



**WEEKLY
LAG**
weekend • nationwide

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The Judge at Capitol Hill: Friday Morning Is the Round

The Judge • RTJ Capitol Hill • Prattville

Fri Oct 9 – Sun Oct 11, 2026

Public daily-fee • 54 holes on one property

Friday high near 82°F • mostly sunny

Pace unknown • opening week

Crowd unknown • first full weekend after Oct 1

Sunday weather unknown

Book Friday morning on The Judge if you can get it. That is the only day in this window with a full NWS /forecast period. Saturday is grid fields only. Sunday is a blank card.

● OUTLOOK

Public daily-fee golf on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Fifty-four holes on one property: The Judge, The Legislator, and The Senator. This **Lag** is built around **The Judge**, back in public play after a renovation that reopened **October 1, 2026**. Clubhouse at the end of Constitution Avenue off US-82, I-65 Exit 179.

Forecast periods below for **Friday** come from the National Weather Service /forecast document for Prattville (office **BMX**, grid **75,39**, point 32.464°N, 86.451°W). That document's own **updateTime** is **2026-10-03T18:26:34Z (1:26 p.m. CT, Saturday, Oct 3, 2026)**. Its last period is **Friday Night**, ending about **6:00 a.m. CT Saturday, Oct 10** — it does **not** cover Saturday daytime or Sunday. **Saturday** numbers are **parent-grid field values only** (grid **updateTime 2026-10-03T23:06:52Z / 6:06 p.m. CT**), not NWS period sentences. **Sunday, Oct 11** is **unknown**. Sunrise and sunset are from sunrise-sunset.org for the same coordinates, America/Chicago. Do not treat any number below as a same-day promise; re-check the morning of the round.

82°F

Friday high · full /forecast period

Mostly sunny, then a slight chance of showers. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Period rain probability 16%.

80°F

Saturday high · grid fields only
East about 10–14 mph. Pop about 26% morning / 42% afternoon. Sky wording unknown.

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Sunday high, wind, rain unknown

Sunrise 6:46 a.m. / sunset 6:19 p.m. CT. Best window unknown until the grid extends.

FRIDAY, OCT 9

HIGH	Near 82°F
WIND	5 to 10 mph from the east (hourly: about 5 mph northeast at 6–9 a.m., 10 mph east from 10 a.m. on)
RAIN CHANCE	Period probability 16%. NWS wording: slight chance of rain showers after 1 p.m.; “chance of precipitation is 20%.” Hourly chance stays about 12% through noon and about 16% from 1–6 p.m.
SKY	Mostly sunny, then a slight chance of showers
SUNRISE / SUNSET	6:44 a.m. / 6:22 p.m. CT
BEST WINDOW	About 8:30–11:00 a.m. CT. At 6 a.m. the hourly forecast is 58°F with relative humidity 93% and a dew point near 56°F (API dew point about 13°C), so the first groups walk into wet Bermuda. By 8 a.m. humidity is still about 81%; by 10 a.m. it is about 64% and by noon about 54%. You get the drying without the after-1 p.m. shower wording.

Friday night: low around 61°F, slight shower chance (period probability 23%; narrative 20%), east wind 5 to 10 mph.

SATURDAY, OCT 10

Outside the /forecast document (last /forecast period ends ~6 a.m. CT Saturday). Numbers below are **BMX 75,39 parent-grid fields only** — not NWS period short/detailed forecast sentences.

HIGH	Near 80°F (<code>maxTemperature</code> ≈ 26.7°C for the Saturday daytime valid window)
WIND	East about 10–14 mph (daytime <code>windSpeed</code> roughly 17–22 km/h; direction ~70–90°)
RAIN CHANCE	Grid <code>probabilityOfPrecipitation</code> : about 26% for the morning block (12:00–18:00Z / ~7 a.m.–1 p.m. CT) and about 42% for the afternoon block (18:00–00:00Z / ~1–7 p.m. CT)
SKY	Unknown from <code>/forecast</code> (no Saturday daytime period in that document). Do not invent sky wording.
SUNRISE / SUNSET	6:45 a.m. / 6:20 p.m. CT
BEST WINDOW	Unknown. Grid pop rises from morning ~26% to afternoon ~42%, which favors an earlier tee if you play Saturday, but there is no <code>/forecast</code> narrative and the hourly <code>/forecast/hourly</code> pull used for Friday ends before Saturday daytime. Re-check Saturday's hourly before you leave.

SUNDAY, OCT 11

HIGH	Unknown
WIND	Unknown
RAIN CHANCE	Unknown
SUNRISE / SUNSET	6:46 a.m. / 6:19 p.m. CT
BEST WINDOW	Unknown until NWS extends the grid. Check again Thursday night or Friday morning before you hold a Sunday tee time as the “good” day.

Read of the weekend. Friday morning is the round to want — that is the only day with a full `/forecast` period. Saturday can still be playable on the grid (high near 80°F, east ~10–14 mph) if you accept rising afternoon pop (~26% morning / ~42% afternoon) and bring a dry-bag plan; sky wording is unknown. Sunday is a blank card.

● CONDITIONS CHEAT SHEET

WHAT CHANGES THE ROUND

Dew, Friday dawn. Humidity near 90% at sunrise on 58°F air means slick greens, heavy rough, and approaches that plug or check harder until the sun works. Plan the first few holes a club longer into the green, then give it back as the air dries toward late morning.

East wind, especially Saturday. About ten to fourteen miles an hour on the grid is enough to move a mid-iron and to punish a high fade or draw that was “only a little” offline. The Judge still has water on a lot of holes — the course page says 14 holes adjoin the water — so a breeze toward the river is a different hole than a breeze off it. Feel it on the tee. Do not play a memorized wind from an old loop.

Opening-week surfaces. Golfweek (Oct 1, 2026) reported new TifEagle Bermuda on all 18 greens, irrigation around the greens, and slopes softened so the trail could run them near an 11 on the Stimpmeter. That 11 is what leadership described as the point of the work, **not a measured speed for Oct 9–11.** Weekend stimp, firmness, and hole locations are **unknown.**

The card may be the old card. The RTJ scorecard page still publishes pre-move yardages. Seven greens were relocated (1, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18) and eight new forward tees were added. If the yardage book in the cart disagrees with the website, believe the cart.

No maintenance closure this weekend. The 2026 Capitol Hill schedule lists nothing on The Judge, Legislator, or Senator for Oct 9–11. Overseeding starts later. The range is closed at least part of each **Tuesday**, which does not hit this Fri–Sun.

WHAT TO RE-CHECK MORNING-OF

NWS hourly for your tee time (showers can jump a period between Saturday’s issuance and Friday dawn, and Sunday is not forecast yet)

Which course you actually hold: The Judge will draw the curious; Legislator or Senator may be the smarter public round if the sheet is stacked

Cart-path or lift-clean-and-place notes if Friday night’s slight shower chance leaves puddles — **not posted as of this Lag**

Green speed and whether the new hole locations are already in the book

Tee time and pace expectation at the shop.
Pace this weekend is **unknown**

● HOW TO PLAY IT

Published scorecard still on rtigolf.com (treat as **pre-renovation** until the shop confirms): par 72. Black 7,806 yards, rating 78.5 / slope 147. Purple 7,141, 75.1/142. Orange 6,579, 71.7/131. White 6,130, 69.6/130. Gold 5,262, 65.9/116. Teal 4,411, 64.7/115. The page header says "Slope & Course Ratings" and then lists 78.5/147; 78.5 is the rating and 147 is the slope. **Post-renovation yardages: unknown.**

You do not need the Black tees to meet The Judge. Golfweek notes the course approaches or passes 8,000 yards from the tips and that the whole point of the new forward tees was to give slower speeds a way around forced carries. Pick the tee where your real iron, not your ego, covers the river.

TEE

The opening hole is still the picture: the first tee sits about 200 feet above the fairway, Alabama River pinching the right side, swampy ground left, Montgomery out in the distance. After the renovation the crowned fairway that used to kick drives toward the river or the swamp was flattened, and the green moved left, with a waterfall bunker wrapping the river side. Favor the fat of the new fairway. A hero line at the river is how this hole has always collected balls, breeze or no breeze.

On a 5–10 mph Friday the tee ball is mostly direction. On Saturday's ~10–14 mph east grid wind, take one club more of commitment and one club less of shape. Start it where the wind will finish it. If you cannot see the finish, aim at the safe half and swing.

Par 5s 4, 7, and 15 were rebuilt with run-up ground instead of a pure forced carry (4 and 7 explicitly; 15's green moved left, forward, and about six feet lower so the neck feeds the surface). Lay up on purpose. Going for them in two is a choice for someone

APPROACH

Miss where you can chip, not where the river is. The old severe slopes were the reason groups stalled on the greens; they were softened, not erased. A center-of-the-green iron still beats a flagged sucker pin over a new bunker, especially while you are learning the relocated complexes (1, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18).

The par-3 12th is the one people will talk about. The published Black yardage is 231; the green used to shed balls toward the river off a thumb in the surface. That kick was addressed with new bunkering and a raised wall in front, and azaleas went in behind. Play the number to the middle. In an east breeze, trust the wind more than the plaque on the tee marker — and if the marker still matches the old card, ask.

Friday after the dew burns, expect normal early-October Bermuda release: the ball will run a little more by late morning than it did on hole 2. Saturday, if a shower has the greens soft, land it shorter and let it release less. If they are still firm, the same flight will bounce through. You will not

AROUND THE GREEN

The 18th is still the short par 4 (published 358 yards from Black; Golfweek still calls it a 358-yard hole) and it is supposed to be the breath-out birdie look. The old green sent putts back down the hill in front. It is now described as a two-shelf green with a small false front. Below the hole is fine. Long and above the hole, on a shelf you have not seen yet, is how a “fun birdie hole” becomes a three-putt. Lag the first putt. Do not hole-hunt until you have watched one putt on that surface.

Everywhere else: the pace problem used to be people staring at severe slopes. Softer contours should let you start the ball on a simpler line, but a green they are trying to run near 11 will still move if that speed is actually on this week. Read break, then read speed off the first putt you see, not off a magazine quote.

Chips from tight, dew-wet lies Friday early will come out hot. Play them lower and expect less check until the sun lifts the water off the grain.

who can cover the number in the wind you have that hour — not a default.

know which until you see a ball finish. **Firmness this weekend is unknown.**

● BAG

Tied to the forecast you can actually use:

Friday, first two hours: one extra club on approaches while humidity is still high (about 81% at 8 a.m., about 64% at 10 a.m.). A wet groove and a soft lie both take spin off, then suddenly give it back. Hold a favorite scoring club you trust fat or thin.

By Friday afternoon: the shower chance is the story, not the heat. High near 82°F is short-sleeve golf. A light rain shell in the bag beats a cart ride back to the clubhouse. Pop is only in the teens, so this is insurance, not a washout plan.

Saturday: east wind about 10–14 mph on the grid (outside [/forecast](#)). Flight the ball down. A knocked-down mid-iron holds its line better than a high lob that the breeze can park in the river. If you usually hit a soft 8, be ready for a firm 7 into the wind and a smooth 9 downwind. Do not “add a little” with the hands — that is how the river holes get fed. Afternoon grid pop ~42% — keep a light shell in the bag.

Ball count: 14 holes adjoin water on the course’s own description, plus a bulkheaded island green. Bring more than a sleeve if you are seeing The Judge for the first time since the walls and greens moved.

Putter, not a new wedge: the interesting change is on and around the greens (new complexes, tempered slopes, possible faster speed). You will learn more from two practice putts on the TifEagle than from a range session with a club you already trust. The putting green on property is listed as bentgrass and TifEagle Bermuda — roll a few on the Bermuda if that is what the course is on.

Tees: if your comfortable carry does not match Black or Purple, move up. New forward tees exist specifically so the river carries are optional. Walking is allowed. Rental set on the facility sheet is Callaway Big Berthas, \$37 for 18 holes plus tax, if a travel bag did not make the trip. Coolers are not allowed. Customary golf attire.

Greens fee for this weekend: **unknown**. The Trail’s public rate page says prices vary by site and season and does not list a number you can lock to Oct 9–11.

● SEASON NOTE

Early October in central Alabama is still Bermuda season on this property, not rye season. Capitol Hill’s own 2026 maintenance calendar does not overseed until **October 25–28 (Senator)**, **November 1–5 (Legislator)**, and **November 8–11 (Judge)**, each followed by about seven days of

carts in the rough only. This Fri–Sun sits **before** that work. Fairways and rough should still be the warm-season plant, not a dusty overseed transition — but how short they are cutting them this week is **unknown**. Ask.

The Judge's greens were resurfaced in TifEagle Bermuda during the renovation that reopened Oct 1. The Senator has had TifEagle ultradwarf since 2020, per the course page. That is the grass under the putter. It is not a bentgrass green except on the practice putting green, which the facility sheet lists as both bentgrass and TifEagle.

What is generally true this week, and matched by the forecast: days in the low 80s, a Friday morning start in the upper 50s, a Friday night low around 61°F. That is a sweater on the first tee and a shirt by the turn, not summer heat and not a frost delay. Course-specific setup — height of cut, firmness, stimp, pin sheet — is **unknown** beyond the renovation description.

No aerification is scheduled on any of the three courses during Oct 9–11.

● ALSO WORTH IT

Same property, same public tee sheet, and honestly the right call if The Judge is backed up:

THE LEGISLATOR

The more traditional of the three: pines, a bluff over the Alabama River, then the Sky Bridge down into six holes in a native cypress swamp and back up to the clubhouse. Published card (same caveat — confirm it is current): par 72, Black 7,454 yards, rating 76.0 / slope 143. A better wind-and-position golf course if Saturday's east breeze has you tired of the river staring at you.

THE SENATOR

Scottish-links look: the course page counts more than 140 pot bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet high that hide the next hole. TifEagle greens since 2020. Published Black 7,643 yards, rating 77.4 / slope 132. In a 10–14 mph east breeze this is the course where the wind is the design, not an accident. Good Saturday round if you want the breeze to matter on purpose.

LAGOON PARK, MONTGOMERY

City of Montgomery public course, 18 holes, par 72, designed by Charles Graves. The course's own page says 6,800 yards from the back tees, TifDwarf Bermuda greens, tree-lined parkland. About a short drive south of Prattville (Capitol Hill's page puts the facility 8 miles north of the state capitol; exact drive time **unknown**). Fivesomes are not allowed Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Weekend green fee: **unknown**. Phone on their page: (334) 625-4050.

GATEWAY, MONTGOMERY

Public 9-hole (the city's page describes a par-72 total with five par 4s and four par 3s, back tee about 2,931 yards — that "par 72" reads like a doubled nine; confirm before you plan a match). Worth it only if you want a short loop and a practice ground, not a second championship round. (334) 284-7920.

Skip the rest of the Trail for this Lag. Grand National, Oxmoor Valley, and the others are real public golf, and they are not "nearby" in any useful Saturday-morning sense.

● LOOKING AHEAD

This weekend's crowds: unknown. Nothing on the Capitol Hill page or in the Oct 1 reopening coverage names a tournament, outing, or shotgun for Oct 9–11. The Senator has hosted the Epson Tour Guardian Championship in September in past years; that is not this window. The only crowd tell is circumstantial: The Judge reopened Oct 1, and this is the first Friday-to-Sunday after that. Book, don't wander up. Do not treat that as a verified sellout.

OCT 16–18

Weather **unknown** (beyond the forecast issued Oct 3). No event found. Still pre-overseed on all three courses, which is the last clean weekend before the Senator work if the calendar holds.

OCT 23–25

Senator overseeding is scheduled **Oct 25–28**, recovery listed as carts in the rough only for about 7 days. A weekend round that bumps into Sunday the 25th, or the week after, is a different golf course. Weather **unknown**. Crowds **unknown**.

OCT 30 – NOV 8

Legislator overseed **Nov 1–5**; Judge overseed **Nov 8–11**; same carts-rough-only note, about 7 days. If you want The Judge in full fairway mode, this Oct 9–11 window is the one in front of that work — not mid-November.

Maintenance is weather-dependent and the course says it can change last minute. The driving range is at least partly closed on Tuesdays all season.

SOURCES

All of these were opened for this Lag. Yardages, fees, and weather not listed above are **unknown** on purpose.

- [RTJ Golf Trail at Capitol Hill](#) — public 54-hole facility, Prattville; course descriptions; 2026 maintenance calendar; Judge reopening note
- [Official scorecards and rating/slope](#) — Judge, Legislator, Senator
- [Capitol Hill facility info](#) — I-65 Exit 179 and Constitution Avenue, walking allowed, rentals, cooler and dress policy, practice green
- [Green fees](#) — prices vary by site and season; no weekend rack number used here
- [Reservations](#) — public booking path
- [Golfweek, Oct 1, 2026, "All rise: The Judge is back in play"](#) — reopening date, TifEagle resurfacing, relocated greens, forward tees, run-up areas, stimp comment from Mike Beverly
- [NWS_point metadata](#) — Prattville grid BMX 75,39
- [NWS /forecast](#) — **updateTime** 2026-10-03T18:26:34Z, 1:26 p.m. CT; last period Friday Night ending ~6:00 a.m. CT Sat Oct 10
- [NWS_parent grid BMX/75,39](#) — grid **updateTime** 2026-10-03T23:06:52Z, 6:06 p.m. CT; Saturday field values only
- [NWS hourly](#) — Friday detail; through ~5:00 a.m. CT Saturday, Oct 10 on the pull used for this Lag
- [Sunrise and sunset](#) — Oct 9, 10, and 11, 2026, lat 32.464, lon -86.451, America/Chicago (swap the date for the 10th and 11th)
- [Lagoon Park](#) — Montgomery public course
- [Lagoon Park and Gateway](#) — City of Montgomery public golf

*Forecast vintage: /**forecast** updateTime 2026-10-03T18:26:34Z (1:26 p.m. CT); parent grid updateTime 2026-10-03T23:06:52Z (6:06 p.m. CT) for Saturday fields only. Rebuild Saturday from /**forecast** once it extends, and rebuild Sunday before you trust it.*