

Golf events prove fun for senior competitors

By Kirk Kern

The Mesquite Senior Games took advantage of a small window between COVID-19 surges to put on a couple of golf events in November. The non-profit organization put on two days of competition that included long drive, closest to the pin, putting and a nine-hole tournament on Nov. 9 and 10.

The event finished with a socially distant awards banquet at the Oasis Grill. "We had people come in from all over," said Amy Bradshaw, MSG executive director. "People came in from Utah, Las Vegas, Scottsdale and Glendale Arizona, Palm Springs and even Minnesota and Iowa."

The long drive event took place at the Mesquite Sports & Events Complex, while the Closest to the Pin and nine-hole tournament were at the Oasis Golf Club. The putting contest was held at Sun City Mesquite.

"We had no idea what would happen," Bradshaw said. "It was a good experiment and by and large was extremely successful."

The long drive event had 44 participants, up from 28 who competed in the event in the spring, which took place before COVID-19 restrictions shut down everything. There were 37 people in the nine-hole tournament and 36 in the putting contest, and 38 in the closest to the pin.

As part of the festivities, the Virgin Valley Honor Guide did a flag presentation and local jazz group Dry Heat provided entertainment at the banquet along with local comedian TC Terry Morgan. Local bagpiper Dennis Hangey welcomed the golfers to the dinner.

Bradshaw said the MSG made sure to stay well under the maximum allowed COVID-19 half capacity of the Oasis venue.

One pleasant surprise, Bradshaw said, was that the organizers of the Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah sent over four participants for the event.

"They are always good to us," she said.

All in all, the event gave Mesquite residents and others throughout the region the chance to get out, get a little sun and have a little fun in competition that took place under the strict COVID-19 guideline of social distancing and mask wearing.

"It turned out really well," Bradshaw said. "If there was anything to complain about it was that it was little bit cold. At least it didn't rain though."

As far as future events go, the Mesquite Senior Games will play it by ear. A bowling tournament scheduled for December has been cancelled, but other outdoor events will be considered in 2021.

