Golf Course Maintenance:

What's going on at 4 green Cottonwood?:

Some of you are aware, putting greens tend to shrink over time and the 'extents' of the putting surfaces start to move inward. This is typically seen in areas of the country where Overseeding is practiced, and Golf Facilities are growing two different crops of grass, every year. It is a process that happens slowly and often without notice. After 40+ years of overseeding the lines get moved. Operators don't mow all the way out from concern of 'scalping' and there is an element of human nature to mow in a circle versus out to the desired contour of the putting surface.

There are several greens at both courses that have moved inward, some more significantly than others. Golf Maintenance has had some success with this plan at Palo Verde on hole 5. It hasn't been perfect but there are small improvements that warranted attempting it at Cottonwood.

So... to get the putting surface back to the original shape, Golf Maintenance is attempting to see what it can do by simply mowing the green back out to its original shape. The team is using the green-side sprinkler heads as demarcation points of where the green was originally shaped. The idea of this process is somewhat possible because of the mono-stand of bermudagrass used in southern climates versus northern climates that differentiate putting surface from the apron by having two different turf types... bentgrass greens and bluegrass fairways, for example.

The putting surface during the winter is expected to look good, nice, and playable after the team overseeds the green with the 'cool season' grass mix of rough bluegrass (*poa trivialis*) and bentgrass. Expanding the green should provide an option for additional hole locations to be used throughout the year.

The challenge, as we've seen at Palo Verde, will be next summer when the overseed crop dies out from greens aeration and higher daytime temperatures. It will likely take a few summers to get this corrected, but we feel this is a better option opposed to resodding, at this point.

As always, thanks for your patience and support as the team works to make this improvement.