

T OREGON Life

GOLF EXTRA • COMICS/TV • CLASSIFIED



Sharp as a razor

Cottage Grove Theatre rendition of "Sweeney Todd" is true to the Sondheim original/D4

Buzzworthy

MAJOR AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS

There will be several tournaments of note at Eugene-area golf courses this year, including:

- ◆ The Pacific Northwest Golf Association Cup, Eugene Country Club, May 1 through May 3.

The Ryder Cup-style championship features some of the most notable amateur golfers in the region with 12-member teams representing the regional golf associations in the Pacific Northwest Golf Association. Teams play four-ball, foursome and singles matches. Each team has eight men and four women.

- ◆ U.S. Amateur Qualifier, Emerald Valley Golf Club, Aug. 1. Top finishers will earn berths in the U.S. Amateur championship.

- ◆ 21st Oregon Women's Stroke Play Championship, Emerald Valley, Aug. 6-7. UO star Kendra Little is the defending open division champion; the tournament, which also has a senior division, is open to amateurs who have USGA Handicap indexes of 22.4 and less and who are members of an OGA member club.

- ◆ 59th Oregon Men's Stroke Play Championship, Emerald Valley, Aug. 12-14. The tournament also has a senior division, and is open to amateurs with USGA Handicap indexes of 5.0 or less, and seniors with handicap indexes of 10.0 or less.

- ◆ OGA Women's Team Championship, Mallard Creek GC, Sept. 17-18. The Shadow Hills Country Club team of Mary Budke and Mary Sharon Hadley finished tied for second last year.



Shadow Hills General Manager Dave Shelton is overseeing a \$5.2 million project to build a new clubhouse and transform the driving range into a true practice facility.

A daring approach at Shadow Hills

The club will undergo a \$5.2 million improvement project

By **RON BELLAMY**
The Register-Guard

A good golf course rewards play that is at once bold and thoughtful, and the members of Shadow Hills Country Club believe they've had a very good golf course since a major redesign in the 1990s.

That project took place when the country club was "at a crossroads," general manager Dave Shelton said.

"If it didn't improve its product, the golf course, I'm not sure that it would even be here."

Well, the private club has endured, and its golf course played to favorable reviews by professionals when the Oregon Classic was an annual stop on the Nationwide Tour, and its preceding tours, for 11 years through 2008.

Now, almost 20 years after the course redesign began, Shadow Hills is making another bold, thoughtful play.

The country club off River Road south of Junction City is embarking on a \$5.2 million project to replace its aging clubhouse with a new, larger building that will allow Shadow Hills to generate increased revenue by hosting various functions, and to transform its driving

range into a true practice facility that Shelton believes will be virtually without peer in the Pacific Northwest.

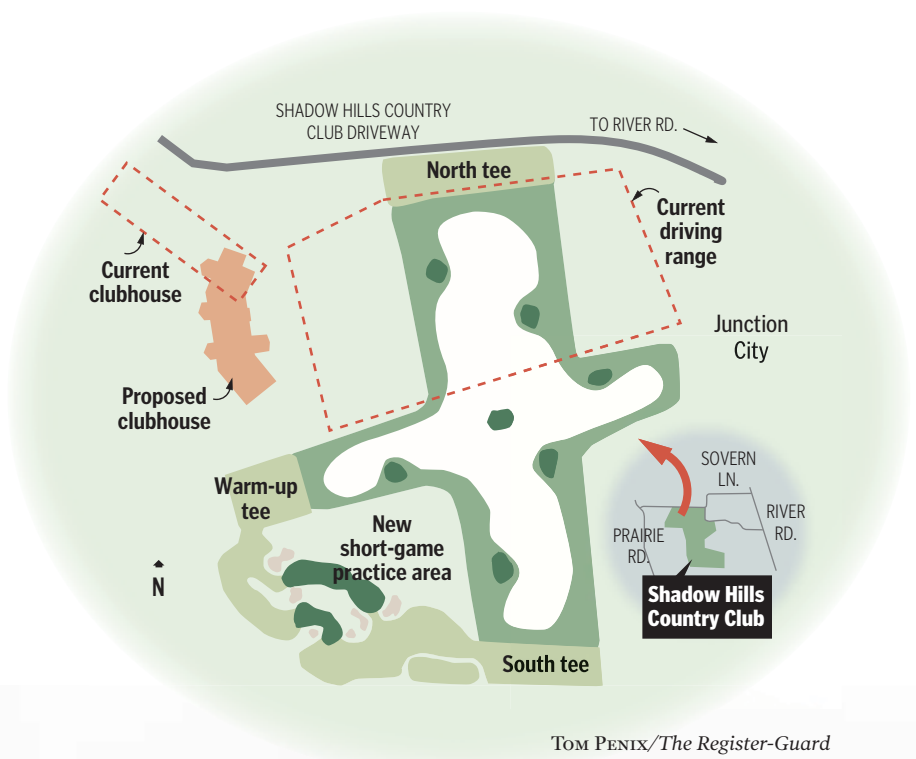
In a daunting economy, and at a time when club membership has fallen from a capacity of 475 to 375, according to Shelton, the goal of the project is to enhance the value of the country club for current members, and to attract new ones, both through an aggressive membership

drive this spring and over the long term.

"This is the next big step for the club," Shelton said. "I would say that everyone involved in this feels like it secures the future of the club."

"It changes the whole competitive nature of the club, and the value of the club. And that was our concern,

Turn to **GOLF**, Page D2



TOM PENIX/The Register-Guard



KEVIN CLARK/The Register-Guard

The new practice facility at Shadow Hills will be 24 acres, an upgrade from the current, eight-acre driving range.

OUTDOORS BRIEFLY

NEWS & NOTES

FLY FISHING FESTIVAL, BOAT RODEO IS SATURDAY

The fourth annual Eugene Spring Fly Fishing Festival is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Campbell Community Center, 155 High St. The free event will be hosted by the McKenzie Flyfishers, Cascade Family Fly Fishers and the city of Eugene and will offer a day of tying, casting, and rod building that will introduce people of all ages to the sport of fly fishing. Demonstrations, ODFW biologists and other experts will do everything from helping teach the basics to advanced help. New this year is a chance to tie your own fly, then catch one of the fish stocked just for the event. For more information call 541-343-3109.

Also Saturday is the McKenzie River Boat Rodeo and Cook Off, which benefits the free life-jacket program for boaters at stores along the McKenzie River. It's at Hendricks Bridge Park near Waltherville, and also will have boat inspections available after noon. Call 541-579-3474 for more information.

JOURNEY TO CLOUD FOREST OF ECUADOR

Tobias Policha presents "Tree Ferns, Orchids & Other Wonders: A Journey to the Cloud Forest of Northwestern Ecuador" on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Native Plant Society's meeting. Policha will share photos and stories of his research in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador, a land with more than 20,000 plant species. It's at the EWEB Training Room at 500 East 4th Ave. Call 541-746-9478.

TAKE A WANDER WITH WREN TONIGHT

Willamette Resources & Educational Network will host a free, WREN Wander from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. today. Meet at the gravel parking lot at the west end of Royal Avenue. It will be on the eastern side of the Army Corps' Fisher Butte Unit. WREN will provide binoculars. For more information, call 541-338-7047 or e-mail info@wewetlands.org.

SOCIETY GOES 'AMONG PENGUINS'

The Eugene Natural History Society presents, "Among Penguins: A Bird Man in Antarctica" with Noah Strycker at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Room 100 Willamette Hall on the UO Campus. The talk is free and recounts his time spent living and researching in Antarctica. For information, call Tom Titus at 541-484-4477.

FISHING

Jon Payne of Eugene's o2fish Guide Service on some of the area's best bets: "Excellent trout fishing on the McKenzie River during the past warm afternoons. March browns, caddis hatches are really starting to come on. This trend should continue as the weather continues to warm up. To the south, the Umpqua River has been producing spring chinook salmon, and as the water drops, fishing should become more productive."

Payne also reported that two blockages on the McKenzie were removed last weekend, one near milepost 44 on Highway 126. One tree across the river was 5 feet in diameter, and was removed with help from Wade Scofield, the McKenzie River Guides Association and McKenzie Fire and Rescue.

Rivers and streams: In trout stocking, Alton Baker Park's Canoe Canal will receive 1,500 legal- and 400 larger-sized trout this week.

Lakes and ponds: Cottage Grove Lake will receive 4,500 legal trout. Junction City Pond will get 850 legal-, 100 larger- and 25 trophy-sized trout this week. In south coast stockings, Empire Lakes will receive 6,000 total trout, Mingus Park in Coos Bay will get 1,000 and Tenmile Lakes will receive 6,000 total.

VIEWING

What to watch for: The Lane County Audubon Society has its April bird walk Saturday. Meet at South Eugene High School at 8 a.m. The walk, led by Noah Strycker, will return by noon and will feature a treasure hunt on Eugene's Skinner Butte Park for spring migrants.

— From ODFW and Register-Guard reports

Golf: UO coaches influence practice facility design

Continued from Page D1

that if we don't do that, we were going to lose that eventually. We were going to lose being a country club; something was going to happen, and it was probably not going to be a positive thing."

The key elements of the project:

- ◆ A new 22,400 square foot clubhouse, to be situated behind the ninth and 18th greens, that will replace the 16,000 square foot clubhouse near the 10th tee built in 1963 or 1964. That project, including a new parking lot, is estimated at \$4.8 million, with construction to start in mid August or early September and completion by next April.

- ◆ A new practice facility, designed by Dan Hixson, whose courses include Bandon Crossings and Wine Valley Golf Club in Walla Walla, Wash. The project, at an estimated cost of \$400,000, will transform and expand the current driving range from eight acres to 24 acres, with three tee areas and a short-game practice area with another putting green, a chipping green and a pitching green that's 80 yards wide, offering the opportunity to practice shots from different lies and distances up to 100 yards.

Hixson took into consideration design suggestions from Oregon golf coaches Casey Martin and Ria Scott, whose teams practice at Shadow Hills, as well as at Eugene Country Club and Emerald Valley Golf Course, and who view the new practice facility as another arrow in the recruiting arsenal.

Construction of the practice facility is expected to be completed by the end of this month, weather permitting, with the facility ready for use in July.

"People will say, 'Why are you doing this now? It's kind of a scary time,'" Shelton said. "Well, it is a scary time in business, but it also gives you some of the best opportunities in business because of the cost of building and the cost of money."

"The timing is right for us. We feel like we have an unbalanced product. We have a very nice golf course, it's in great condition. But on the other side, we have a very aging clubhouse that doesn't really fit the quality of our golf course. And we have a driving range instead of a practice facility."

"We want to balance that out and create higher value, but still keep the core of Shadow Hills, which is welcoming and friendly."

'A genius move'

Shadow Hills Golf Course opened as a nine-hole course almost 50 years ago, in June 1962. The second nine opened



ROBERTSON, SHERWOOD ARCHITECTS PC

An up-close view of the exterior walls of the dining, lounge and pro-shop area.

that September, creating a 6,500-yard course. The original investors included Bill Erskine, a Mapleton lumberman, and Ray Pollard, co-owner of a Eugene insurance firm. Three years later, by then a private club that was barely breaking even, the golf course was sold to Bohemia Lumber Company, which envisioned building upscale homes on the adjoining acreage.

However, changing state land use regulations prevented that dream from becoming a reality, and instead of a gold mine for Bohemia, the course became a financial burden.

As recounted in Michael Thoele's "Bohemia, the Lives and Times of an Oregon Timber Adventure," Bohemia leased the golf course to the country club until 1986. Then, with the club on the verge of going under, and motivated as much by community relations as business needs, Bohemia agreed to sell the club to the membership in a favorable deal, \$1.1 million at annual payments of just \$63,000.

Shadow Hills was saved and then saved again when the golf course underwent a major redesign, in several stages between 1992 and 1995, by noted designer Bill Robinson.

"My description used to be that you could play six or seven holes and look up and not know where you were, because they were all so similar," said Mark Keating, then the head professional at Shadow Hills and now the assistant pro at Astoria Golf and Country Club.

The \$1.5 million project added ponds, mounding around the greens and new bunkers; it changed some holes considerably and covered "old farm ditches." It lengthened the par-72 course to 7,113 yards from the tips.

"It gave it a real signature look, a real new look, dramatic from what it was in the past," Keating said. "As far as the membership went at the time, it was a big frog to swallow, but they figured if they wanted to get out of the dark ages there, they had to do it. As it turned out, it was a genius move."

Even before the project was finished, Keating said, "people started

flocking out there. The membership really blossomed. We had a really big waiting list for quite some time."

Jim Bradshaw, then the general manager of Shadow Hills, said the course redesign, promoted by an extensive advertising campaign, netted 100 new members. Because the project included a new irrigation system and an upgraded maintenance facility, it allowed Shadow Hills to continue investing in the quality of the redesigned course, Bradshaw said.

"We always made the golf course the priority," he said.

And so, in 1998, when Shadow Hills was added to what was then called the Nike Tour, a subsidiary tour for golfers seeking to reach the PGA Tour, it was a major coup, unthinkable without the redesign, and validated when the now-defunct Oregon Classic got consistently positive reviews from the tour pros for the quality of the course.

But about three years ago, Shelton said, Shadow Hills took stock. The aging clubhouse needed to be refurbished, if not replaced; the flat roof was "no longer flat, it's concave," and the banquet facility wasn't big enough for some potential revenue-producing events, or classy enough for others.

Owning 150 acres of land around the golf course, Shadow Hills explored some of the options that Bohemia had explored — whether developing some of that land for homes could help finance construction of a new clubhouse. In the end, the hopes of obtaining city services from Junction City, water and sewer service — the country club is on well water and a septic system — by getting into the city's urban growth boundary proved unrealistic, Shelton said.

That wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

"Golf was originally a rural sport," said Shelton, in his sixth year at Shadow Hills. "Those places have been engulfed by population and the ruralness has gone away. ... The good news is that we can maintain the integrity of the game of golf, but we needed to find a way to make this happen."

In December, club members voted with a

"resounding 'yes,'" — 73 percent in favor — to go forward with the project, Shelton said. They authorized the club to borrow up to \$2.8 million to finance building the new clubhouse — a lender is being sought — and to assess themselves \$3,000 each for the project.

Some club members donated personally to the project, upwards of \$400,000, Shelton said. The new clubhouse, designed by the Eugene firm of Robertson Sherwood Architects, will include lockers, an expanded pro shop, a living-room-like lobby and a larger, dividable banquet facility, with decks and a view of the golf course and a garden.

"Given a beautiful banquet room with large outdoor decking, we feel we can rent that space a lot," Shelton said. "We're pretty excited about that. We've lost several events because we're too small. We're not the choice for a high-end wedding because of our building. "But we would be."

A membership drive

The vote to go forward cost Shadow Hills some members, Shelton said, with further attrition not unexpected. Membership capacity is 475, and Shadow Hills has been at that level within the past five years, but the economy, natural attrition and disagreement over the future direction reduced membership to the current 375, Shelton said.

"Ideally, we don't need to be at 475," he said. "If we're at 430, we're in great financial shape. We're in great financial shape now because we have no debt and we manage our expenses really well. If we were at 430, we'd be in wonderful shape."

"That's the point of the membership drive, to get our membership back to where we want it to be."

Through June 15, new members can purchase a full membership, both family or individual, for \$3,500, compared with the usual initiation fee of \$6,000, and that will cover the cost of the \$3,000 project assessment. There is also the opportunity for a one-year trial membership (subject to a commitment to pay all monthly dues) and new members can also receive a credit on their monthly dues

(\$320 for a family, \$298 for an individual) of \$55 per month for the first two years.

As part of the membership drive, current members would receive a two-year reduction in monthly dues if they bring in a new member.

There's also a "social sports membership" that allows use of the new practice facility, as well as other club amenities, but not course privileges.

Certainly, the practice facility will be a significant upgrade.

"I think their practice facility will rival any of the top facilities you go to from a size and uniqueness standpoint," said Martin, the UO men's coach and former PGA Tour player. "I think it will rival any of the ones I've been to, and I've certainly been to a lot."

The practice facility will feature a warm-up tee for golfers about to embark on their round, and two practice tees, the widest 125 yards, allowing golfers the chance to practice different shots in different wind conditions. In addition to the much-improved short-game area, there will be target greens, and also cement discs, at 10-yard increments up to 100 yards, so golfers can learn how far they fly different wedge shots, and the south part of the range can be used for a four-hole mini-course during juniors camps.

Scott, the UO women's golf coach, said the facility is going to be a "huge recruiting tool" for the Ducks, and "unbelievable resource" for the teams, which also practice at Eugene Country Club and Emerald Valley Golf Course.

"If we can't figure out every single shot to hit between those three great facilities, I don't know what we're doing wrong," she said.

The practice facility will be purely about golf, which should fit Shadow Hills perfectly.

"Most private clubs do 28,000 to 32,000 rounds of golf a year," Shelton said. "We do 46,000 rounds every year."

"Our members really like to play golf."

492 E. 13th	686-2458
OF GODS AND MEN	7:50, 7:30
OPAL	5:15
HOOD TO COAST	7:15
FIGHT CLUB	10:10
THE UPSSETTER	9:30

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

To submit events

Submit listings to: Outdoors@registerguard.com. All events are free, unless otherwise noted.

Bicycling

WEDNESDAY

GEARS: 36-mile or 24-mile options to Herman Road via Coburg Bottom Loop. Meet 6 p.m., Alton Baker Park. Info: Gary Cook 541-484-9398.

SATURDAY

GEARS: 35 miles to McKenzie View and Sunderman, meet 9 a.m. Alton Baker Park. Info: Paula Erickson, 541-998-8420.

SUNDAY

GEARS: 50 miles to Butler Road, meet 9 a.m. Alton Baker Park. Info: Gary Cook, 541-484-9398.

Hiking

SATURDAY

ORCA Orienteering: Map and Compass Hiking, 1-to-4 miles, Willamette Park, Corvallis. All ages and levels. Beginner clinics and compasses provided. Register from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$7. Info: forestrunner.com/orca

SUNDAY

Obsidians: 4.2 miles to Mount Pisgah to view the sunset and moonrise, with 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Led by Royal Murdoch. Sign up only online at obsidians.org.

Walking

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Altair Sports Club: 5-6 miles around town, meet at 10 a.m. at Midtown at 1591 Willamette St. Information: 541-746-6263.

SATURDAY

Altair Sports: 4-5 miles on river bike trails. Meet 10 a.m. at Café Aroma at Valley River Center. Information: 541-343-7893.

Mossbacks Volkssport Club: Carpool to Sherwood for 3.1- or 6.2-mile walk, 8 a.m., Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St., Springfield. Details: mossbacks.org or 541-726-7169.

SUNDAY

Mossbacks Volkssport Club: Carpool to Lebanon for 3.7-, 6.2-, or 7.4-mile walk, 1 p.m., Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C St., Springfield. Details: mossbacks.org or 541-726-7169.

Meetings

TODAY

GEARS: General meeting, with an interactive presentation by Andy Fernandez on Adaptive Cycling. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard St.

WEDNESDAY

Altair Sports Club: A monthly meeting at 6 p.m., upstairs at the Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette St., will discuss hiking, biking, skiing. Info: 541-485-1405.

BOAT

Sales - Motors - Service
Maxxumarine.com

North River	Duckworth
Weldcraft	River Hawk
Reinell	Humminbird
TRI autopilot	Cannon
Suzuki	Yamaha
2.5 hp to 300 hp	

Service/Repair all brands
Maxxum Marine
1770 Prairie Rd.
541-686-3572

Spring Value Season!!

The Riverhouse

GETAWAY TO BEND AND SAVE!
RATES START AT JUST \$99.00*
Plus save \$15 with Spring Golf Rates

- 220 SPACIOUS ROOMS
- FREE, HOT BREAKFAST BUFFET, EVERYDAY
- KITCHEN, SPA & FIREPLACE SUITES
- WIRELESS INTERNET
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR POOL & SPAS
- SCENIC RIVER TRAIL
- AWARD WINNING STEAKHOUSE
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & DANCING
- RIVER'S EDGE GOLF COURSE
- ENJOY SPA & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS TOO!
- GOLF, SKI & GETAWAY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF 13 RESTAURANTS,
30 BOUTIQUES, SHOPS & THE FAMILY FUN CENTER

Toll Free: (866) 556-1245

3075 N. Business 97 • Bend, OR 97701

www.riverhouse.com

*Offer expires 5/31/11. Based on availability

Deal of the Day

Save at least the cost of today's Register-Guard when you use this money-saving coupon!

The Register-Guard

Jiffy Lube

would like to give you

\$8⁰⁰ Off

your next oil change.

(Reg. \$36.99) Cannot be combined with any other promotions or offers

jiffy lube

expires 6/30/11

340 Coburg Rd.
541-683-4841