

CCC News

Charleston Country Club

July 2026

Tornado strikes club



Top, the gaming room stands in rubble; left, trees hang over cart sheds. Above, AC units stand akilter.

Members, volunteers battle back with miraculous clean-up

Faced with a \$1 million damage to the course and buildings from the June 17 tornado, an army of members and friends swung into action, clearing debris from the course and clubhouse.

Within a week, they had the clubhouse reopened, and within 10 days, they had the front nine in playable condition. They also cleared the fairways on the back nine, but piles of tree debris may take a couple more weeks to get rid of.

"It was amazing how much progress had been made within a week by members and volunteers," President

John Ryan said. "It was a tremendous feat."

The F2 tornado with winds up to 150 mph struck about 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, trapping about a dozen people in the clubhouse, unable to get out of the main drive because of downed power lines.

After Dennis Drake pushed the power lines aside with a backhoe, they were able to scramble home about 9 p.m.

The next day, volunteers started showing up, but they were unable to begin work in earnest on the course until an IMT insurance
(Continued on page 4)

Nomination process begins board election season

Posts will go up in July for members interested in running in the October elections.

Four board seats and the president's position will be up for election.

Interested members may sign up on the posted sheet on the bulletin board in the

hallway between the dining room and the bar.

The Nominating Committee will select a slate to run for the open positions.

The Nominating Committee is made up of Chair John David Reed, Bill Applegate, Bernie Walk and Barb Stoltz.

Members not selected by the Nominating Committee can still run on a Members Ticket by getting 10 percent of the Class A and Senior members to sign a petition.

About 20-30 signatures would be needed.

Only Class A and Senior members are eligible to vote

and hold office.

Those elected as directors will fill seats held by Jan Ziebka, Katrina Butler, Blaine Crews and Chris Dow. The president's position, a two-year term, also will be up for election. Eligible candidates must have served on the board.

CCC News

is published monthly by the Board of Directors. If you have items of interest for the newsletter, contact John Ryan, jmryan@ciu.edu.

Contact info:

President

John Ryan

jmryan@ciu.edu

Kitchen, Bar

Katrina Butler

kgtrim56@gmail.com

Course Director

Sarah Will

tomsarah2@gmail.com

Sports, Pastime Director

Chris Dow

c.r.dow@hotmail.com

Finance Director

Kyle Barrow

Kyle@obi.team

Membership Director

Kim Schaefer

kimmykay2000@yahoo.com

Pro Shop Director

Blaine Crews

blainecrews21@gmail.com

House Director

Blaine Smitley

smitle@consolidated.net

Entertainment Director

Jan Ziebka

jan.ziebka@yahoo.com

Pool Director

Dave Runyon

dave_runyon@outlook.com

Course Superintendent

Dan Ochs Jr.

Ochs182@hotmail.com

Pro Shop Manager

Dylan Drumke

dylandrums@gmail.com

The Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. the third Monday of every month.

Club's #: 217-345-6603

Anita Yakle friend to everyone at club

Anita Jo Yakle will be remembered as a kind, caring person who was a friend to everyone at the club.

Anita, 64, died June 8 after a long battle with cancer with her family by her side.

"Anita was one of the kindest people I've ever met who truly had a heart of gold," Amy Card said. "She was feisty and fun and she loved with all her heart."

Through her long battle, friends kept in touch with her and the Yakle family on a daily basis and they marveled at how Anita handled her fight.

"Even in her final last days and weeks, she still was so selfless and worried about everyone else," Card said. "Every response to my daily texts those last weeks proved that. 'I'm good, Pumpkin,' she would say. 'Hope you're not working too hard.'"

Sarah Will observed the same behavior.

"Even while fighting cancer, she met every challenge with courage, positivity and an unwavering love for those around her. Anita taught us all what strength and selflessness looked like, and her memory will live on in the countless lives she touched."

Anita and her husband, John, were longtime club members. Anita worked part-time at the club as a server and bartender for more than



four years. She was an excellent server-bartender.

"She was very energetic and tried to please everyone," Kathy Ryan said. "She treated everyone as if they were a good friend."

"We called each other sisters from a different mister," Ryan said. "I'm going to remember her as my sister."

Born Dec. 22, 1961, Anita was the daughter of Kenneth Wayne and Bernie Illene (Maranelli) Columbes. She married the love of her life, John M. Yakle, on Oct. 28, 1996, in Jacksonville, Ill. He survives.

Other survivors include five children: Joseph L. Yakle of Chicago; Joshua L. Yakle of Chatham; Jeremiah W. Columbes and Michael V. Stanley, both of Jacksonville; and Nicholas L. Stanley of New York City; one sister, Lou Allyn Byus of Jacksonville; seven grandchildren: Evan W. Columbes and Jack D. (Anne) Columbes, all of Jacksonville; Brendan and Bailey Stanley, both of Quincy;

Benjamin L. And William L. Yakle, both of Chatham; and Alexander Yakle of Hannibal, Mo.

A graduate of Lanphier High School, Anita joined the family business, working as a server and other positions, including assistant manager, at the Red Coach Inn, Springfield. Following her father's death, she and her mother shared the operation of the restaurant until it closed in 2002.

She then worked as a Family Assistance Center representative at the Illinois National Guard.

Anita and her sister cared for their mother in her final days. She then moved with her husband and beloved Shelties to Mattoon.

In her final career, Anita served as a paraprofessional for the Eastern Illinois Association for Special Education.

Her happiest place was working in her yard and gardening. She enjoyed trips to Fairfield Bay, Ark., with her husband.

She loved being surrounded by her friends and family and cherished every moment spent with her husband, children, grandchildren and her sister.

For the record: Welcome new members:

Class A

James & Holly Chestnut
Brian & Chelsea Clark
Elena Davis & Matt Linsey
Nichole & Eric Winstead

Junior

Dylan Schlenger

Non-Resident

Jan & Tiffany Wagoner
Jerry & Ann Wagoner
Mason Daugherty

Social

Molly Button & Derek Fas-
nacht

Student

Dylan Way
Luke Anderson
Nolan Faller

Summer Social

Stan Grubaugh
Colleen Peterlitch

Membership #s

Class A/Promo A = 131
Social = 76
Seniors = 54
Junior/Jr. Promo = 35
Fellowship = 8
Non-resident = 15
Student = 9
Summer Social = 6

Hole-in-one

Doug Palmer, #17, June 13

Member/Member Winners

Andrew & Alex Kuykendall,
Championship Flight
Zach Finley & Seth Boothe, A
Flight
Eric Icenogle & Eric Olmsted,
B Flight
Kim Marchuk & Gary Hinds,
C Flight
Rachel Dow & Barb Stoltz,
Ladies Flight

Fireworks, Sip 'n' Chip set for July 11

Despite the damage to the course, the golf schedule for the summer will continue as planned, using only the front nine until the back nine is opened.

July 5: Red/White/Blue Scramble Challenge will take place, depending on how many sign up.

July 11: The annual Fourth of July Fireworks display on the range is still a go and June 27's Sip 'n' Chip will be played July 11 before the fireworks.

Freezlands are slated to perform.

Sip 'n' Chip events are par 3 tournaments for couples, non-member guests and

singles. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 non-members, and includes drinks on course, snacks and games. Dinner specials offered in restaurant.

Registration at 3 p.m. Shotgun start at 4 p.m..

July 19: Women Only Draft Tournament

July 23-26: Member/Guest Tournament has been expanded by a day with a practice round on Thursday and tourney play Friday and Saturday.

Cost is \$600 per team but includes meals, freebies and plenty of contests and prizes.

On Thursday, golfers

must book a tee time and there will be a longest drive and closest to the pin contest with prizes. Lunch is Grill on the Green and is included. .

Friday starts with registration, breakfast and Bloody Mary bar. Then the tourney begins with lunch via Grill on the Green. Contests with prizes run through the day.

Dinner with spouses, live music and contests end the evening.

On Saturday, the tourney continues with breakfast and Bloody Mary bar and awards and appetizers.



Stepping up play

New steps have been installed for the senior tees, #14 tee box, thanks to Wendell Adams, Blaine Smitley and Jim Hickenbottom.

Meet the staff: This month Suzy

Name: Suzy Fritts

Position: Server

How long at club: month

Hometown: Toledo

High School/College:

Cumberland High School;
Southeastern Illinois Com-
munity College

What I like about my job:
the people

**When not working, I like
to:** hang out with friends,

workout, play sports

Favorite vacation/place

to visit: Florida

**One thing no one knows
about me:** "I'm good at
sculpting."

**When I grow up, I want
to be:** an occupational
therapist.

**In five years, I want to
be:** still playing volleyball.



Suzy Fritts

Tornado strikes club



Kim Marchuk & Jason Chase burrow their way into #11 cart path.



Group unclogs #13 cart path.



Tim Carlson walks across #11-#13 bridge.



Branch mysteriously walks off.

Members, volunteers battle back with clean-up

(Continued from page 1)
adjuſter surveyed and photographed the damage.

While waiting, they began clearing the pool area, which was filled with limbs and branches from nearby trees.

By late afternoon, Wendell Adams of Adams Memorial began moving equipment in from his company and other members began bringing out Kabotas and John Deere equipment and the like. The club's grounds crew began work on the course.

A big storm clean-up specialist said 677 trees on the course were knocked down

or shredded by the storm. He estimated it would cost \$750,000 to clear the entire course.

The clubhouse was relatively unscathed. Shingles on the west side of the clubhouse roof will have to be replaced; two air conditioning units on the roof were severely damaged, two others were lightly damaged; the gaming room on the side of the clubhouse was destroyed, most of the roofs on the club's 11 cart sheds were damaged or torn off; the club's main ice maker condenser on the roof was

blown away and the back door to the pool area was dented and broken and pool fencing was knocked down.

By Friday, June 19, Adams had brought in three dump trucks, a couple flatbed trucks, two gators, excavators and employees.

Adams and Jerry Myerscough took the lead in directing clean up efforts in conjunction with Course Superintendent Dan Ochs Jr.

However, in the early stages of clean-up, volunteers just went where they were needed and began clearing fairways on the front nine

first.

Day after day, 40-50 members and volunteers showed up and went to work on the course.

The Charleston High School cheer team worked one day, the Mattoon High School football, volleyball and cheer team helped one day and the Crist family, who aren't members, came out two days and cut and piled up trees behind #1 tee box area.

The effort was ongoing at press time with members working in 90-degree weather.

Members, volunteers battle back



Bob Wagoner



Volunteers tackle the mess behind #6 green.



Chris Dow & Tom Will



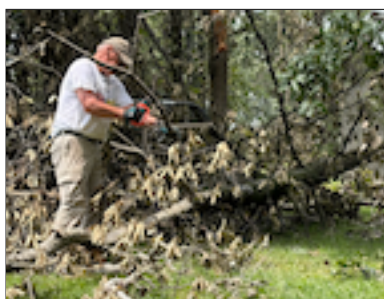
Blaine Smitley saws a tree as Lou Hencken looks on.



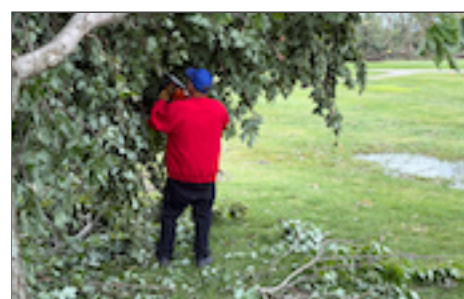
Mattoon High School football, volleyball and cheer teams.



Chuck Card & Blaine Smitley team up on 16.



Keith Lynch in action.



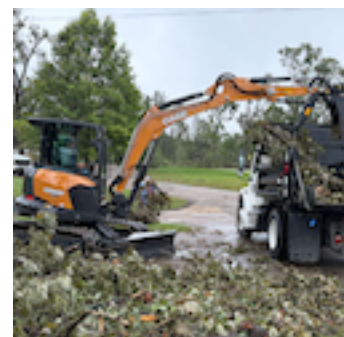
Jerry Myerscough battles tree on 9.



Bernie Walk & Chad Henderson



Crist family clears along #1 tee box.



Jim Hickenbottom