Ala. city courts elderly players for Jones Trail

GLENCOE, Ala. — City officials are discussing ways to attract retirees to the area, now that a Jones Trail golf course is under construction here.

The Glencoe course is one of a number being designed across the state by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and Roger Rulewich.

Retirees moving into the city would bring great advances to the city's economy, according to Mark Fagan, a consultant for the center for economic development and business research at Jacksonville State University.

At a workshop for business owners and city officials, Fagan said Glencoe would benefit from revenue generated from ad valorem taxes, sales and use, utilities and fuel and liquor taxes.

Sunbelt Golf Inc. is developing Jones Trail for the state of Alabama using retirement systems financing.

Nuclear power plant giving way to golf course?

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Having nixed the idea of a racetrack, officials here are leaning toward expanding an existing park and building an 18-hole golf course on the site of a used nuclear power plant.

The Rancho Seco plant stopped producing power in 1989, when residents voted to shut it down. It sits idle, occupying 87 acres of the 2,480-acre property of rolling pastures owned by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD).

SMUD's J.D. Stack said a golf course design is expected by March 1, and told the San Luis Obispo Telegram a course "could be a real successful enterprise."

The idea for a course appeared last October after the County of Sacramento decided it could not afford to continue operating the lake and park at Rancho Seco.

Loomis design to open this autumn

TROY, Mo. — Construction has begun on Woodsfort Country Club and developers expect the upscale 18-hole public course to open by the fall. PBTC Enterprises, Inc. and Troy Development Co., Inc. are building the course, which was designed by Jerry Loomis. It will feature zoysiagrass tee boxes, Bermuda grass fairways and bentgrass greens.

Six local businessmen own the facility, while Mid-America Golf Management, Inc., of St. Louis has been retained for engineering, design, construction management and operation.

Going beyond the ornamental

LOVELAND, Colo. — Marian Butte Golf Course will soon feature the latest in avant-garde landscaping and beautification.

Loveland's Visual Arts Commission (VAC) has opened the bidding to local artists who would be paid to create original artwork for the golf course. The VAC has voted to look at two proposals from New Yorker Nancy Holt and accept three others from Colorado artists. Apparently, local artists were miffed that the VAC went to Holt without giving them a chance.

The VAC is willing to pay up to $50,000 for the commission. Loveland's art in public places program is funded by mandating that 1 percent of the total cost of major city capital projects be set aside for beautification. The golf course is the latest such undertaking.

The first of Holt's two proposals is a large but simple stone work. The other is more elaborate, with movable metal rings and fire pits.