

# Peoria Times

Vol. 64 - No. 52

www.peoriatimes.com

December 28, 2018

## INSIDE This Week



### NEWS.....2

West Valley chambers unite in one voice on public policy.



### COMMENTARY.....3

Local family represents the best Peoria has to offer.

### YEAR IN REVIEW...6

Read a summary of the top 10 stories for 2018.

### SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW.....16

Read a summary of the top 10 sports stories for 2018.

### CELEBRATE EARLY AT BIRT'S BISTRO.....20

### CLASSIFIEDS.....27

## 'Best public course' an economic boost

BY CAROLYN DRYER  
Peoria Times Editor

It's twice as high as the center of the Valley at 2,100 feet and at the top of the list when it comes to rankings. Quintero Golf Club, now a public course, was rated as the best public course in Arizona in 2017 by Golf Digest and Golf Weekly and in 2016 by Arizona Foothills Magazine. It is ranked No. 1 in Arizona by GolfAdvisor.com.

Its hills and valleys are praised by golfers on Twitter who travel to the

Valley just to play the best courses. From downtown Peoria, it takes about 40 minutes to get to Quintero, which is off State Route 74 west of the Lake Pleasant turnoff.

For general manager Mike Poe, who lives in Scottsdale, it takes the same amount of time to get to work via the Loop 101, Interstate 17 and State Route 74. But, after seven years at Quintero, he is getting used to the drive and happy where his commute takes him.

Poe described Quintero as a "high-end public course," as compared with

JW Marriott Desert Ridge, which, he said, is a "resort course, user-friendly."

Because of its location, situated miles away from nearby residential development, most tee times do not start at 7 a.m.

"We have people who like to come early, but 9 to 11 is the most popular," Poe said.

Poe said he has been golfing since the age of 7. He grew up in San Luis

SEE QUINTERO PAGE 27

## PUSD open Dec. 31 to accept tax credit donations

BY ERIN DUNSEY  
Public Relations  
Peoria Unified School District

Employees from the Peoria Unified School District will be outside the District Administration Center, 6330 W. Thunderbird Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 31 to collect tax credit donations. Patrons who stop by to make a tax credit donation may also enjoy cookies and holiday treats.

Tax credit donations allow families to help fund extracurricular activities such as outdoor education, field trips, and clubs, tutoring or character education. Additionally, a contribution can be directed to a specific student's participation in the extracurricular activity such as: before-and-after school care (KidZone), field trips, athletics, Career and Technical Education, character

SEE TAX CREDIT PAGE 2

## QUINTERO FROM 1

Obispo, Calif., and played golf at Cuesta junior college, then Chabog City College in the San Francisco Bay area.

When Feb. 1 rolls around, Poe will chalk up seven years at Quintero, which originally opened as a private course in 2000. It became public in November 2011, just a couple months before Poe came on board.

Why go public?

Poe said, "The new owners felt that was the model to make sure the golf course was sustainable because of the income."

Since it became public, the rounds increased year over year, Poe said.

"We knew we had a great property, Poe said. "We didn't know how it was going to be received. At the end of the day and we saw the (response), not so bad, not that far away from the Valley.

"We've just improved the quality of golf and delivering that experience day in and day out."

So, how does Quintero offer an economic boost to the region?

It could be because of the 34,000 rounds a year reported by Quintero, and according to Poe, "steadily increasing on that."

"We're trying to actually slow down the amount of rounds and increase the revenue," Poe said.

In September, he said, rounds were up 23 percent over the last year; November showed an increase of 16 percent over the previous month and 14 percent over the prior year.

"We're constantly increasing," Poe said. "The more golfers over time affects the course."

Course superintendent Trevor Cooke has been at Quintero eight years.

Poe called Cooke "a workaholic, keeps it immaculate year-round, makes sure the golf course is in good condition. We believe in keeping our golf course in pristine condition year in and year out."

Golf carts are another subject, and Quintero uses lithium batteries to "reduce the environmental footprint," Poe said.

"So, carts are lighter," he said. "A GPS tracker allows us to interact with



*Photo courtesy Quintero Golf Club*

Quintero Golf Club general manager Mike Poe said golf rounds have increased significantly over the past year at the public course in far north Peoria.

our guests. We can take lunch to them. They can communicate their needs with the clubhouse."

That particular amenity serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, seats 20 inside and 30 outside.

As Poe said, Quintero may be public, but it is high-end. He said the prices to golf there are competitive "within our comp set ... We don't shop other properties; we know what our value is. We know where we're placed in the market. We know the price point where we need to execute. Over time, we feel we have a grasp of where we are in the market. We want to make sure we know what other people are doing, but it's not our primary focus."

To check on greens fees, go to [quinterogolf.com](http://quinterogolf.com). Click on the monthly calendar, then a specific date, and all of the fees for the day, by the hours and minutes, shows the fee for that tee time. In the one day checked by this reporter, Jan. 20, the least expensive time was 1:17 p.m. and the fee was \$96 for a single player up to \$108 for four players.

Yet, some members play four or five times a week, Poe said, along with the same number of rounds for visiting Canadians. Quintero is a par-72 course, and Poe said it normally takes four and one-half hours to play a round.

To learn more, visit [quinterogolf.com](http://quinterogolf.com), or call the golf shop directly at 928-501-9500.