



Hello from the Illinois Valley Country Club golf course!  
**In this week's action, the Men's Club top 10 look like:**  
 Taylor's Sausage—147.5  
 True Value #2—138.5  
 Kerby Electric—136.5  
 Bud Bros—131.5  
 D&B—131  
 Cascade Auto—116  
 Pacific Ridgeline—116  
 Valley Fab—113  
 Jake, Casey, Jason and Jesse—112  
 Jerry's Towing—104.5  
 \*At Thursday's Ladies league Sue, Cheryl, Amy, Melindee and Tasha formed a team;

Jamie, Jaime, Sherry and Meghan had another team. I was out on the course fixing some water issues and noticed that Sherry plays left-handed. Since my partner is left-handed, I remarked that I know which side of the ball to park my cart. Sherry was suitably impressed. Emily was packing for a family camping trip but Taylor came out for the first time and she and her new friend Meg, from Dutcher Creek played with Mary. They shot a pretty amazing 36 and had a birdie as well.

\*On Friday evening, Family, Friends, Fun and Kids' night, we had Troy, D'Lynn, Todd, Me, Graham, James, Isaiah, Jesse, Jakob and Steph came along as a feminine addition. Todd, Dwight, Gary and Rich had set up the course for the Greenskeepers Revenge Tournament so the course played very difficultly—more later. No skins on the first 2 holes. On #12 there were about 4 guys putting for birdie but the pin location was up front on a steep slope and very difficult to stop the ball near the hole. Graham somehow got one to roll in for a three-putt bogie and took the first skin. D'Lynn followed that up with a birdie putt turned bogie on #13. On #14 Troy sunk a 35 foot putt with about 8 feet

of break. Everyone else had hit their first putts to the hole which had a steep break and we all ended up in the same place in a little sunken area off the green so Troy was confident that he would take the skin. Jakob hit one hard enough to take out the break and the ball hit the pin, jumped up about a foot and landed in the hole, denying Troy of his skin. Todd took a nice skin on #15 by sinking a hard putt from the backside of the green, after nearly getting Eagle. On #17, having a carry-over KP and about \$17 in the pot, Troy put one on the green from the tee area that Todd had put behind the trees. Again, thinking he had won, he gathered up the cash. Steph had to hit from the ladies tee and she put one at about 5 feet, winning her first KP! And on #18, Todd had placed the tee nearly into the blackberries and sloping away so you had to have your back foot lower than the front. Regardless, some mighty drives resulted. D'Lynn hit one nearly into the ditch, backed that up with shot over the trees and onto the green, setting him up for an Eagle putt. He barely missed the Eagle and tapped in for birdie and the last skin.

\*For the Greenskeepers Revenge Tournament, the tee boxes were set up in crazy

places, off the tee area and most time behind trees. The pin locations were all on steep slopes and on the edge of the greens. And to add further difficulty, all of the flagsticks were removed so you couldn't tell where the holes were. I said, "Bye bye!" about a hundred times during the day, as putts rolled past the hole, up to the hole, near the hole and always off. There were very few birdies and pars. A LOT of bogies and a whole lot of double bogies. Everyone remarked that they would like to play this format again because you get to see places of the course where you have not hit shot before. Todd and Jesse won with an 81, many other teams finished in the high 90s. We had people coming out while we were playing so we scurried and replaced pins as we finished the tournament.

\*\*Kids League continues on Thursdays, if you have not yet signed up your children, please do so right away.

\*\*Next tournament will be June 24- the Backward Tournament, where we play from tee to green but backward through the course.

\*\*And July 1 is the Alumni Tournament, a big fun party with live music, good food and lots and lots of fun.

## Nifty Tidbits: by Chuck Rigby

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Snakes always seem to have a negative impact on peoples minds. From the beginning, according to the Bible, snakes have been in need of a good public relations expert. I will try to change some ideas about their importance. Its true that many are poisonous. But the only poisonous snake in our area is the rattlesnake, and even the rattlesnake performs a beneficial service to mankind by eating lots of rats, mice, rabbits, and squirrels.

No snakes are vegetarians and eat our crops or damage our gardens. Besides the rattlesnake, the other large snake, the gopher snake, also eats rats, mice, rabbits and other warm blooded prey. Racers, king snakes, garter snakes, and even

the rubber boa eat various sizes of lizards, other snakes, frogs, worms and even insects, which means that they cause no harm to human beings.

There are two fairly small snakes, rarely over a foot long, which are found in moist habitats, such as rotting logs and densely forested areas of the Illinois Valley. They are very docile, are easily handled, and both are beneficial to humans. The ringneck snake is usually olive or gray-green in color on the back or dorsal surface. The belly, or ventral surface, is a vivid orange color and this color forms a ring around the body just behind the head. There is also a series of black spots all along the upper part of the orange area. This is the basis for its scientific name which is *Diadophis punctatus*. Diadophis is derived from the Greek word "diadem," which

means headband and "ophis" which is Greek for snake. "Punctum," the source of the word punctuate, is Latin for spots. Therefore it means the spotty snake with a headband.

Ringneck snakes normally feed on salamanders, lizards, frogs, and earthworms. They also are known to eat slugs which should make all gardeners happy to have them in the area. They are usually active only at night and will secrete a smelly mucous from their mouth when disturbed. I've never seen that trait and have handled them many times when they were brought to school.

The other small snake in our area is known as the sharp-tailed snake. This snake is a dull reddish-brown color with faint white stripes along the length of both sides. The name is based on a

noticeable sharp spine at the tip of its tail. The function of the spine is not positively known but seems to serve as an anchor when it struggles with its prey. That prey, which is their main food, seems to consist almost entirely of slugs but small salamanders may be eaten as well. The sharp-tailed snake also has long thin fangs which help in gripping the slimy slugs. By the way, no snakes are slimy. They are smooth and dry, but they produce no mucous in the skin as do salamanders and frogs. They may be wet because of wet grass or coming out of water. Hopefully, this information may help make some people more inclined to hold them in their hands.

The scientific name of the Sharp-tailed snake is *Contia tenuis*. It was named "Contia" to honor John L. Leconte, a herpetologist (a

scientist that studies reptiles and amphibians). LeConte collected many reptiles and amphibians for the United States National Museum. "Tenuis" is the Latin word for narrow or slender. Predators of both snakes are abundant and varied. They would include jays, opossums, other snakes, shrews, skunks and even scorpions and spiders on occasion.

My main objective in writing this article is to show that snakes are generally beneficial as far as humans are concerned. Finding a snake in the woods, even a rattlesnake, is not an excuse to destroy it. They are usually not considered a cuddly pet but they are an important part of the ecosystem. The natural ecology thrives if all species are left to fill their niche in the environment.

## Today in History: The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 21, the 172nd day of 2023. There are 193 days left in the year. Summer begins today.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 21, 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

#### On this date:

In 1377, King Edward III died after ruling England for 50 years; he was succeeded by his grandson, Richard II.

In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1942, an Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.

In 1954, the American Cancer Society presented a study to the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco which found that men who regularly smoked cigarettes died at a considerably higher rate than non-smokers.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were slain in Philadelphia, Mississippi; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later. (Forty-one years later on this date in 2005, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found

guilty of manslaughter; he was sentenced to 60 years in prison, where he died in January 2018.)

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Miller v. California, ruled that states may ban materials found to be obscene according to local standards.

In 1977, Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) of the Likud bloc became Israel's sixth prime minister.

In 1982, a jury in Washington, D.C. found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

In 2010, Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD'), a Pakistan-born U.S. citizen, pleaded guilty to charges of plotting a failed car bombing in New York's Times Square. (Shahzad was later sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2011, the Food and Drug Administration announced that cigarette packs in the U.S. would have to carry macabre images that included rotting teeth and gums, diseased lungs and a sewn-up

corpse of a smoker as part of a graphic campaign aimed at discouraging Americans from lighting up.

**Ten years ago:** A one-page criminal complaint unsealed in federal court accused former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden of espionage and theft of government property in the NSA surveillance case. President Barack Obama nominated James Comey, a top Bush-era Justice official, to head the FBI, succeeding Robert Mueller. The Food Network said it was dropping Paula Deen, barely an hour after the celebrity cook posted the first of two videotaped apologies online begging forgiveness from fans and critics troubled by her admission to having used racial slurs in the past.

**Five years ago:** First lady Melania Trump visited with migrant children during a brief stop at a Texas facility housing some children separated from their parents at the border; she caused a stir when she left Washington wearing a green, hooded military jacket with lettering that said, "I REALLY DON'T CARE, DO U?" Pulitzer Prize-winning conservative columnist and pundit Charles Krauthammer died at 68; he

had said a year earlier that he was being treated for a tumor in his abdomen.

**One year ago:** The House Jan. 6 committee heard testimony that Donald Trump's relentless pressure to overturn the 2020 presidential election led to widespread threats against local workers and state officials. A month after the Uvalde, Texas school massacre, the state's public safety chief testified that police had enough officers on the scene to have stopped a gunman three minutes after he entered the building and killed 19 students and two teachers. Officers with rifles instead stood and waited in a hallway for more than an hour before they finally stormed the classroom and killed the gunman. Józef Walaszczyk, a member of the Polish resistance who rescued dozens of Jews during the Nazi German occupation of Poland

during World War II, died at age 102.

#### Today's Birthdays:

Composer Lalo Schifrin is 91. Actor Bernie Kopell is 90. Actor Monte Markham is 88. Songwriter Don Black is 85. Actor Mariette Hartley is 83. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 82. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 79. Actor Meredith Baxter is 76. Actor Michael Gross (Baxter's co-star on the sitcom "Family Ties") is 76. Rock musician Joe Molland (Badfinger) is 76. Rock musician Don Airey (Deep Purple) is 75. Rock musician Joey Kramer (Aerosmith) is 73. Rock musician Nils Lofgren is 72. Actor Robyn Douglass is 71. Actor Leigh McCloskey is 68. Cartoonist Berke Breathed is 66. Actor Josh Pais is 65. Country singer Kathy Mattea is 64. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is 63. Actor Marc Copage (koh-PAJ')

is 61. Actor Sammi Davis is 59. Actor Doug Savant is 59. Country musician Porter Howell is 59. Actor Michael Dolan is 58. Writer-director Lana Wachowski is 58. Actor Carrie Preston is 56. Rapper/producer Pete Rock is 53. Country singer Allison Moorer is 51. Actor Juliette Lewis is 50. Actor Maggie Siff is 49. Musician Justin Cary is 48. Rock musician Mike Einziger (Incubus) is 47. Actor Chris Pratt is 44. Rock singer Brandon Flowers is 42. Britain's Prince William is 41. Actor Jussie Smollett is 41. Actor Benjamin Walker is 41. Actor Michael Malarkey is 40. Pop singer Kris Allen (TV: "American Idol") is 38. Pop/rock singer Lana Del Rey is 38. Actor Jascha Washington is 34. Country musician Chandler Baldwin (LANCO) is 31. Pop singer Rebecca Black is 26.

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 8 am to 11 am  
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**Monday:** "Munchy Monday" 20% off all edibles  
**Tuesday:** "COTuesday" 20% off all cartridges  
**Wednesday:** "Wacky Weed Wednesday" 20% off all flower  
**Thursday:** 25% off all "swag"  
**Saturday:** "Shatterday" 20% off all dabs

**Veterans can stack their 10% discount onto any sales.**