St. Johns wants Jacksonville out of ads

PGA complex at issue in Hall of Fame plans

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The $896,000 St. Johns County paid the city of Jacksonville last month as a reimbursement for money invested in a 1989 contract that brought PGA Tour Productions to the city and eventually led to the $1.6-billion PGA Hall of Fame plans in St. Augustine remains a sticking point.

St. Johns commissioners don’t want any Jacksonville promotional link to the Hall of Fame, though Jacksonville Deputy Mayor Frank R. Nero wants to use the Hall of Fame in promotions and is willing to negotiate a contract with St. Johns County.

Replies St. Johns Commissioner Don Herold: “This is our project. I think we need to exclude them.”

For the next 30 years, St. Johns County has exclusive control over the use of the Hall of Fame in promotions involving the state, any county or any government within 100 miles of St. Johns County. Commissioners are eager to sell some of those rights to other governments — except Jacksonville in the county of Duval.

To recoup the $896,000 and perhaps offset another $800,000 owed the golf association, commissioners hope to create ads promoting the Hall of Fame and surrounding areas to other governments that would pay to be mentioned in the advertising.

However, the mood of the moment is “Put the ad ax to Jax.”

Correction

In our January issue, Golf Course News incorrectly linked a toxic waste dump in Santa Barbara County, Calif., partially owned by Kenneth Hunter, Jr. and a golf course project in San Luis Obispo County. No golf course is planned for the toxic waste dump site.

Neither the owner of the toxic waste site, a limited partnership nor its sole general partner, are involved in any way with the golf course, according to Mr. Hunter’s attorney. While estimates for clean-up costs at the dump site have varied widely, there is presently a $10 million trust funded by the partnership owning the toxic dump which can be used for such purposes if approved by the State of California and the EPA, according to Mr. Hunter’s attorney.

Federal EPA lawyers and county attorneys filed suit last August, but have not tried to seize Hunter’s assets, according to Tim McNulty, deputy Santa Barbara County counsel.

We apologize for the confusion.

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Pictured above: The inaugural drive at the world’s first Antarctic Open.

Unocal gets go-ahead in Fullerton

FULLERTON, Calif. — North Fullerton City Council members voted 4-1 to allow Unocal Land & Development Co. to build 883 homes on a 380-acre oil field as part of a development that includes a 17-acre sports complex, an 18-hole golf course, a hilltop park and 60 acres devoted to a wildlife refuge.

The 187-acre East Coyote Hills Golf Course helps create a greenbelt through the project. There has been public opposition to the additional housing.

One Fullerton resident said, “The ideal world would be if Unocal put in an 18-hole golf course and sports fields and didn’t build one house. But we all know a compromise has to be made here.”

Another compromise is for the birds. Unocal plans to transplant 55 of the oilfield’s 106 acres of coastal sage scrub, habitat for the gnatcatcher. Ten pairs of gnatcatchers nest in the scrub. While the gnatcatcher is not on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s endangered species list, the agency has been reviewing the bird’s status.

Garl layout in Vero Beach under way

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Construction was scheduled to begin early in December on the second 18-hole layout at nearby Sandridge Golf Course. The course, designed by Ron Garl of Lakeland, is scheduled to open next December.

The new course will measure about 6,200 yards from the championship tees, compared to the existing 6,900-yard course. It’s designed, said Sandridge golf director Bob Komarinetz, as a thinking man’s golf course, oriented toward target golf.

The new layout includes the six lakes already on the property, a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse overlooking the 18th green, an expanded practice area and putting green. The pricetag is $5.5 million, and Komarinetz hopes to add some country-wide events to his club’s schedule.