

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Prep golfers let bears play through

Paul Shapard has been coaching high school golf in Battle Ground since 1989 and seen plenty of critters at the Cedars course northeast of Brush Prairie. But he had never heard of a bear in the golfers' midst, let alone two bears. Until Tuesday.

Two black bears, thought to be a mother and her youngster, were spotted on the Cedars course as the top two linksters from both Prairie and Columbia River high schools were putting on the 14th green.

Shapard, a retired teacher in Battle Ground who still coaches the PHS golfers, said the two animals were near Salmon Creek and just 40 to 50 yards from the green as PHS linkster Tyler Porter putted. A Columbia River golfer then shouted, "Bear!" The golfers saw one bear disappear into the brush, apparently frightened by the shout. Elsewhere on the course, another PHS-CRHS foursome had a better angle and saw two bear, one adult and one youngster.

The golfers are not allowed to carry any electronic devices during competition, Shapard said, so no one got a photo.

"It's Battle Ground; you're going to get animals there," he said. "I've never seen a bear on the course, but I'm not surprised. It's bound to happen. The kids weren't bothered. They were focused on the match. It didn't faze them."

The sighting certainly didn't upset the Falcon linksters. They beat CRHS 163-181 for the league championship. The district match will be next Tuesday and Wednesday at Tri-Mountain course.

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