



October 2024



## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# STEVE JOHNSON

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 PM in the Clubhouse. The membership approved a Bylaw change last year to move the annual meeting from February to November. This will allow new Board members the opportunity to join the Board at the beginning of the Club's fiscal year rather than 3 months in. It will also provide the results of any funding issues that may be presented to the members before the new year starts. As I stated in the last newsletter, there are two open Board seats this year. They are currently held by Lindsey Hurlburt and Len Roth. The deadline to nominate someone or yourself to run for a 3 year seat on the Board is October 15, 2024. You can do so by notifying a Board member or emailing me at [office@vvgcbozeman.com](mailto:office@vvgcbozeman.com). Nominees will be asked if they accept the nomination and will be asked to fill out a questionnaire to introduce themselves to the membership.

We hope you are enjoying the changes to the newsletter. Thank you Rex Connell for your work in coordinating and laying it out and all the members that are contributing pictures, stories, suggestions, ext. Also, thank you to the members that have participated in the "Question of the Month", Your feedback provides the management and Board of Directors with information to continually improve the member experience. Please click on the take this month's survey box under "We Want Your Feedback" contained in this newsletter and provide your feedback on this month's questions. It doesn't take long and helps us meet your expectations.

Last month's question related to members' use of the restaurant. 76% of the respondents indicated they regularly use the restaurant. Of those that indicated they do not regularly use the restaurant most replied that they do not eat out often. I personally related to the member who said we don't eat out regularly because "my wife is a great cook". Others indicated concern over food quality, pricing and variety as well as the atmosphere.

Let's have a wonderful final month of the 2024 golf season.







FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GOLF  
**TED BABCOCK** PGA

We are once again entering the final month of the season. The first couple of weeks of October look beautiful. Let's hope the white stuff stays away till November. I wanted to thank all the members that have supported the golf operation through tournament play, leagues, and group and private lessons. Your support allows the entire staff in the golf operations the motivation to continue to strive to adjust and change to improve all members' overall golf experience. The VVGC Tournament Schedule concluded with One-Person Scramble conducted on Sunday, September 22nd. We had a beautiful day for the event. Thanks to all participants.

Flight 1-Gross P. Uithoven	Net-T. Vandervos
Flight 2-J. Ritter	Net-B. Tudsbury
Flight 3-T. Benjamin	Net-C. Vanvelkinburgh
Flight 4-J. Brinkman	Net-Griff Davidson
Flight 5-M. Davison	Net-Tie-B. Blake & B. Rauser
Flight 6-P. Serino	Net-Gordon Davidson
Women Flight 1-Dena Loucks	Net-J. Eide

Speaking of Champion, VVGC own Jon Yousko won the MSGA Senior Tour Final at Spanish Peaks GC in Big Sky. Congrats to Jon and representing VVGC on the state level. Other than the weather many of you experienced, the MSGA Senior Tour seemed to be a huge success. We look forward to hosting the MSGA State Senior going forward. Just a reminder, all Merchandise Credit will expire on October 31st. If you need to special order any item, please do now. At this point, it may be difficult to have said item arrive before November 1st. Thank you again for your continued support of Valley View Golf Shop. The golf operation is planning on doing a sale in November around the Annual Member Meeting. The "Turkey Sale" will run Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday, November 14 from 12:00-5:00. All items in the golf shop will be 25% off on Wednesday and 30% off on Thursday. Hope to see many of you then. It is my Honor to be your Director of Golf, Ted Babcock, PGA Director of Golf Valley View Golf Club





## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# GARY COLSTAD

Welcome to the month of October, better known as the month of leaves and frost! Please be prepared for frost delays if you are making an early morning tee time. If the frost delay signs are up...please stay off the turf. This includes the entire practice area. I will attempt to pull the frost delay signs at the appropriate time, but on occasions I get involved with directing my staff to areas on the course where the frost has melted. If the frost signs are up and you are questioning whether the practice green is open, please ask the pro shop.

Please note that we are on the range mats for the remainder of the golf season. There is little turf recovery at the point, so to have a decent range tee next spring, please stay on the mats! As always...this pertains to ALL MEMBERS and their guests. Show respect for the golf course. There are too many SLABS of turf scattered about the fairways. Please replace your divots...all divots, no matter the size. Help spread the word because obviously not all members are reading the newsletter.

I have requested that people sign their name to any comment card that is dropped off in the Valley View comment box. It makes no sense to me that members have a concern or question that they leave in the comment box...but they do not sign the card! How do we contact you for an explanation or for staff to ask questions about your concerns. Here is an example. A member was

wondering why the greens are inconsistent. My question is whether greens are inconsistent on a specific day, as in #1 green is different than #14 green on any given day? Or... is the question why all greens are a certain "speed" (I am assuming this member is talking about green speed) on one day and different speed another day? Or...are the greens inconsistent, let us say August 24th (after aerification) compared to September 18th (3 weeks after aerification)??? I need more information to be able to explain the inconsistencies that this member is experiencing.

There is a survey question that has been presented to the maintenance staff that asks what the members could do to make our job more enjoyable or easier. I have a couple of ideas that are at the top of my list. Please replace your divots! Please pick up your tees. You would not believe how many tees we pick up each morning. I am not talking about broken tees...I am talking about complete, intact, reusable tees. I know tees are "free" to grab in the pro shop, but they are reusable. The tee boxes out on the course are littered with whole tees. I am guessing people are just not interested in bending over to pick up their tee.

I hope you all had a great golf season. We will spend the remainder of the golf season prepping the golf course for next year. Hopefully, the golf course winters well, and conditions will be spectacular for 2025. Everyone stay healthy and...GO CATS! Gary Colstad

**"Maybe we should let them play through!"**



FROM THE F&B MANAGER  
**KEN HODGSON**

October already?! As we wind down the 2024 golf season, there will still be plenty of nice days to get those last rounds of golf in. The restaurant will remain open until 8pm each night with our weekend dinner entrée specials coming to a close on October 6th. Yes, there is just one more weekend to stop by and enjoy a nice steak or Walleye special. September has been challenging regarding staffing and October looks to be no different. With the promise of some fall weather not being so great, we may close the restaurant early on rainy evenings when there is no business. Feel free to call ahead if the weather is not cooperating.

Soup season is upon us, and we will be serving homemade soup daily and of course New England Clam Chowder every Friday. Our salad bar is constantly changing and fresh as can be. Snack Shack Hours: Closed on Mondays and 11am-6pm the rest of the week (will start closing at 5pm as daylight wanes). On Saturday, October 19th, the Valley View restaurant will close at 2pm for a large private wedding.

**Here are a couple of reminders for the membership:**

Book your company Holiday parties as soon as possible, we still have some dates available; but our calendar is filling up.

The VV Membership Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 6th. Please email the restaurant to reserve your table. [vvgckitchen@gmail.com](mailto:vvgckitchen@gmail.com).

The Valley View restaurant will be open for lunches only (11am-2pm) Monday-Friday starting on Monday, October 28th. This will continue until Friday, November 22nd when we are closing for the Holidays (except for Holiday parties).

Thank you all for your continued support and all your positive feedback. We are working hard to build a reliable year-round staff and continue improving our restaurant and bar. Each season seems to get better and better, and we are looking forward to more and more progress.

Stop by and see what's cookin'!



**Restaurant, Bar, and Snack Shack hours and notes can be found on the club calendar!**





## BEHIND THE SCENES

# AUSTIN

Department: Food & Beverage

**When did you start at VVGC:** I began working at VVGC last June.

**1. What do you do at Valley View on a typical day?** On a typical day, Ken and I will work on menus for weekend dinners, special events, or tournaments before I dive into cooking for the lunch or dinner rush. I like to be involved in the front of house, talk to regular members and ask people how they have enjoyed their meals, especially for special items or weekend dinner menus. I can also be found out at the Snack Shack here and there grilling out, bartending or resupplying during the day.

**2. What is the hardest part of your job?** I think the hardest part of our jobs is catering to all of the various tastes and preferences we have at Valley View. As membership changes and the club grows, we are always looking for new ways to make sure our members have fun and enjoy their experience on the course and in the restaurant.

**3. What do you enjoy the most?** What I enjoy most about Valley View is the community we have here as a staff and the relationships we try to cultivate with the membership. Across the restaurant, pro shop, maintenance team and admin, we have a very supportive environment that I really appreciate, having worked all over the Gallatin Valley and not always feeling empowered in my work.

**4. What do you wish VVGC members knew about what you or your fellow team members do for our club?** What I wish the membership knew about our team in the restaurant is how hard we will try to make your experience fun and memorable. If you aren't enjoying something in our restaurant, letting us know in the moment so we can fix it is much more efficient and productive than leaving dissatisfied and telling the club after the fact. We are here for you!

**5. What can VVGC members can do to make your job more enjoyable or easier?** Continue to give us good feedback so that we can make the restaurant work for you. Try out specials and weekend dinner entrees so that we can keep the menu moving in a positive direction for the membership. And be patient with our front of house staff, most of whom are students. They often carry long days going from school to work and back (sometimes multiple times!) As someone who worked full time in restaurants as a student, I know how much workload they take on during the golf season.

**6. Do you have any funny or crazy stories to share?** You would be surprised at how unexpectedly busy the restaurant can get in early or late season with inclement weather. Some of the busiest days I have worked at VVGC have been during nasty storms or freezing temps, when you would expect the golf course to be a ghost town! Those days can be really fun, even if the work is intense.





# CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW MEMBERS

Lance Child  
Brian Zimmer & Amy Wood  
Levi & Venessa Clark  
Joel & Lisa Baller  
Daniel Konan  
Dugan Gravage

## OUTGOING MEMBERS

Craig & Cindy Smith  
Tyron Reed  
Jay & Carol O'Neil  
Richard & Rachel Pemberton  
Dylan Domanski  
Todd & Kara Barton

## WELCOME NEW DINING AFFILIATES

Robin Wolcott  
Andy Escobar  
Glen Dassoff  
Donna Montick  
StevAnne Kisco  
Jordan Tompkins

## HOLE-IN-ONE CELEBRATIONS

Shawn Harrison - Hole #4  
Mike Deming - Hole #15

If you get a Hole-In-One report it to the Pro Shop along with your witness. Members receive a \$200 credit on your bill (usually used up by your bar tab). Also, don't be shy about taking a picture for the newsletter.

## VVGC Club Calendar

Our club calendar can now be found online! Click [here](#) to view.

## VVGC Club Newsletter

We appreciate the members who are participating in improving our newsletter. Please send us ideas, comments, funny photos, travel reviews, or topics for our newsletter!

**WE WANT  
YOUR  
FEEDBACK**

Take This Month's Survey!





## SURVEY SUMMARY






# PRACTICE GROUNDS

Among the nearly 400 members who responded, almost everyone thinks the practice area is “adequate.” The biggest complaint was the quality of the range turf. This is something we can all help resolve without cost if everyone adopts the “strip method” as recommended by the USGA. Watch this video by [clicking here](#) to see how it works.



*Thanks for your participation!*

## Common themes from the survey the VVGC Board of Directors will be considering:

-  Banning smoking around the practice areas.
-  Netting between the driving range and hole #1.
-  Adding adjusted target yardages to reflect reduced flight range balls.
-  Mats on busy days (mens league, for example) since its mostly for warm-up.
-  Mini bags by chipping areas and practice greens.







## CONTINUING EDUCATION

# RESPECTING OUR CLUB





### REPAIRING DIVOTS | FROM USGA.ORG

There are many ways golfers can impact play, not raking footprints in a bunker or improperly fixing ball marks immediately come to mind. While ball marks are sometimes difficult to find and can have a major impact on ball roll, there is no excuse for not fixing a divot. Failing to do this simple act after hitting a shot is not only bad for the turf but has a potential negative impact on players that follow.

Just as ball marks require a certain technique to correctly fix, divots also require attention to detail for proper repair. So, the next time you hit a take a divot please keep the following in mind:

If the divot is intact and there is soil still attached, simply replace it in the correct orientation and firmly press the divot into the ground with your foot. Pressing down is important because this establishes good contact between turf roots and the soil, which helps the divot heal. Pressing down also creates a firm, smooth surface that provides better playability if someone's ball ends up on the divot while it is healing. If there are any significant gaps between the divot and the surrounding turf, fill them with divot mix and smooth it with your foot. This will help the turf knit back together.

### **Let's Help Each Other Enjoy Our Time at VVGC:**

-  **Awareness: Keep up with the group ahead of you.**
-  **Serenity: If others can hear your music, it is too loud.**
-  **Course Care: Celebrate and then repair pitch marks and divots.**
-  **Dress Code: Casual apparel like t-shirts are not appropriate for a private club.**





Excellence in Golf and Life

# HIGH SCHOOL GOLFERS REPRESENTING VVGC



Photo: Joe Rossman

Pictured Left to Right



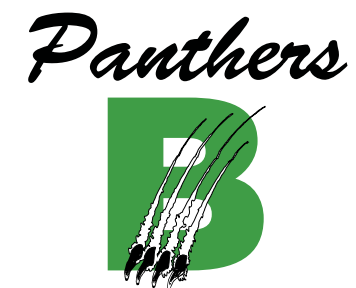
## BOZEMAN HAWKS

Tristan Pearson  
Asha Miller  
Cooper Bourret  
Kira Connell  
Caiden Pershing



## GALLATIN RAPTORS

Addison Bleile  
Ryan Dailey  
Wrigley Loucks  
Sam Alke



## BELGRADE PANTHERS\*

Whitney Maierle  
Tessa Maierle  
Teagan McMahon

\* Coached by VVGC members  
Joe Rossman and Mike Deming.







Name	Year	When did you start playing golf?	How has being a member at VVGC helped you compete-or what is your favorite part of being a VVGC member-what is your earliest memory of VVGC?	What are your post-high school plans and do they include golf?
<b>Tristan Pearson</b>	11	I started playing golf when I was around 5 years old and have always loved playing the game with friends and family. I only recently started playing tournament golf last year but it has been really fun to watch myself get better and have fun playing the game.	Being a member at VVGC has helped me so much because I live nearby and with the range balls I can go practice whenever I want as well as all the tee times that I am able to make to go golfing.	My post high school plan is going to college and hopefully I am able to carry golf with me weather it's competitive or just casual I love playing the game.
<b>Asha Miller</b>	12	The summer before junior year. Before that I had only been on a golf course once.	I got lessons from Paul and Jack the first summer and I couldn't hit the ball without topping it. Because of practice and and help from my coaches I have improved so much.	I plan to go out of state for college, hopefully Washington State to study genetics and cellular biology. I won't be playing golf in college, but I hope to continue playing for fun for the rest of my life.
<b>Cooper Bourret</b>	11	Its hard to say exactly when I started but I got my first set of real graphite shaft clubs just before my 2nd birthday.	Joining Valley View has been a game changer. The course is super close to home so I can practice everyday in the summer. The greens are tough and always roll fast and true.	My goal is to play college golf at a great academic school. But I still have some work to do on my game. And I need to get more exposure to college coaches next year.
<b>Kira Connell</b>	11	I started playing golf as soon as I could walk. My mom took me in a jogging stroller around VVGC when I was just a few weeks old.	I remember riding around in the cart, getting snacks at the snack shack, and watching the baby ducks float down the streams. VVGC's difficult holes have helped me learn all aspects of the game.	I hope to play college golf and throughout the rest of my life.
<b>Caiden Pershing</b>	12	I have been playing golf since middle school.	My favorite part about being a Valley View member is the ability to wake up in the summer and be able to hit range balls or play 18.	I plan to go to college and study Architecture and hopefully play some more golf.







Name	Year	When did you start playing golf?	How has being a member at VVGC helped you compete-or what is your favorite part of being a VVGC member-what is your earliest memory of VVGC?	What are your post-high school plans and do they include golf?
<b>Addison Bleile</b>	12	I started playing golf around the age of five when my parents got me into the sport. I played casually for many years until around eighth grade when I started playing competitively.	I love being a part of VVGC because I have access to the course almost every day, all summer long, whether it be to practice or play a quick 9 holes. The course has helped me compete because it tests my skills and abilities as it is not the easiest course in the valley.	Next year, I plan to attend Montana State university. I will not be playing college golf but hope to continue playing this game for fun in my free time.
<b>Ryan Dailey</b>	11	I've been playing for as long as I can remember, but started taking it more seriously in middle school.	When I was 12, I played in the two-man best ball with my dad as a last minute sub. It was the first time I had played from the whites. We made a few long putts and ended up winning our flight.	I don't have post high school plans yet, but would love to play college golf.
<b>Wrigley Loucks</b>	12	I played golf since I was a little girl with my parents. I didn't get serious about it until summer of 8th grade.	Valley View is one of the more challenging courses in the valley, that has helped me improve my game. My earliest memories at Valley View include getting to go into the kitchen as a little girl and scooping ice cream with Jordy.	I plan to attend college, but intend to follow my passion of dancing. However, I can see myself working in the golf industry for years to come.
<b>Sam Alke</b>	09	I started playing golf when I was 9 years old. But I didn't play a lot until middle school.	I really like being a member at VVGC because whenever I want I can go to the golf course and practice or play golf.	I don't have any plans for after highschool, but I would really like to play college golf.







Name	Year	When did you start playing golf?	How has being a member at VVGC helped you compete-or what is your favorite part of being a VVGC member-what is your earliest memory of VVGC?	What are your post-high school plans and do they include golf?
<b>Whitney Maierle</b>	12	I always have played golf with my mom and dad but didn't start taking it seriously until 8th grade.	My earliest memories at VVGC are when I was little running around the golf course barefoot, golfing with plastic clubs, and sitting on my dad's lap driving around in the golf cart.	All of my plans are undecided.
<b>Tessa Maierle</b>	10	I always played golf with my parents when I was younger but did not start taking it seriously until high school.	Being a member of VVGC has helped me compete because with it being a private club it has taught me all the sportsmanship of keeping the course nice.	Undecided







Photos: ramshill.com

## VVGC MEMBER TRAVEL

# GOLF ON THE ROAD

**Course Name | Location:** [Rams Hill](#) | Borrego Springs, CA

**Getting There:** Fly into San Diego or LAX then drive about two hours.

**Staying There:** There are “stay and play” packages available through the course, as well as Casa del Zorro and the Borrego Springs Resort (dated). However, I recommend renting an AirBnB. Ram’s Hill is only a little over an hour from Palm Desert / Indian Wells, so you could stay there and drive out to play. There are several excellent courses in the Coachella Valley as well (PGA West, Indian Wells Resort, Desert Willow, Classic Club).

**Review of Clubhouse and Amenities:** The clubhouse has a fantastic restaurant and full bar. Having a beer on the patio after your round is a highlight. The pro shop is small, but well stocked. The practice facility isn’t large, but has Pro V1x range balls and there is a large putting green near the 1st tee. The clubhouse also has a golf simulator.

**Review of Course:** Rams Hill’s slogan is “The Middle of Nowhere. Exactly Where You Need to Be.” This is very true. The course feels like it is in the middle of nowhere, but has breathtaking views. It is a Tom Fazio design, and features his trademark undulating fairways and greens. Rams Hill is often ranked right behind Pebble Beach and Spyglass for the best courses in California, and in top 100 national lists for public courses. This course is special, and should be on everyone’s bucket list. There are several short par 4s and tee shots where you can cut corners, and then there are three different par 3’s that require long carries over water and bunkers. Several shots require you to play away from the pin and instead use elevation and banking on the greens to let the ball release to the cup. The greens were replaced a few years ago with MiniVerde, making them firm and very fast (11 or better on the stimp). Sticking a green can be a challenge.

**Pros:** The views are top shelf. The course conditions, clubhouse patio, and the serenity are excellent as well.

**Cons:** Kind of a pro and con, but it is in the middle of nowhere and there are limited lodging and restaurant options close by.

**Go Again:** I have gone every year for the last 10 years or so, with no plans to stop.

**Advice to Others:** You can sometimes find a slightly discounted tee time on GolfNow. If you have the time while in Borrego Springs, make sure to check out Galleta Meadows and their famous Sky Art sculptures.

### SHARE YOUR GOLF TRAVEL ADVENTURE!



Tell fellow VVGC members about your latest golf adventure! Send us a few photos and answer these questions in an email and we’ll feature your story in an upcoming newsletter.







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