

NEWS IN BRIEF

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co., an international golf facility management firm, has moved its corporate offices to Palmer's Bay Hill Club here. Part of the Bay Hill Lodge was converted into offices for the APGMC staff.

MARSHALL COUNTY, Iowa — Proposals for two nine-hole golf courses will proceed now that they have won unanimous approval for special-use permits from the Marshall County Board of Adjustment. Local resident William Grewell said he hopes to open Country Drive GC by late summer or fall. Mike Eckhart, treasurer of the West Marshall Golf Course Association, said Lincoln Valley GC will open by June 1994.

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Construction of UDC Home's Foothills Club West GC resumed in January, and will be completed this summer. The course, designed by Kenneth M. Kavanaugh of Tucson, is scheduled to open next winter. Kavanaugh has also begun an extensive course renovation for the city of Tucson's Randolph South Municipal GC. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 1994.

FLOYDS KNOBS, Ind. — Not far from his Southern Indiana home, Fuzzy Zoeller is watching his eighth course come to life. Zoeller owns 51 percent of Covered Bridge GC, a \$7.5 million course and housing development he designed on 350 acres. It's scheduled to open by spring of 1994.

ST. LOUIS — Monsanto Co. has announced it has signed a letter of intent with Chevron Chemical Co. to purchase the assets of that firm's Ortho Consumer Products Division. Monsanto officials indicated the purchase price will be approximately \$400 million, including working capital employed in the business.

Creative solution to unravel longstanding Homestead dispute?

By PETER BLAIS

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — A citizens group has dredged up an old idea along the shores of Lake Michigan as a way to resolve the conflict surrounding the controversial Homestead golf course.

A 10-member steering committee, composed of leaders of groups interested in the project, has proposed a land swap between Homestead resort owner Robert Kuras and the National Park Service, administrator of nearby Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The swap involves an exchange of 267 acres of Homestead land for a 258-acre Park Service parcel, according to committee spokesman Don Reddicliffe.

The Park Service would set aside the Homestead land, which includes the 3.68 acres of wetlands near the Crystal River that have tied up the development in regulatory red tape and the courts for more than six years.

'This won't be easy. An act of Congress is difficult to get and will take time. But it's worth the effort if we can get this resolved.'

—Don Reddicliffe, spokesman for citizens group

The Homestead could use the adjacent Park Service acreage, which Reddicliffe described as rolling farmland "without wetlands or creeks to worry about," to develop its long-sought golf course. A former owner once considered developing the site into a golf course.

Since it involves federal land, the swap would require an act of Congress, Reddicliffe explained. The group's goal is to gain local support that would hopefully generate resolutions and letters of support. Those would be sent to the district's Congressmen, who could introduce the needed legislation.

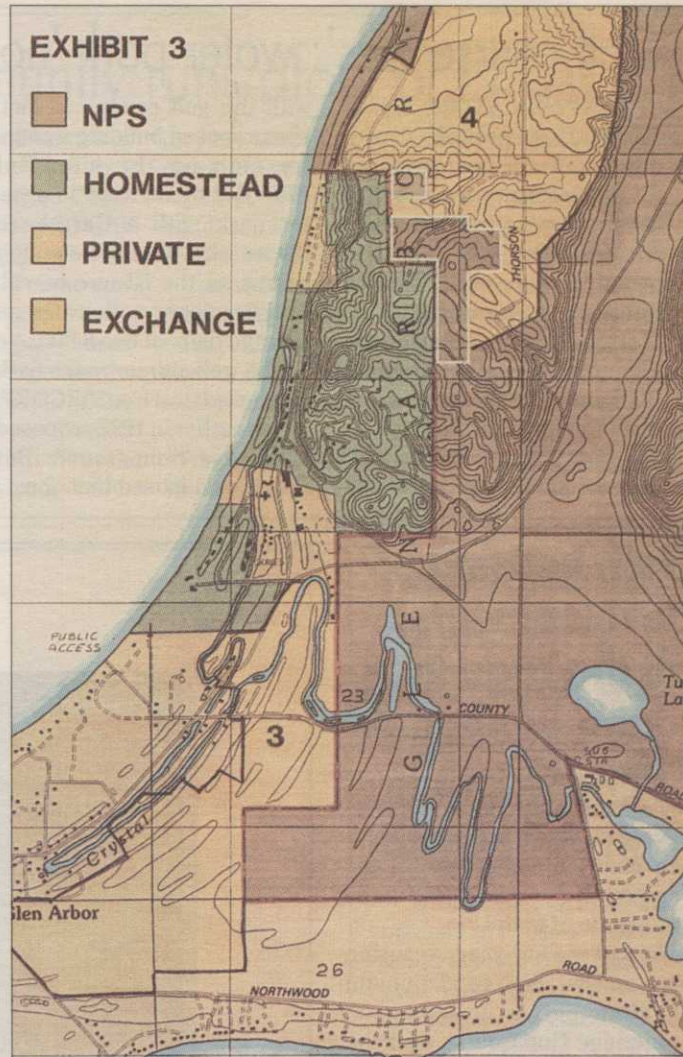
"A similar plan was considered five or six years ago," Reddicliffe said. "But it wasn't considered possible. Since then we've had six years of bitter debate. More people are looking at this as a way to resolve the issue and move on."

Some oppose the idea. "The Sierra Club said it was absolutely against any exchange of Park Service land. That was predictable," Reddicliffe said.

But he was encouraged by the willingness of Kuras and the Park Service to "at least listen" to the idea. The swap gained an editorial

EXHIBIT 3

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The solution would involve swapping the parcel belonging to developer Robert Kuras (labeled #3) for a Park Service parcel, labeled #4.

endorsement from *The Detroit News* and was termed "a viable compromise" by the local *Traverse City Record Eagle*.

Reddicliffe is most optimistic because of the willingness of steering committee members to give up time from their busy schedules to seek a solution. Committee members include leaders of such influential groups as the Friends of the Crystal River, Glen Lake Association, Citizens Council of the Sleeping Bear Dunes Area and National Dunes Advisory Committee.

Reddicliffe is president of the Glen Arbor Coalition, a civic betterment group.

"This won't be easy," he said. "An act of Congress is difficult to get and will take time. But it's worth the effort if we can get this resolved."

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Dye says Indianapolis Speedway course might be his final stadium design

By MARK LESLIE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — His renovation of the Indianapolis Speedway Golf Course is perhaps Pete Dye's final adventure into designing courses with stadium-type mounding.

Resting in the Dominican Republic after putting the finishing touches to the Indy layout, Dye said: "I don't want any more stadium courses... I want to do the dead opposite."

The Speedway course is seeded and expected to open in June.

"It is the biggest stadium course every built — the biggest people-mover in the world," Dye said.

"We built spectator mounds around the golf course 40 to 60 feet high and they go forever."

The 27-hole facility was turned into an 18-hole course and a mammoth driving range. Four holes are inside the oval track and 14 outside.

In the past, cars have been parked on the golf course inside the track, but Dye said lakes have been dug around those holes, making them inaccessible to vehicles.

Despite the course being the largest stadium facility on the planet, Dye said: "We could have 60,000 spectators at a tournament and the parking lot attendant could go to sleep. They're used to 700,000 people for the Indy 500."

Homestead dispute

Continued from page 3

City Supervisor Ben Whitfield thinks the chances are good and that the course will eventually get local permits, especially since city voters approved a rezoning to accommodate the course by a 285-209 count in a 1987 referendum.

But that was long before the state Department of Natural Resources approved the course, the district Environmental Protection Agency was reportedly ready to reject it, the national EPA office approved it and a district court overturned the EPA's approval.

The June 1992 court ruling said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, rather than the EPA, had jurisdiction over the wetlands issue. That blocked Kuras' plans to finally start construction. The EPA is awaiting a decision on its appeal to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court in Cincinnati. The next judicial step would be the U.S. Supreme Court. Both sides have vowed to take their cases that far, if necessary.

Also possibly affecting the eventual fate of the Homestead course is the appointment of Carol Browner as President Clinton's new EPA director. Browner, Florida's former state environmental chief, is seen as more pro-environment and less a property rights advocate than her predecessor, William Reilly. She could choose to drop the EPA's appeal and let the district court's decision stand.

Kuras first proposed the course more than six years ago and estimates his costs at \$3.7 million.

Michigan is the only state with authority to regulate wetlands issues. The Homestead case is seen as a test of whether the federal government is serious about turning over wetlands regulations to the states as former President Bush proposed.

'I don't want any more stadium courses... I want to do the dead opposite.'

— Pete Dye,
architect



The newly renovated Speedway course will feature 18 holes — down from 27 — with four inside the oval.

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