



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Summit's Sam Renner watches his shot after teeing off on the fifth hole while playing in the La Pine Invitational at Crosswater last month.

Youth

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“While COJGA’s history has provided a great tournament series offering, if you weren’t already a golfer, there was nothing available to our community’s families,” Kitt said. “I came in this year with the intention of creating more opportunities for our burgeoning community and thus the Level 1 Exposure Membership to COJGA was born. The membership features introductory clinics and on-course experiences to expose nongolfers and beginners to the

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— Area PGA professional and founder of the Modern Golf Club, Nate Kitt

joys of the game.”

A full schedule of summer tournaments and clinics can be found on the COJGA website, cojga.org. For more information about the Modern Golf Club, visit moderngolfclub.com.

In addition to COJGA, juniors also have the opportunity to experience friendly competition

through PGA Junior League. The program was started by the PGA of America a number of years ago and has continued to grow in popularity with Central Oregon juniors ever since. Participating courses field a team of juniors that compete against other teams on Saturday afternoons throughout the summer.

The program’s emphasis is on fun, and parent involvement is key to success.

“It’s impossible for coaches to be everywhere at once, so we rely on parents to keep things moving along and offer kind words of encouragement,” said Zach Lampert, facility manager at Meadow Lakes in Prineville.

“However, instruction and coaching are the sole responsibility of the professional coaches.”

There is no shortage of outdoor recreation to be found in Central Oregon, especially during the warm summer months. One of the fastest growing outdoor pursuits continues to be junior golf. Area courses have taken notice and have made junior engagement a top priority.

Whether your child is a rank beginner, or has their eyes on a college scholarship, there’s a program in Central Oregon tailored to their specific needs and wants.