USBC MASTERS HEADING TO MICHIGAN AND THUNDERBOWL LANES FOR 2023 EVENT

by Aaron Smith

ARLINGTON,TX - For the first time in more than 50 years, the United States Bowling Congress Masters will be contested in Michigan as Allen Park's famed Thunderbowl Lanes will host the 2023 event.

The 2023 USBC Masters will be held at the 90-lane venue from March 26 through April 2. Registration for the 2023 tournament is scheduled to open Oct. 19, 2022.

The 2023 event is part of the Professional Bowlers Association Tour schedule and will award a top prize of \$100,000 to the champion.

The Masters holds a history that dates back to 1951, and the major

championship has visited the Wolverine State on two previous occasions - 1961 and 1971. Don Carter collected the win in 1961 at Detroit's Cobo Hall, while Jim Godman recorded the victory at Cobo Hall in 1971. Both are members of the USBC and PBA Halls of Fame.

Although the tournament will make its debut at Thunderbowl Lanes in 2023, the facility has hosted some of bowling's most historic moments.

The first PBA World Series of Bowling was held at Thunderbowl Lanes in 2009, and the most recent major at the

continued on page 5

LUXURY APARTMENTS TO REPLACE TORRANCE'S GABLE HOUSE BOWL

by Clara Harter • charter@scng.com

TORRANCE – Long-time Torrance institution Gable House Bowl is scheduled for demolition, but its name will live on in a mixed-use residential and retail development featuring 218 units, of which 17 will be affordable.

The Gable House project, 22501 Hawthorne Blvd., received Planning Commission approval last month. It is currently looking at breaking ground in the middle of next year, with an estimated mid-2025 opening, said Brad Perozzi, the president of project developer Intracorp Homes for So. California.



Once complete, the building will hold 12,000 square feet of commercial space, a pool, a fitness center, shared work space and several rooftop decks.

"We have just a ton of amenity space," Perozzie said. "This is like a five star resort, so definitely a luxury project."

The new development will replace the bowling continued on page 6

THE FUTURE IS NOW FOR ERIC JONES

by Nolan Hughes



On the surface, Eric Jones resembles a typical high schooler. His messy hair looks like it hasn't seen a comb in years, and he responds almost exclusively with witty sarcasm.

There's one thing about Jones that separates him from his peers: he enjoys reading books.

No, really. The 17-year-old said he's been addicted since last summer. Jones doesn't read for fun; he wants to gain an edge over his competitors.

Those foes, however, aren't teenagers vying for Scholastic Book Fair prizes. (Do they still have

those?) They're professional bowlers, the best ones on the planet. Although, his classmates haven't grasped the fact that Jones is one of the PBA's numerous rising stars.

"I just tell them I'm professional, and they don't really ask me more questions." he said.

The two-handed lefty said he practices almost every day — two hours if he's not fried, nine games if he is — and doesn't do drills, instead focusing on feel. He said he doesn't believe there is anything special about his physical game, though specified his ball

roll helps increase his miss room.

When he can't make it to the lanes, he makes his own. Inspired by Wesley Low, the Edmond, Okla. native and his father built a bowling lane in their backyard during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic

The father-son DIY project, complete with a functioning pin setter, drew national media attention that spring. But Jones doesn't want to be remembered as a 15-minute viral sensation; he wants to build a legacy that will stand the continued on page 5

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E-mail: news@californiabowlingnews.com Website: www.californiabowlingnews.com

CHARLES KINSTLER......Editor / Typesetter
CAROL MANCINIEditor / Publisher
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At Laughlin Blast Tournament Couples Celebrated Significant Wedding Anniversaries – Part II

by Frank Weiler

LAUGHLIN, NV – The **LAUGHLIN BLAST** is a senior, handicap, no-tap multi-tournament event that is competed at **DON LAUGHLIN'S RIVERSIDE LANES** twice a year in January and August. This years August event just completed. It was a memorable occasion because several couples celebrated significant wedding anniversaries at the event.

The tournament is open to bowlers 50 years of age and older. While many of the bowlers are in their seventies and eighties, most are probably under 65 years of age. That's why it was so special when tournament regulars **Chuck and Nita Palmer** celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary at this summer's tournament.

Chuck and Nita are regulars at the Laughlin Blast and I believe they have competed in all 16 Laughlin Blast tournaments. While this wonderful couple are nine decades young they still are winners on the lanes. In the Sunday night EZZ BLAST singles event both placed at the top of the standings. Chuck rolled a 909 No-Tap score for first place in the Men's Division II. Nita rolled a 845 series for second place in the Women's Division II.



Jerry & Judee Wood - Married Couples Celebrate Significant Wedding Anniversaries at Laughlin Blast Tournament - Part II



Chuck & Nita Palmer - Married Couples Celebrate Significant Wedding Anniversaries at Laughlin Blast Tournament -Part II

The Palmers were not the only wedding anniversary celebrants. **Jerry and Judee Wood** celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary while competing at the August Laughlin Blast. They also bowled well enough to impress their competitors.

Jerry rolled what may be a tournament record 944 No-Tap series in the Sunday EZZ BLAST singles event. The score was good for first place in the Men's Division I. Judee Wood is a tournament tested competitor who regularly cashes at the Laughlin Blast. At the Sunday EZZ BLAST she rolled a solid 819 series for a 7th place finish in the Women's Division I.

Congratulations to all the couples celebrating wedding anniversaries at this summer's Laughlin Blast. You are all so lucky to have each other and to be able to bowl and celebrate together this year and hopefully for many years to come.



Saturday, September 24 9:00am (Check-in at 8am)

*THREE DIVISIONS: SCRATCH, SENIOR HANDICAP (Age 50+) HANDICAP (194 Average & Under; 90% of 195)



Sunday, September 25 9:00am (Check-in at 8am)

*THREE DIVISIONS: SCRATCH, SENIOR SCRATCH (Age 50+) HANDICAP (204 Average & Under; 90% of 205)

*Divisions may be consolidated depending on the number of entries per division. Any division changes will be made prior to competition.

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Remembering Dick Hoover...

"Side Boards Don't Count"

by Dave Williams

While shuffling through some old files this week in an attempt to organize my vast amount of bowling paraphernalia, which has now necessitated a second mini-storage locker (it's getting worse, not better!), I spotted a few pages that pertained to Dick Hoover (1929-2009) and the fabulous team era of bowling.

The information was from some articles that I wrote a few years ago regarding a couple of the famous teams from the era preceding the formation of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA). It all revolved around a phone interview that I conducted with Alan Hoover, one of Dick's four children, from their family bowling center in Brunswick, Ohio, known simply as Dick Hoover's Lanes. When I tried getting in touch with Alan, I was saddened to learn that the center had closed due to the COVID-19 controversy that has impacted so many businesses in the last few years. A headline from an article in the local Medina Gazette newspaper said it all... "The Last Frame: Dick Hoover's Lanes Closes Doors After 52 Years."

Alan commented in the article that the closure was from a combination of seeing less business in the months leading up to the temporary closures, and ultimately the total loss of business when the CO-VID-19 shutdown became permanent. "Our industry has been dwindling over the last few years as it is," said Alan. "This was the final straw."

Bud Horn Recalls Dick Hoover

I called upon my resident historian Bud Horn of Las Vegas to get an interesting quote or anecdote about Dick Hoover. As usual, Bud did not disappoint! "Dick was a very nice man," said Bud. "He was on his way out when I was first coming upon the scene with the PBA, so I really never got to know him."

"One thing that I do remember is that Dick would bowl anyone, and for any amount, as long as there were no side boards," said Mr. Horn. That was a term that I had never heard before and asked Bud what the term side boards meant. "Light hits, where a pin comes off the wall and contributes to a strike. We used to call those side boards, or side board strikes."

"Hoover was from the old school, where bowlers would just pound the pocket once they were lined up," remembers Bud. "Ray Bluth was another one that could hit the pocket all day. Both Dick and Ray were also family oriented and purchased bowling centers close to their homes, rather than continuing the grueling tour life."

The Early Years

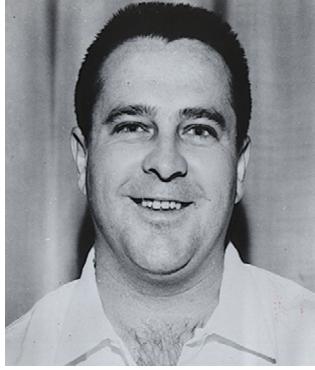
Dick Hoover's career started early, when at the age of 16 he recorded a three game total of 847 that led the nation in 1946. He was only 16. Interestingly, another 16 year old named Wayne Chester would tie Hoover's mark of 847 about twenty years later at Westlake Bowl in Daly City, California.

Hoover, known as the boy wonder in those days, according to legendary columnist Chuck Pezzano (1929-2015), would continue his winning ways by conquering the tough condition at the BPAA All Star (now the U.S. Open) in 1951, when he was only 21. Just a few years later he won the USBC Masters in 1956, and again in 1957.

Mr. Pezzano confirmed in his column about Bud Horn's comment regarding Dick's precision bowling. "Hoover has to rate as one of the most accurate bowlers of all time," stated Chuck. "He seldom missed the



Ace Mitchell's Shur-Hooks (1966) - (I to r) Les Schissler, Dick Hoover, Billy Welu, Andy Marzich and Glenn Allison



Dick Hoover

pocket, regardless of lane conditions." But when he did, Hoover was also one of the first bowlers to utilize his speed to pick up difficult splits by bouncing pins off the kickback, according to Pezzano.

Here's an interesting tidbit that I did not know (or had forgotten) until reading about it in Pezzano's column from 2009: "Hoover will also be remembered as the man who appeared on an Akron based TV show hosted by a popular young attorney. The interview inspired the host, Eddie Elias, to create, found and lead the Professional Bowlers Association." (With the assistance of the original 33 bowlers that included both Hoover and Pezzano.)

In a news release from the PBA later that same year, the story about the interview between Hoover and Elias was repeated, although this time it was referred to as a radio broadcast, rather than television. The PBA release stated the following: "Hoover, the first to win two consecutive Masters titles in 1956 and 1957, was a guest on a radio show hosted by Eddie Elias, shortly after winning his second consecutive title." Hoover went on during the course of the interview to explain how unfortunate it was for bowlers that there was no professional tour available. like there was in golf. "Some say that conversation prompted Elias to pursue the idea of rallying bowlers to join a professional tournament organization," according to the PBA release.

A New Life For Dick Hoover's Lanes

After more than a year of closure for the iconic Dick Hoover's Lanes location, a couple of Brunswick residents stepped forward to reopen the facility, now known as T & M Lanes. The T & M stands for the new owners, Todd and Melanie (Joy) Header, according to an article in the previously mentioned Medina Gazette.

"We were looking at a second location and we really didn't even consider this until we saw it was available for lease," said Todd. "The price was good and we're updating the kitchen, putting in more booths and a sports bar. We more so wanted to bring in a (second) Joy's Pizzeria and Grill to the area, but the bowling was attached." Another reason that Header was excited to keep the bowling portion alive was to provide the city's residents with an affordable recreation. "At other places, if you don't have \$200 to spend, you're not going to have a great experience."

Chalk up one for the good guys — Todd and Melanie Header... and bowling!

Bowling team photos provided by bowlinghistory.word-

Dick Hoover photo provided by bowl.com

Chuck Pezzano photo provided by bowlersjournal.com



Chuck Pezzano



Falstaff Beer (1961) - Front: Billy Welu (left) and Ronnie Gaudern. Back: (I to r) Harry Smith, Al Savas, Glenn Allison and Dick Hoover

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ERIC JONES continued from page 1

test of time

"The goal is to be the best to ever do it," he said. "I put so much of myself into it that it'd be stupid for me to say, 'I want to be one of the best.' I want to be the best. I don't want anyone to hold a candle to it.

"Why not go for as much as you can? I'm 17. I've got time to do it."

Jones burst onto the bowling scene two years ago when he won a PBA regional at 15 years old, becoming the youngest to accomplish that feat.

With the tournament taking place in Oklahoma City, located half an hour south of Edmond, his father asked Eric if he'd be interested in bowling the Pro-Am. But Eric wanted to bowl in the real thing.

He felt he could learn more by competing against the pros than watching them. What he learned that weekend, however, had little to do with ball motion, lane play or the mental game — he learned he could compete against anyone, even the best in the southwest region.

The high school sophomore won the PBA Oklahoma City Southwest Open, besting runner-up Shawn Maldonado by more than 300 pins. However, since Jones competed as an amateur, he was not credited with an official title.

The next summer, Jones nearly captured a PBA National Tour title, again as an amateur. In the 117-player field loaded with dozens of national tour stars, Jones took fourth place at the 2021 PBA Jonesboro Open.

The then-16-year-old made the stepladder finals alongside three other southpaws, falling to Jakob Butturff in the opening match. His sensational performance took a backseat as eventual Rookie of the Year Matt Russo secured his first career title, but it wouldn't take long for Jones to reappear in the spotlight.

Five months later, Jones earned the top seed at the PBA Jr. National Championship. He opened his national television debut with five consecutive strikes. After converting spares in the 6th and 8th frames, he missed the 2-4-7 in the 10th.

"Man, that's not what you're supposed to do there," Jones said after missing the spare.

The miss proved costly in the high scoring match. Landin Jordan, another uber-promising young talent, stormed through the open door to seize the title.

Elevating beyond the youth bowling circuit, Jones acquired his PBA card earlier this year and quickly added two official PBA titles to his résumé. As of publication, he sits second on the South Region's points list, earning one title, two runner-ups and a 10th place finish in his four events.

In 2023, he said he will take his talents across the nation. After he turns 18 in January, he'll be eligible to bowl the USBC Masters and US Open. He also intends to bowl the remaining majors and World Series of Bowling.

"I like to compete against the good guys," he said. "Even when I'm bowling bad, I get to see what they're doing."

You may be thinking: Isn't this kid in high school? How does he have time to bowl all these tournaments?

"Luckily, the school board allows me to miss extra days," Jones said. "There's like a limit for most people, but they said I can miss as many as I want as long as I turn in stuff."



Eric Jones stayed sharp during the pandemic practicing on this lane he built this lane with his father, Heath.



Jones picked up his second official regional title in early July at the PBA Bowlero Spring Hill Open.

While he's missing out on vital lessons about the quadratic formula and ancient Mesopotamia, he's receiving a world-class education on ball motion.

"When I was in youth bowling, I threw it 18-19 miles per hour. I put everything into it," he said. "Now I come out here and that just doesn't work. My ball speed has gone down three miles an hour, I'd estimate."

Between the ears is where Jones said he separates himself from players his age. That's where his eccentric reading habit comes into play.

He reread "The Inner Game of Tennis" before the August super regional in Virginia and the words of W. Timothy Gallwey paid dividends. Jones posted a blistering 1,924 eight-game block to qualify second. After two advancer rounds, he earned the No. 2 seed for the stepladder and averaged over 235.

Jones defeated Anthony Neuer, another flourishing young southpaw who made the 2021 U.S. Open telecast as a teenager, in his first match. However, he fell to top seed Tim Foy Jr. in another strike fest 266-232.

"I don't get in my own head, and I don't think. I just bowl," Jones said. "If I just focus on my breaths, it's really hard to get in my own head."

Every so often, a teenager joins the tour and establishes themselves as a consistent title contender. EJ Tackett, Anthony Simonsen and Jesper Svensson rose to prominence last decade, perhaps sooner than expected.

That is not to say Jones will reach to the level of those future Hall of Famers. But he has demonstrated the physical tools and mental makeup necessary to follow a similar path, one that he believes begins with a deep breath and ends with a Hall of Fame plaque.

"I mean, titles will come in between," he said.

USBC MASTERS continued from page 1

venue was the 2019 PBA World Championship, where Australia's Jason Belmonte captured his record-setting 11th major title in a thrilling 236-227 victory against Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona.

The PBA Tour last visited the venue in June 2021, where Las Vegas' Anthony Simonsen collected the win at the PBA Tour Finals.

Simonsen will enter the 2023 Masters as the defending champion after claiming his second win at the event in 2022, defeating USBC and PBA Hall of Famer Norm Duke of Clermont, Florida, in the title match, 219-216.

The Masters features three five-game rounds of qualifying, before the field is cut to the top 63 players and the defending champion. The 64 advancers are seeded based on qualifying position into the tournament's double-elimination bracket.

The bracket matches are three games, with total pinfall determining which player advances. The top five earn a spot in the stepladder finals for the chance to win the major championship.



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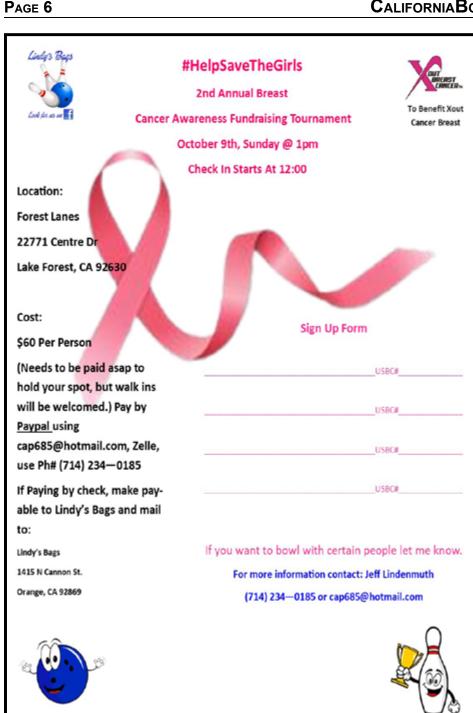
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GABLE HOUSE BOWL continued from page 1

C as well as two multitenant retail buildings on the approximately 3.8 acre lot. The lot is located Del Amo Business District, the urban core of Torrance, in which many of the city's largest developments are concentrated, including the Del Amo Fashion Center and several office complexes.

The building features 17 affordable units reserved for individuals classified as very low-income under standards set by the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development. In LA County, that is equivalent to an income of \$41,700 or lower for a household of one, \$47,650 for a household of two, \$53,600 for a household of three and \$59,550 for a household of four.

The longtime owner of the bowling center – which has been a favorite haunt of Torrance residents since the 1960s – has lent his support to the project, which will retain the name Gable House.

"The current Gable House Bowl has been a well known location in the community over the years, but in recent times has experienced maintenance problems during COVID," owner Mikey Cogan wrote in a May 2 letter to the Planning Commission. "I believe the Intracorp team's vision and attention to detail in building this quality and lasting project will carry on the original intent of Gable House Bowl in bringing together family, friends, and fun."

The new residential development will be among the largest apartment complexes in Torrance, said Torrance planning associate Leo Oorts. Even so, the developers pared down the number of units from their initial vision to better align with city priorities, Perozzi "For a mixed-use project of this stature, it's actually a little bit on the smaller side," Perozzi said, "but I think it's in keeping with what the community and staff wanted to see in terms of size and density and scope".

There were some letters of concern submitted by residents regarding the project's impact on parking and traffic circulation. But the development will provide parking spaces beyond the code requirements, Oorts said.

The project will provide 460 parking spaces, the majority of which will be in a six-level parking structure. It will also include 28 parking spaces for electric vehicle parking, helping it adhere to the state's Green Building Standards.

The parking and the retail space, Perozzi said, should be a benefit to the surrounding neighborhood and not just residents.

"It (the development) fits within the community really, really well," he said. "I think it's going to be a drastic improvement to Hawthorne Boulevard and the ideal property to revitalize and improve the neighborhood."

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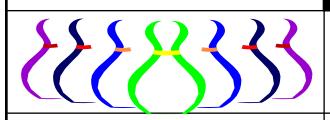
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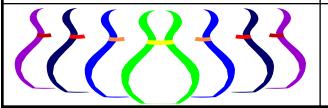
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36th Year! Brunswick

SOLD OUT FIELD STARTS THE 36TH BRUNSWI \$16,000 1ST PLACE PRIZE SOUGHT BY ALL OF THE

DOWNEY - The summer is coming to an end, which means it is time for the return of the Brunswick Invitational to Del Rio Lanes. The league, which dates back to 1987, has been a literal who's who of Southern California bowling. A new season always reminds us of the memories of seasons past and the excitement of the season to come.

Most teams formed early in the summer, and the bowlers were excited for their potential to have a great season. A couple other teams didn't finalize their roster until this weekend. Regardless, on the first night of the season, everybody is optimistic and excited to get started.

There are about 13 bowlers on teams this year that have at least twenty years of experience in the league. And, there are a couple teams comprised of rookies, excited to try and compete against the best and learn to bowl on very challenging conditions.

For the first round though, it's the house shot. Seven weeks to get your feet wet and throw some big numbers before the challenging shots come out.

On the first night, there were a couple of teams that got off to quick 5-0 starts. Junior Amateur Tour and Family Ties were able to earn sweeps. J.A.T. did in being led by Kurt Arakaki who is returning to the league after a couple years off. Arakaki had a 702 set. For Family Ties, 763 from Mikey Villarreal was enough to earn the five wins.

Most matches seemed to end with a 4-1 edge for one of the teams. Cal Bowl, U.S. Foods, Team #11 and Westminster Lanes all on the winning side of 4-1 matches. Terry Henson was making his debut in the league tonight and shot a 775 for the U.S. Foods team. Leonard Ruiz added a 765 for Cal Bowl.

Tough losses included DV8 shooting over 1000 in the first game and still coming up 29 pins short of a win.

The first round will continue next week, with the bowling starting at 8pm. Come on down to Del Rio Lanes in Downey to catch the action. It is certain to be another amazing season.

7502 Florence Ave., Downey CA 90240 • (562) 927-3351

TOP 10 ROUND ONE

TOP 10 THIS WEEK

Terry Henson775	Carl Labayan717
Leonard Ruiz Jr 765	Tyler Veneracion 716
Jakob Buttruff764	Brad Jones 708
Mikey Villarreal 763	Kurt Arakaki702
Billy Myers Jr748	Paul Barraco 701

SUPER SWEEPER

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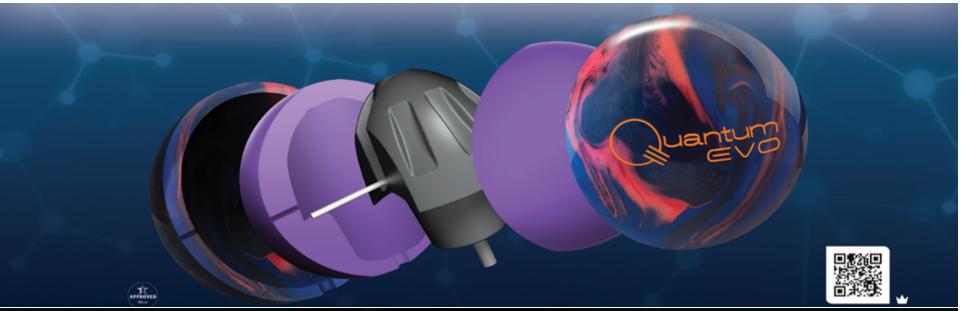
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Handicap is 90% of 230-Call to Reserve a Spot (562)927-3351



At Del Rio Lanes: 7502 Florence Ave. Downey, CA. 90240