quickly realized Alabama is a big state and could use more than just one golf facility.

He began to shop for someone that wanted to design 18 championship golf courses at eight locations around the state.

As you can imagine this was a monumental task and most leading golf designers of the time, felt it impossible. Robert Trent Jones was semi-retired, but saw the potential and accepted the challenge.

The original seven locations opened in 1992 and 1993 with 324 holes of world-class golf. Three additional locations have been added plus the two courses at Lakewood Golf Club in Point Clear were renovated.

These brought the total to 11 locations, with 26 golf courses totaling 468 holes.

In addition to great golf, each location features a comfortable clubhouse with dining and beverage service. Overnight accommodations are available either on site or within minutes of each location. Affordable "stay & play" packages make the RTJ Golf Trail the perfect golf destination.

Bronner's original vision to bring more value to the State of Alabama, as well as, make it more attractive to outside investment and manufacturing is working quite well.

A study of the economic impact completed by Dr. Mark Fagan of Jacksonville State University of the RTJ Golf Trail at Capitol Hill just north of Montgomery, at Prattville, Alabama revealed the following.

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"There was a significant economic impact from the construction spending for the Capitol Hill golf complex with the related commercial and residential growth. There was an increase of approximately 3 million square feet of non-residential space between 1997 and 2014 in Prattville/Millbrook. There was an increase of almost 6,000 houses and 6,300 jobs from 2000 to 2010 which adds annual residential spending. Tourism spending alone in Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery Counties has increased by approximately \$500 million annually since 1997. This spending creates a large economic impact as it is re-spent in the area."



Since its inception the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has had more than 11 million rounds played with nearly half of those players coming from outside the state of Alabama. That is what the Trail was designed to do and it is working very well.

With the construction of the original eight golf properties, economic investment in Alabama has increased significantly. Honda, Mercedes and Hyundai added manufacturing plants, which has brought new jobs and drastically increased state revenues. Airbus recently began construction of its A320 planes in its \$600 million plant near Mobile.

In an interview Bronner explained why he felt investing in golf was a sound idea, "The genesis was two things: To combat some of the negative publicity about the state and golf in the state. It wasn't just in the sports pages, but the business pages, too. And second, a study showing that 90 percent of corporate leaders played golf."

The golf courses are all championship caliber and, in fact, host several professional events.

The LPGA Tour annually visits Capitol Hill in Prattville, near Montgomery, for the Yokohama Tire LPGA Classic. The Grand National location at Opelika was the site of the 2015 Barbasol Championship on the PGA TOUR.

NWO Golf Links

Professional golf tournaments have also been played at Magnolia Grove in Mobile and Ross Bridge in Birmingham.

Before the RTJ Golf Trail, Alabama was known by snowbirds from the north as a drive-thru state as they were fleeing south to escape cold weather. Now those retired Americans with disposable money in their pockets stop by an RTJ Golf course, pay for green fees, have a meal, down a few cold beers and even buy a shirt or two before they head on down the road.

Some of those same snowbirds have even been induced to head to southern Alabama and spend the winter enjoying the mild climate around Mobile, Gulf Shores and the Alabama Gulf Coast rather than head over to more hectic Florida locales.

Bronner challenged the designers of the RTJ Golf Trail courses to make them difficult, but be memorable for the golfers stopping to play them. He wanted to command affordable green fees, but leave the golfer with a feeling of wanting to comeback for more.

One of the overlooked features of the RTJ Golf Trail is the variety of par-3 golf courses at many of the locations. If you need an emergency nine, a course enjoyable for women and juniors, or just something a little different, the par-3 golf courses are a treat.

You don't have to play the courses to have fun on the RTJ Golf Trail. They also feature the best in instruction and practice facilities at each location.

For Golfaholics in the northern part of the country heading south for warmer climates, the RTJ Golf Trail is a perfect stop for a quick round or consider taking a couple of weeks to play all 468 holes. Buddie's Trips, Couple's Getaways or Snow Birds heading south will all find that the RTJ Golf Trail accommodations, food and golf are among the best in the world.



David Bronner had a vision to grow the state of Alabama through golf. The funding from the Retirement System of Alabama made the dream a reality and golfers are the beneficiary of the fantastic courses and facilities on the RTJ Golf Trail.



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MARK CROFT

A Golfer's Patriotism Stirred During Pledge of Allegiance

WHILE VISITING ONE OF OUR LOCAL schools to introduce golf to that school's physical education curriculum, I was elated to be able to begin the day with the students as they recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

I arrived early and met briefly with the Physical Education teacher. She asked me to wait briefly, while she made that morning's announcements.

Before she began, however, everyone was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of United States. In these times when our Flag seems to come under some very heavy scrutiny and scorn, it was refreshing to see the students responding with respect and reverence to the symbol of American freedom.

I haven't done that in a classroom for 50 years and was not aware they still shared this hallowed tradition.



As I stood reciting the Pledge with my right hand over my heart, I was overcome with a feeling of euphoria that I have only experienced a few other times in my life.

To listen to my words, the same words all these children were reciting and offering respect to our nation and our founded beliefs was inspiring, indeed.

I realize just how lucky I am to live in a country, where I have the freedom to pursue a career as a golf professional, allowed to practice my personal religious beliefs and am given the opportunity to introduce the greatest game on earth to children.

This probably sounds a little corny, but that it was one of the proudest moments, as a person and a golf professional that I have felt in a very long time.

Father's Rule

RICHARD TODD



As we made the turn, he popped into the pro shop and purchased a new driver and thus began his quest for the longest drive on the back nine.

ON THE FIRST TEE, MY OLD MAN, WHO taught me how to swear on the golf course, as well as, the proper technique with which to throw a golf club, hooked his drive deep into the woods. After a quick stream of profanity, he snapped his driver across his knee. YIKES! He was then forced to tee off with his 3-wood for the next eight holes.

As we made the turn, he popped into the pro shop and purchased a new driver and thus began his quest for the longest drive on the back nine.

While he did not hold up our group (defined by the USGA as 'delaying play'), he did break Rule #4-3a, which states, you can repair or replace a broken club during a round if it's done without delaying play and if the club you are replacing/repairing was broken in the normal course of play.

Sorry pops, intentionally breaking a club is not what the USGA considers normal.

Many golfers I know consider this cruel and unusual punishment, as well as, a huge oversight by the ruling body.

You may have seen a club broken in mid swing on the PGA Tour, which would comply with the rules for replacement, but players that hit the ground, the tee markers, or a tree and break a club, must play one club short the rest of the round.

As we tallied our scores in the clubhouse after the round, I educated him on the rules and assessed the two strokes per hole penalty, with a maximum of two holes. Those four strokes pushed me into the lead and covered my greens fees for the day.

There was no additional penalty assessed for his colorful language upon learning of the official ruling. It was unfortunate, however, that I didn't win enough for a cab, as the walk home was somewhat tiring, but it was worth it.



Monroe Golf & Country Club's *'Grosvenor Mansion'* *Has a Rich History*



THE STATELY CLUBHOUSE OF MONROE

Golf and Country Club holds a rich history in the development of Monroe, as well as, Michigan. Local attorney and Civil War hero, Colonel Ira Rufus Grosvenor, who rose from meager prospects as a young man to become a war hero and important political figure in Michigan, was responsible for its construction.

Grosvenor was unable to find avenues for advancement in his home state of New York as a youth. Through study, he became an expert accountant and accepted work on a steamer, owned by Daniel B. Miller, that plied Lake Ontario. Grosvenor found favor with Miller and seeing potential in the young man, offered him a position with his growing land office in Monroe, Michigan.

In the 1830's, Monroe was in the middle of a land boom and Grosvenor soon became the Head Clerk of the small office. When it was moved to Detroit, he remained in Monroe and pursued the study of law.

He found work with a local law firm that included a future Governor of Michigan and Secretary of the Interior under President Pierce. Another partner also became a Governor of Michigan and yet another served in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

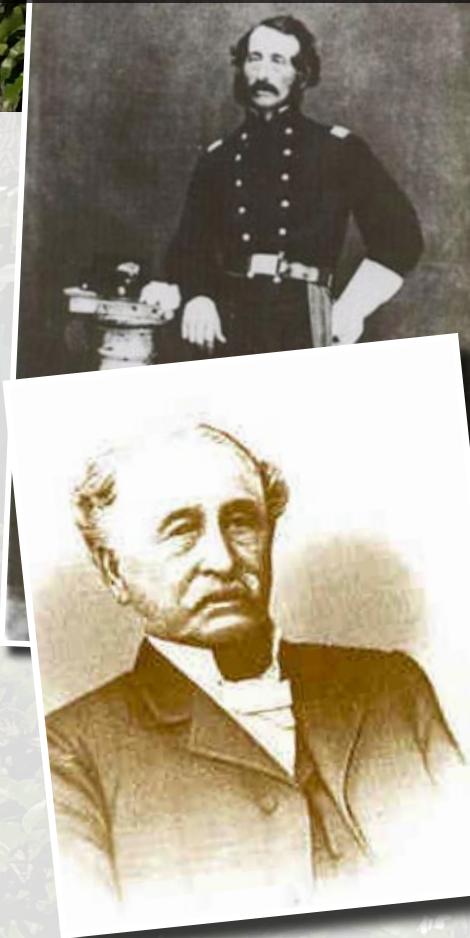
Grosvenor passed the bar exam and was married in 1837. She, however, died in 1845, but he continued to set even deeper roots in the growing community. He earned a reputation as a 'fighter' in an important trial involving a dispute over land rights, which helped his law practice thrive. In 1849, he married again, this time to the sister of his deceased wife.

In 1859, he became the owner of the "Fair Oaks Farm," which sat at the edge of Monroe and is now the Monroe Golf and Country Club. When the Civil War commenced in 1861, Grosvenor had experience commanding Michigan's Militia and was in demand as a commander for the Union Army.

Grosvenor was appointed a Colonel and tasked with assembling the Michigan forces. He suffered various illnesses throughout the Civil War, but performed with gallantry and heroism, thus, he returned to Monroe a war hero.

He continued his law practice, was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and served with distinction. In 1884 he decided it was time to build a house that would befit a celebrated war hero and public figure. The mansion as it sits today was the primary residence of Grosvenor, his wife and three children until his death in 1899.

When you visit the beautiful Grosvenor Mansion at Monroe Golf and Country Club, think back to a time of gala balls, weddings and important meetings that were held within those walls. They shaped not only Monroe, but the state of Michigan.



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MIKE MAY



WHAT IS THE PHIT ACT? IT'S H.R. 1218

The PHIT Act (Personal Health Investment Today) is pending legislation that expands the IRS definition of a medical expense to include physical activity as a form of prevention. The practical impact of this definitional change would allow taxpayers/consumers to use their pre-tax medical accounts (HSAs & FSAs) on physical activity expenses to promote healthy lifestyles. The PHIT Act is an innovative concept that fits with two major Congressional concerns: (1) rising health care costs (2) the budget deficit. The rise in sedentary lifestyles is a major contributor to higher obesity rates and an increased incidence of expensive, preventable chronic illnesses. The PHIT Act will help reverse the 'inactivity pandemic'/obesity crisis by providing an economic incentive to invest in physical activity. If enacted, physical activity expenses could be reimbursed using money in pre-tax medical accounts.

HOW WOULD THE PHIT ACT WORK?

Currently, pre-tax medical accounts are primarily used for reimbursement of medical expenses once you become sick. The PHIT Act would allow taxpayers to place up to \$2,000 a year in existing pre-tax medical accounts for reimbursement of physical activity expenses. By attaching a financial incentive to a physically active lifestyle, it will result in improving the health of Americans. The PHIT Act will put prevention in our health care system and increase spending in the golf industry.

"The PHIT Act would allow funds to be applied to most golf expenses, such as equipment purchases (clubs, bags, and golf balls), tournament entry fees, greens fees, clinics, driving range fees, golf shoes, and private instruction," says Jim Baugh, founder, PHIT America, the non-profit cause working to get the PHIT Act passed.



Golf is a lifelong physical activity that can make a difference in the health of Americans. The PHIT Act will encourage increased participation in the sport.

The PHIT Act will also cover physical activity expenses such as personal trainers, health club memberships, sports league registration fees, pay-to-play fees, and entry fees for 5K runs, triathlons, marathons.

THE PHIT ACT: GREAT FOR GOLF

With nearly 83 million Americans who are physically inactive, golf is one outlet that can be used to help get Americans of all ages off the couch and moving.

"The best way to address our health care crisis is to improve health through exercise and physical activity," says Tom Cove, president/CEO, Sports & Fitness Industry Association (Silver Spring, MD).

"Golf is a lifelong physical activity that can make a difference in the health of Americans. The PHIT Act will encourage increased participation in the sport."

To encourage your local Congressman and two U.S. Senators to back the PHIT Act, PHIT America has created an electronic letter on its website (PHITAmerica.org) which can be sent to members of Congress on Capitol Hill, asking them to co-sponsor and vote for the PHIT Act.

Learn more about the PHIT Act in an interview with Mike May on Back 9 Report: <http://tunein.com/radio/The-Back-9-Report-p620823/>

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Why Core Strength and Range of Motion Drastically Impact Your Golf Game!

CORE STRENGTH is now recognized as a critical part of any golfers training. The most successful way to improve your consistency and reduce your handicap is to truly improve your game rather than rely mainly on improving your equipment. By changing your physical qualities such as an improvement in your core strength, flexibility, and range of motion, you will not only improve your overall game but you will also help in preventing injury and pain (50% of golfers consistently struggle with back pain).

The majority of "miss-hit shots" are due to poor posture. Your golf swing is driven by the twisting and untwisting of the torso; 400 muscles and 70 joints working simultaneously! Training your body to be a well-oiled machine ready to tackle any shot under any condition, takes intentional cross-training and knowledge of why it is important.

Training for more power on the course doesn't necessarily involve massive weights and explosive high energy workouts—in fact, too much strength training could hinder your performance. "A guy who is very strong but lacking in mobility and flexibility won't be able to bring his body and muscles to a full range of motion," says Katherine Roberts, certified golf performance trainer.

"Without that full range of motion, you won't be able to reach maximum potential in strength." However, someone who is weak and too flexible won't be able to generate enough power, she says. That's why a more powerful swing is best achieved with a mix of lifting and flexibility training.

So most of us know how to improve strength through weight training and isometric exercises but what about specifically for our core and flexibility?

My top recommendation would be the implementation of Yoga. Yoga is considered one of the healthiest and most beneficial practices that a person can add to their life. It is affordable, customizable and anyone can do it.

It will target core strength, help with posture, loosen tight muscles, and improve your range of motion and overall muscle versatility.

Now, some of you men out there may be thinking that "yoga is for women" but yoga has become extremely popular among both

genders and men all over the world including professional athletes and Olympians are taking the practice seriously.

Learning some basic yoga techniques and adding them to your daily or athletic warm-up routine could be the difference that you are looking for to surpass your performance plateau.

As an added bonus, yoga also improves mood, breathing, and stress which will assist with your mental game on and off the course!



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BRYAN RENIUS



I Survived A Harrowing Golf Cart Mishap

“

Who ever said golf was boring? We do like a challenge don't we? Of course we do.

I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED, OR MAYBE NOT so privileged, to be part of a few near-death experiences in a golf cart. Avid golfers, who sometimes..... possibly..... just slightly..... over indulge on alcoholic beverages, while attempting to operate a golf cart, will be familiar with this safety hazard. Golf cart accidents are something that every golfer dreads, but knows deep down, someday it could happen to them.

Golf carts are wonderful inventions that give relief from lugging a heavy golf bag and provide a convenient way to transport adult beverages on ice, but they can be dangerous if the wrong conditions arise. These tales regaled after the fact always seem better than the initial experience, let's face it though, we did live to play another day.

The following is one of my more memorable golf cart adventures for your enjoyment.

My playing partner and I were standing on the 18th tee of a prominent course that neither of us had played before. We had been watching the sky for some time, in hopes that the 'Golf Gods' would allow us a precious few more minutes to finish our round before the deluge began.

We teed off and as we turned to the walk to the cart, the sky opened up with all of its fury. It was as if the walls of water that Moses created by parting the Red Sea, descended upon us. I am talking full-on monsoon conditions. A stinging rain that was sure to hurt your skin because it came down so violently.

It was rain that would hurt even Chuck Norris's skin and that's some seriously damaging rain.

We ran, screaming, made our way to the cart, and jumped in. We didn't even bother to put our clubs back in our bags, as I yelled, "Go! Go! Go!"

Remember, neither of us had played this course previously. We didn't know the terrain ahead and didn't care. We only knew we had to make it to the safety of the clubhouse, our only escape from the painful, stinging rain.

We reached top speed, but could barely see 10 feet in front of us as we drove at break-neck speed. We hoped we would be able to stop before we crashed into the clubhouse. Then I saw it! A ditch! 15 feet ahead of us and getting closer at an alarming pace.

As I shrieked the word, "Ditch," in a voice that would break glass, my partner saw it and slammed on the brakes.

Now most of us, have been in a golf cart in the wee hours of the morning, with the sparkling dew still on the grass and are familiar with what happens when you slam on the brakes. Hydroplaning is the technical term, and that is exactly what happened to us. Even with the brakes firmly applied, we continued to barrel toward this Grand Canyon of a ditch at top speed, but had flipped around and we were now skidding backwards.

Who ever said golf was boring? We do like a challenge don't we? Of course we do.

We entered the 15-foot-deep ditch rear end first at a pretty good rate of speed. It was like riding the 'Demon Drop,' when it existed, at Cedar Point. I held on as best I could, and luckily slammed my least vulnerable spot, my head, into the roof. We finally came to rest in the middle of the stream, shaken, but not seriously injured.

We looked at each other and started to crack up laughing. Why not? We had narrowly escaped death's evil grasp and would live to tell tall tales about our bravery and quick reactions. If we would have entered that ditch any other way than backwards, we would be talking major injuries. It was a miracle! The 'Golf Gods' looked favorably upon us that day.

Seeing no way to get the cart out of the ditch, we abandoned it and climbed out with our clubs and dignity intact. As we crested the top of the ditch, we realized we were a mere 50 yards from the green with the safety of the clubhouse on the other side.

We started the trek, still being pelted by rain that would dent steel, but didn't even notice. We had survived a golfing adventure and would live to play another day.

All that remained was to explain what had happened to the pro shop and still get our key deposit back.

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Toledo Golf Show

Features Treetops Golf Resort

EACH MONTH NWO GOLF LINKS IN collaboration with the Toledo Golf Show will feature one of the vendors that Toledo-area golfers can talk with at the show in 2016. This month we are happy to showcase Treetops Golf Resort.

Treetops Golf Resort in Michigan has been hosting buddy's trips, couple's romantic getaways and golfaholics since Robert Trent Jones first opened the Masterpiece Course in 1987.

Treetops began as a ski resort, but in 1985 the owner Harry Melling realized he needed summertime revenue to keep the business afloat. With the construction of the Monument golf course at Boyne Mountain, The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort, plus Arnold Palmer's The Legend at Shanty Creek, Melling hired Robert Trent Jones to design and build the Masterpiece at Treetops Resort. Melling also met and formed a partnership with golf instructor, Rick Smith, who brought instant golf credibility to the facility, plus his personal flair.

The rest, as they say, is history.

In the early 1990's golf was booming across America, as well as, in northern Michigan. Tom Fazio built a new 18-hole championship course at Treetops and Smith designed Threetops, the popular par-3 course that hosted the "ESPN Par-3 Shootout" for several years.

Smith added two more courses, the Signature and the Tradition to the property, which made a total of five varying styles of golf courses to fit every golfer's desires.

Today Treetops is one of the leading golf destinations in the United States. They offer affordable "Stay & Play" golf packages, as well as, a complete spa to soothe weary muscles, after a hard day on the course.

Fall is the perfect time of year to head 'Up North.' The fantastic golf framed by the beauty of the changing colors is spectacular.

Visit Treetops: <http://treetops.com/> and make your next golf getaway memorable. Be sure to visit them at the 2016 Toledo Golf Show.



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Niblicks

By Dean Harris



MATT SATERNUS

CALLAWAY BIG BERTHA ALPHA 816

DRIVER REVIEW

FROM THE ORIGINAL BIG BERTHA ALPHA to the new Alpha 816, Callaway has set the standard for great-looking drivers. The Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 816 continues that trend with a compact, rounded head, deep face, and no alignment aid. What's new for the 816 is the matte black crown; previous versions have been high gloss.

In a year of great drivers, the Callaway Big Bertha Alpha 816 driver may be tops for sound and feel. As its "better player" target audience will appreciate, the sound is muted without much metallic quality.

It even feels better; it is the rare driver that actually feels hot. Most drivers fake a hot feel by being loud or metallic, but the Alpha 816 would feel hot even if you were wearing ear plugs.



This latest generation of Callaway's R*MOTO face technology gives you the sensation of the ball being fired out of a cannon, which does great things for your confidence on the tee box.

When I tested the original Big Bertha Alpha, I said that the Gravity Core was a "game changer for club fitting" and the "most significant step forward in adjustability in years". With the Big Bertha Alpha 816's Dual Distance Chambers, you can take all that praise and double it. Where all previous Alpha drivers had two positions – Gravity Core Up and Gravity Core Down – the 816 has four: Up and Down in both Draw and Neutral positions. Each position changes the feel of the driver completely. If you pick up this driver and don't like it, don't put it down, just change the Gravity Core.

The weight change does more than change the feel; it also has a huge impact on ball flight. Moving the Gravity Core up and down changes the trajectory of the ball noticeably.

SPRYTE Golf.

Reflective System



USGA

DECISION 2013-26:

"Permitted under the rules of golf."

USGA additionally stated in their decision:

"Designed to be installed on a flagstick to enhance effectiveness of [all] Laser Rangefinders."

When you move the weight from the Draw chamber to the Neutral chamber, you move the sweet spot toward the toe and change the way the club performs on heel and toe strikes.

In addition to having some of the best adjustability available, the Big Bertha Alpha 816 is also surprisingly forgiving. The R*MOTO face keeps ball speeds high even on mishits, and the launch and spin numbers don't change much on small misses.

Finally, I have to mention how impressed I am with Callaway's commitment to fitting. It is beneficial to have a fitter guide you through the process of dialing in the Opti-Fit hosel and the Dual Distance Chambers, and you'll also need one to help you find the best shaft. Callaway is offering 16 different shafts at no up-charge from names like Fujikura and Mitsubishi. If you don't take advantage of this, you're leaving yards on the table.



TOLEDO METRO NEWS



TOLEDO METRO GOLF LEAGUE FINISHED out the 2015 season in September with a tournament at Monroe Golf and Country Club and a 'Stableford Format' event at Heather Downs Country Club.

Jeff Kruzel, an Ohio Bowling Hall of Fame member, demonstrated that he is also talented on the links as he captured his first TMGA title September 13th at Monroe Golf and Country Club. He fired a brilliant two-under-par, 70, which included six birdies. He finished just one shot ahead of Brian Simmons, who made five birdies on the back nine, but they weren't enough to catch the leader. Tom Yeager placed third with a 73.

The final event of the 2015 TMGA Season ended on a beautiful day at Heather Downs Country Club with Joe Cline firing a four-under-par 67 and garnered 50 Stableford Points, to win both Scratch/Net Divisions.

After a very difficult season of weather for the TMGA, Mother Nature cooperated Sunday, September 20th. Cline took advantage of the gorgeous weather by making 6 birdies and a holed his second shot on No. 18 for an eagle.

Birdies and Eagles offer additional points in the Stableford Format and Cline's 50 points bested the second-place finisher, Tom Yeager by eight points.

Toledo Metro Golf League wants to thank long-time TMGA member Mike Govito for hosting the Metro FEAST at Jed's restaurant in Maumee.

Congratulations go out to Brian Gerken for winning the 'Barry Latta Metro Player of the Year' and to Scott Conrad for winning 'Net Player of the Year Award.'

The TMGA officers will remain the same for 2016, and the schedule will see a few changes for next year. There are also plans to move the S.P. Jermain Match Play Championship back to its historical July date. A tentative schedule for 2016 will be sent to TMGA members via email.

TMGA also plans to create a group text messaging system next year to notify everyone of weather updates, as well as, a nudge to get entries in on time.

Congrats to all the 2015 winners and thanks to everyone that made this season successful.

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GOLFERS & CIGARS: A PERFECT COMBO

GOLFERS HAVE A LANGUAGE, DRESS CODE AND LIFE STYLE that singularly define and separate them from other sporting activity participants. One of those unique attributes involves smoking cigars on the golf course.

With governmental limits placed on smoking in public areas, one of the few remaining sanctuaries available to cigar smokers, other than their own home, is the golf course. The course is the perfect environment because cigars have that wonderful aroma that wafts through the air, drifts across a golf course and teases the nostrils.

Cigar stores, such as, Third Street Cigar in Waterville provide a smoking parlor for serious cigar aficionados to congregate and enjoy a fine cigar among friends. They even have a private club within their facility that allows members to watch a game or just relax in the comfortable chairs provided.

At the top of Third Street Cigar's Victorian stairway is Big Jack's Lounge, which is named after the late, great, local Blues artist, Jack Reynolds. It is open to the public and the walls are filled with photos of famous entertainers that have performed in Toledo throughout the years including Elvis, Bruce Springsteen, Erik Clapton, Freddie Mercury and Chuck Berry. It also has two big screen televisions that allow smokers to watch their favorite team or golf tournament.

They have every type, brand and style of cigar imaginable and will help every golfer choose the perfect cheroot, Havana, stogie or panatela that is just right for you.

Third Street Cigar is located at 20 N. Third Street in Waterville and is open 10 AM-10 PM weekdays and 10 AM-Midnight on Friday and Saturday.

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MIKE MAY

GO PLAY..... IN LAKE CHARLES, LA!



IF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR A VACATION OR A WEEKEND GETAWAY TO 'RECHARGE the batteries,' look no further than Lake Charles, Louisiana. This "Sportsmen's Paradise" is located in the southwest portion of the state, a two-hour drive east of Houston or three hours west of New Orleans, with air service available via United and American Airlines.

An ideal location in Lake Charles to 'hang your hat' is the Golden Nugget, which opened in December of last year. The pool complex, including the H2O Pool & Bar, is lavish and irresistible. Feel the stress slip away as you step into the soothing water, you won't ever want to leave. Trust me, I know from experience.

The 'lazy river' and two flume rides make it family friendly. The awesome wet bar; multiple 'islands' in the pool called daybeds; and a concert stage, which features 'live' entertainment, are attractions for adults. The pool area also contains 250 chaise lounge chairs, 34 private cabanas, six fire pits, and a few hot tubs. Simply put, the pool is cool!

The Golden Nugget Spa & Salon is adjacent to the pool and provides licensed therapists for a midday massage, manicure, pedicure, or facial. The Spa also includes a sauna, steam room, whirlpool and a fitness/workout room, which contains state-of-the-art Cybex cardiovascular and weight equipment. It caters to both women and men! For guys, the Men's Sport Pedicure or Sports Massage is a must, ask for the therapeutic services of Chevy.



When it comes to 'breaking bread' at the Golden Nugget, there are so many restaurants on site, there is no need to eat the same meal twice. Try the beignets for breakfast or seafood gumbo at lunch or dinner. Vic & Anthony's Steakhouse, Landry's Seafood House, Lillie's, Cadillac Mexican Kitchen, Saltgrass Steak House, Grotto, and Claim Jumper offer a complete variety of the restaurant options.

No resort is complete without a beach and the Golden Nugget is no exception. It's open for business day or night. After sunset fire pits are lit, which attract hotel guests looking for a place to wind down after a busy day at the resort.

Lake Charles has five golf courses that deserve mention and all will appeal to the scratch golfer, as well as the weekend warrior. Gray Plantation, The National Golf Club of Louisiana, Mallard Cove Golf Course, Contraband Bayou at L'Auberge, and the Country Club at The Golden Nugget all provide an enjoyable day on the links.

Contraband Bayou and The Country Club are adjacent to one another, which is convenient if you are staying at the Golden Nugget or next door at the L'Auberge Casino Resort.

Gray Plantation's view of the antebellum clubhouse from the 18th tee caps off an experience that is filled with as many sightseeing opportunities as there are shot-making opportunities.

The National Golf Club, which opened in 2009, features generous landing areas off the tee. The rolling terrain and oversized greens provide various shot choices, during any given round.

Mallard Cove is a local favorite and the site of the annual Lake Charles City Championships. The 18th hole at Mallard Cove is one of the most unique finishing holes in golf, with multiple options from the tee.

Contraband Bayou Golf Club is the only public Tom Fazio design in Louisiana.



Since 2010, Golfweek has named this course as one of the "Best Places to Play in Louisiana."

The Country Club at the Golden Nugget is well-designed, well-maintained, and appealing to the eye. The greens are fair, fast and some of the best you will ever play. While standing on the par five 18th tee, the view of the Golden Nugget and the neighboring L'Auberge in the distance is imposing and means you are not far from another visit to the H2O Pool & Bar.

There are many other reasons to visit Lake Charles; the L'Auberge du Lac, Seafood Palace and 1910 Restaurant & Wine Bar, just to name a few, but we will cover those in the next story about Lake Charles.

A Fabulous Pool, Inviting Spa, Great Golf, a Variety of Delightful Dining Options and, oh yeah, don't forget a vibrant Casino provide the impetus to pack your bags and head to Lake Charles, Louisiana, where you can 'recharge your batteries,' but don't forget your golf clubs.



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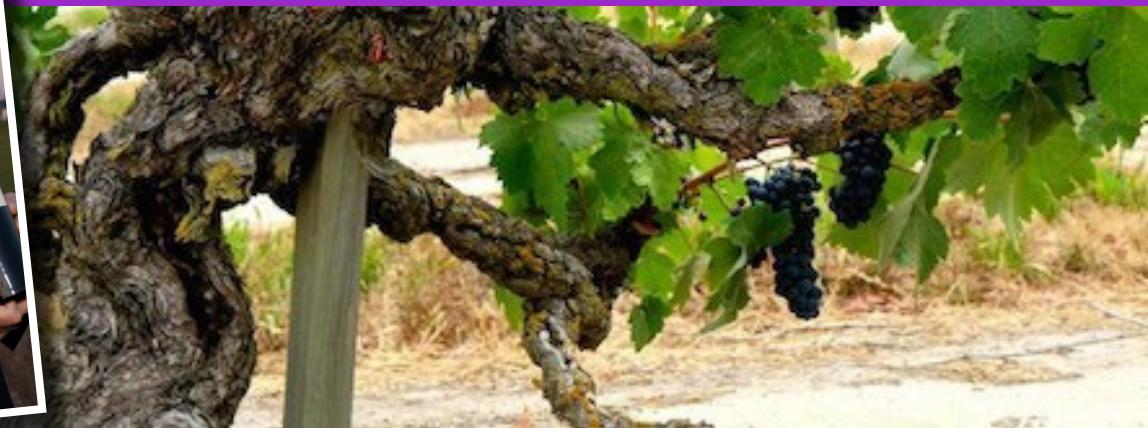
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KURT WIENEKE



REAL ZINFANDEL



GOLFERS AND WINE HAVE ALWAYS gone together. In fact several professional golfers, Greg Norman, Ernie Els, David Frost and Cristie Kerr, all have their own label and are active wine aficionados.

One of my favorite wines of all time is Zinfandel. Yes, I'm talking real Zinfandel - the red version. My first inspiration with this grape was the 1987 Gallo Zinfandel, a wine that had a concentration and complexity unimaginable for a grocery store wine. Well, probably not hard to imagine given that '87 was a great vintage and that the wine was reared by the venerable Julio Gallo, a master technician in the cellar.

Zinfandel can be charmingly quaffable when sipped on its own, because of its wild raspberry profile, but it can also be the ultimate match for barbequed ribs, aged cheeses, Italian dishes, or even salmon. Why do I like 'zin' so much? That's easy - it's an incredibly fruity and versatile wine.

Zinfandel (the grape) was brought to California in the late 1800's by Italian immigrants, who planted vines near their homestead as the source for their 'house reds'. Most of these Italian settlers were home winemakers, having learned how to make table wine at home from their fathers or grandfathers. Some of the original Zinfandel vines planted in California in the 1890's and early 1900's are still producing today and yield a prized commodity known as 'old vine zin'. Most of these old vine Zinfandel vineyards are in Sonoma County, but some can be found as far north as Mendocino County and others as far south as Lodi.

Like other fine wines, Zinfandel projects different characteristics depending on the region or appellation where it is grown. Here is a sampler on the main regions:

Dry Creek Valley – The epicenter of great Zinfandel. The hallmark of Dry Creek zins is their deep cherry flavors with a slight hint of tar or asphalt.

To get an initial impression, try the Rancho Zabaco 'Reserve' from Dry Creek Valley.

Russian River Valley – Zins from this cooler area are more structured wines, buttressed with bright acidity and a slightly floral nose. I recently had a Novy 'Papera Ranch' that was a great example.

Alexander Valley – The famed vineyards of Ridge Geyserville are located here. But try the Trentadue 'Alexander Valley Estate' Zinfandel on for size. It costs less and it's made from the same vineyard as Ridge Geyserville.

Amador County – Dusty tannins, pomegranate flavors, and minerality mark the Zinfandels from Amador County. Try the Montevina Zinfandel for starters. This winery has been around awhile and renders a textbook version year in and year out.

Mendocino County – Mendocino is further north and closer to the coast. The grapes see warm days and cool nights, so the style follows pretty close to Russian River zins. Zins from Mendocino usually have a big acidity to go along with intense blue fruit flavors. I recommend the Graziano or Artezin. Either would be a good introduction to the region.



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Jeff Manore, Director of Golf at Monroe Country Club



FALL GOLF IN THE U.P. AT SWEETGRASS ISLAND RESORT AND CASINO

FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME to head to the extreme northern part of the United States for the turning of the leaves and golf. If you want to travel off the beaten path to find an oasis of golf, gambling, entertainment, superb spa facilities and exceptional dining, check out the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, Michigan (near Escanaba).

Escanaba is geographically located between the Mackinaw Bridge and Green Bay, Wisconsin in the Upper Peninsula. Once you cross the bridge and head west you will find several opportunities to catch panoramic views along Lake Michigan, but don't forget to stop in Mackinaw City for some fudge to enjoy on your drive. Direct flights into the area are also available from Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee.

Island Resort and Casino is owned and managed by the Hannahville Indian Community and began with a bingo hall used to raise money for a local baseball team in 1981. In 1985, the first attempt to operate a casino was initiated on a small scale and expanded to the current site in 1991. Now, 24 years later the resort has 300 rooms, 14 suites and even an RV park to meet every traveler's demands.

Sweetgrass Golf Club offers 18 holes of championship golf and annually hosts the Island Resort Championship, a Symetra Tour "Road to the LPGA" event. Dani Holmqvist won the 2015 tournament in June. The course is somewhat unusual to northern Michigan as it has few trees in play and more resembles a links-style course.

The overall routing and green complexes are exceptional. Be sure to catch the two eagles that guard the back of the 13th green.

Sweetgrass was designed by golf course architect Paul Albanese, opened for play in 2008 and is consistently ranked in the top-20 Michigan courses. It can be stretched to over 7,000 yards for the low handicapper and the undulating greens are well maintained and slick. It is challenging to the best player, but also provides an enjoyable day on the links for the average or novice golfer. Five sets of tees offer a variety of choices with the course measuring slightly over 5,000 yards from the forward tees.

Several features make Sweetgrass standout, including a variety of green types – Biarritz, Redan and a shared green on nos. 9 and 18. "Rescued" metal bridges formerly used by the Michigan Department of Transportation add a unique "patina" to the setting while serving a purpose. The bridge leading to the course's testy little island green hole – No. 15 – is a signature statement and a memorable hole.

Island Resort and Casino is currently building a second golf course, which will rank among the best in the state when completed in 2017. Albanese designed the course around and over a 120-foot ridge that bisects the property. It will feature elevated tees, heavily wooded fairways and hilly terrain to create that "Up North" feeling and unique golf challenge.

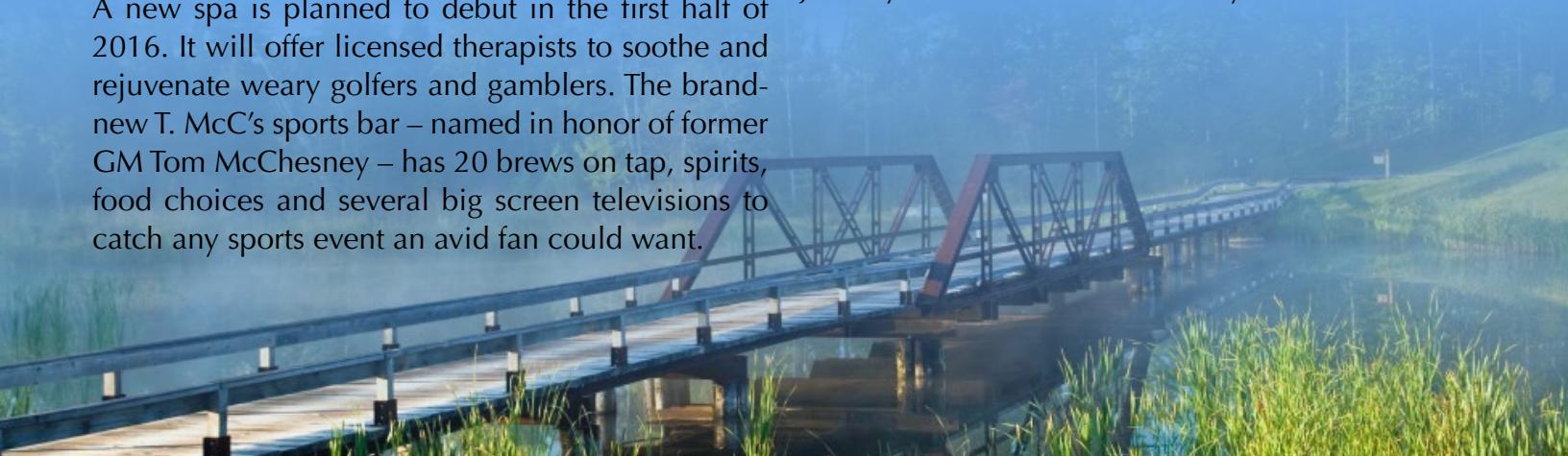
Until then, those wanting to try Sweetgrass or return to it should consider the "Perfect Foursome" – a stay-and-play package that can be customized to add two other U.P. golf favorites, Timberstone and Greywalls starting at \$230.

Other amenities at Island Resort and Casino include the Island Showroom, which can accommodate an audience of over 1,300 and hosts the top names in the entertainment industry to perform for resort guests.

A new spa is planned to debut in the first half of 2016. It will offer licensed therapists to soothe and rejuvenate weary golfers and gamblers. The brand-new T. McC's sports bar – named in honor of former GM Tom McChesney – has 20 brews on tap, spirits, food choices and several big screen televisions to catch any sports event an avid fan could want.

There are six dining options at the Island Resort and Casino. For an unforgettable dining experience, we highly recommend 5 Bridges Steak and Seafood Restaurant. The chef offers the finest cuisine available and does a masterful job of creating delicious delights. Crab bisque, lobster cakes and coconut shrimp are a few of the many choices.

Island Resort and Casino has the best of everything for golfers and gamblers. It is a little off the beaten path, but that's part of its charm and well worth the journey. Visit their website today.



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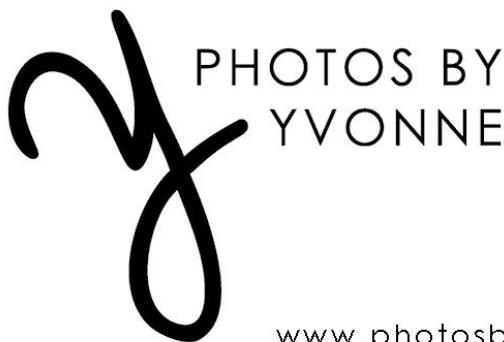


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You might be a Golfaholic if you know who Danny Noonan, Al Czervik, Ty Webb, Judge Smails, Lacey Underall and Carl Spackler are plus you can hit it long like the "Dali Lama."

GOLFAHOLICISM IS A SERIOUS AFFLICTION

GOLFAHOLICISM AFFECTS NEARLY 40 million people, with more afflicted with this debilitating illness every day.

This dreaded disease has declined slightly in the United States over the past decade, but seems to be reaching epidemic proportions in parts of Pacific Rim countries such as: Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and China.

Sadly, there is currently no known cure for Golfaholicism.

The best known treatment is shopping for new golf equipment, brightly colored golf apparel, and especially golf shoes.

Side effects include, watching the PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, European Tour, Champions Tour and Web.com Tour for hours on television, hitting multiple large buckets of balls at a driving range, or spending the entire day overdosing at a golf course.

Matt Ginella's travel tips on Golf Channel's Morning Drive has been known to calm an anxious Golfaholic in extreme situations.

Make no Mistake, Golfaholicism is a disease of the highest order.

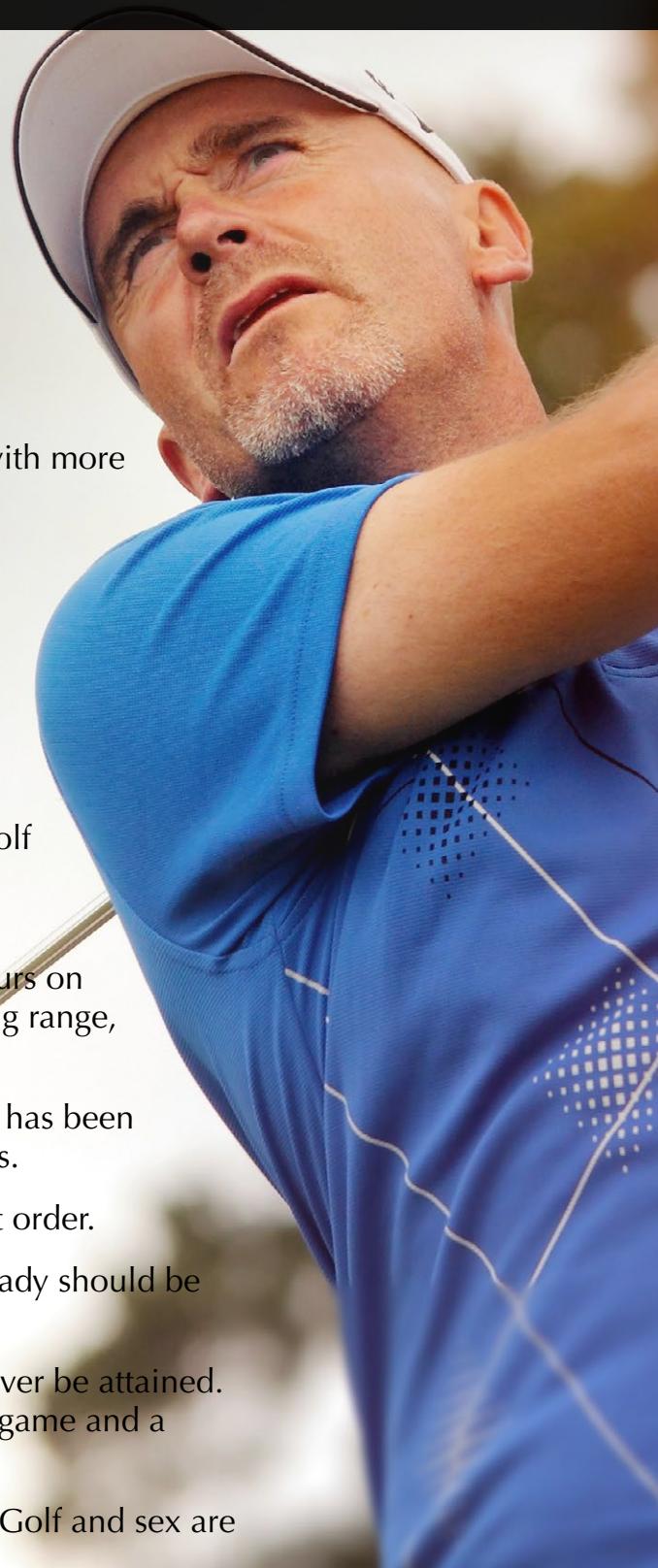
Family members and friends afflicted with this terrible malady should be treated with the upmost caution and care.

A cure is not forthcoming, however, and perfection can never be attained. At best, only a deep appreciation of the complexity of the game and a belief that they will find Hogan's secret in the dirt.

As Roy Hobbs so eloquently said in the movie 'Tin Cup', "Golf and sex are the only two things in life that one can completely suck at and still enjoy."

So whip out the Big Dog and Take it Deep, Fire that laser 7-iron to the stick and roll your pill on that slick dance floor into the jar.

Be Strong! Be Proud! Golfaholics!!



You Might Be A Golfaholic if: You read every article about new golf club technology and you understand MOI, Spin Rate, launch angle, Club Head Speed, shaft flex, kick point, and coefficient of inertia.

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VIDEOS



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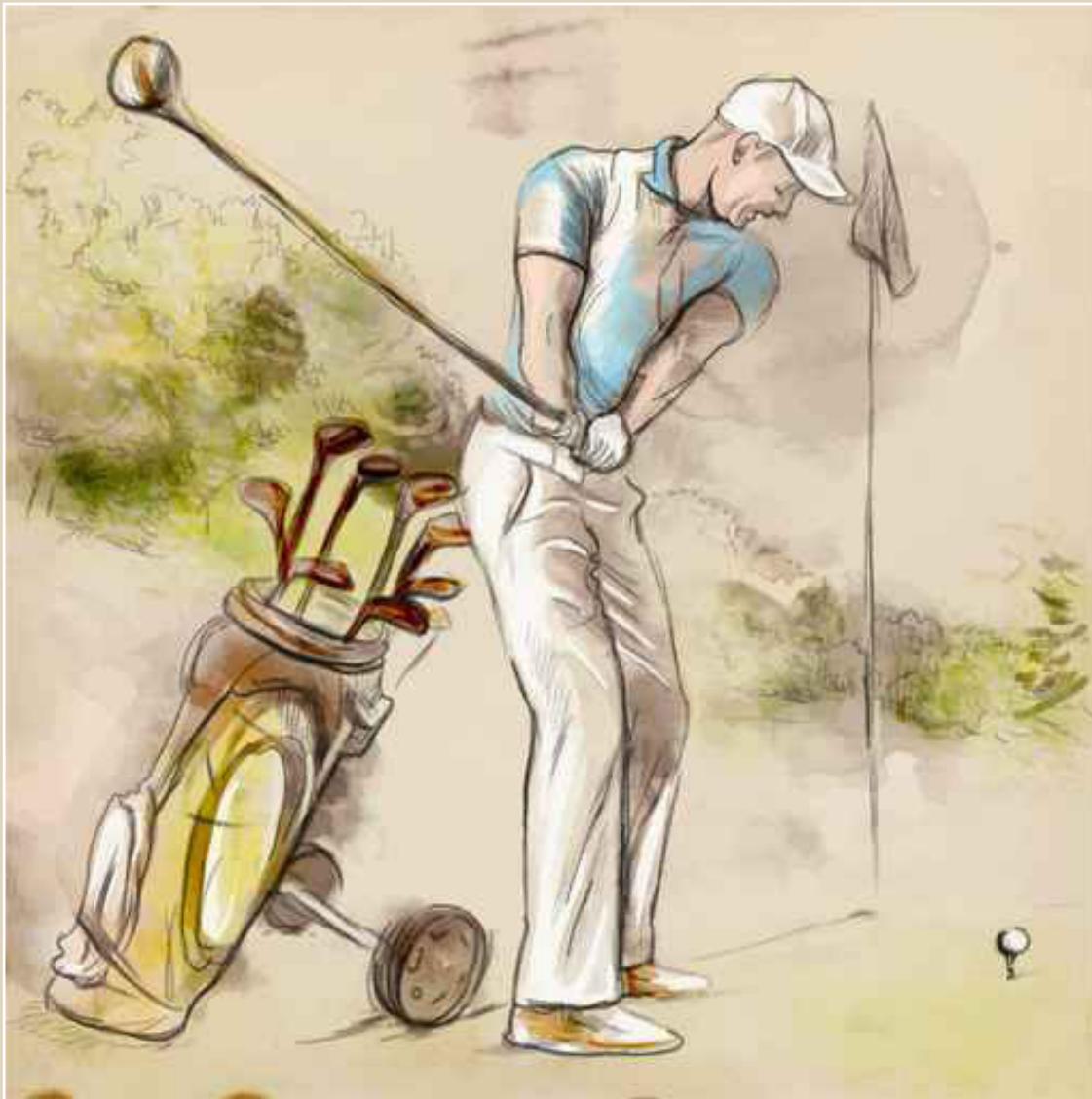
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