

Site lists Prattville as a Top 10 golf city

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PRATTVILLE -- Prattville has been named as one of the Top 10 Golf Cities in the nation by a travel-and-relocation Web site.

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Liveability.com generated the list which places Prattville at No. 7, above Stillwater, Okla., Asheville, N.C., and Tyler, Texas. The city of Eugene, Ore., topped the list.

"The majority of golfers don't get to play at world famous courses," said John Hood, Web content manager for Liveability.com. "They are more likely to play on a local course or a public course on vacation or business trip. We were looking for the top best-kept secrets when it comes to golf.

"Prattville, with its Robert Trent Jones (Trail) location, certainly fits."

The Capitol Hill Course sees an average of 85,000 rounds played each year, said Mike Beverly, director of golf at the complex. The three, 18-hole championship courses cover a sprawling 1,500 acres. Capitol Hill is one of the most popular stops on the trail which has 10 locations.

The selection of Prattville on the list shows the impact the RTJ Trail has had on the state, Beverly said.

"The success of the Trail shows that Dr. (David) Bronner knew what he was doing when he built the Trail all those years ago," he said. "The Trail has been so successful because it offers great public golf, and the courses are easily accessible to everyone."

Bronner is executive director of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, which built and operates the Trail.

Prattville has held the spotlight of the golfing world the past two years as home to the Navistar LPGA Classic, which was broadcast worldwide by the Golf Channel, Hood said.

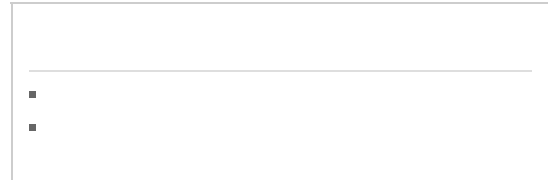
"It is entirely possible that several people in Ireland, Greece and China now know about Prattville -- thanks to golf," the introduction to the Prattville portion on the list reads.

Capitol Hill opened its first course in 1996, and has been the driving factor in

GOLF'S BEST KEPT SECRETS: THE TOP 10 GREAT GOLF CITIES IN AMERICA

1. Eugene, Ore.
2. Fishers, Ind.
3. Albuquerque, N.M.
4. Castle Rock, Colo.
5. Nashville, Tenn.
6. Woodland, Wash.
7. Prattville
8. Stillwater, Okla.
9. Asheville, N.C.
10. Tyler, Texas.

Source: Liveability.com



Prattville's tourism industry, Mayor Jim Byard Jr. said.

"There is no real way you can determine the impact Capitol Hill has had on Prattville," he said. "You have almost 100,000 rounds of golf played each year, and most of those rounds are played by people who don't live in Prattville. That means they stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores. Capitol Hill has been a tremendous boost to our economy and revenue base."

It wasn't just golf that landed Prattville on the list, Hood said. Liveability.com showcases America's best places to live, and is a valuable source for the moving audience, he added.

"We send out our own crews to produce videos, photos and to write the articles about the cities we present," he said. "So we know Prattville. We looked at criteria ranging from quality of life and cost of living to the number of public and private courses. Not only are these great golf cities, these are some of the best places to live in America."