NEWS IN BRIEF

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A multi-million dollar expansion is underway at Still Waters Resort and Conference Center on Lake Martin, which includes 32 new golf villas, another 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and hotel. The cost of the first phase of construction is estimated between $7 and $8 million, according to Bill Hite, general manager of the resort. Defender Resort Development of Myrtle Beach, S.C., is managing the expansion. The 2,200-acre Still Waters Resort opened in the late 1970s.

BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, Ohio — First it was road embankments. Next up, Echo Valley Golf Course? Yes. After watching the Black River gradually gobble up most of a 390-foot road embankment in this Cleveland suburb, Lorain County engineers will route part of the river 1,000 feet away from the road — and right next to the fairway on Echo Valley's 4th hole.

RICHLAND, Va. — Local golf architect Lester George has signed on with Joonsboro Country Club in Lynchburg to help the club in its long-range master plan to renovate and restore the course originally designed by Fred Findlay in 1927. George has also done renovations at Birkdale, Ellis Creek in Newport News, Fort Lee and Hanover.

BETHEL, Conn. — The Parks and Recreation Commission here is taking a step toward the creation of Bethel’s first public golf course. The commission recently earmarked $7,000 in its 1995-96 budget for a feasibility study of converting part of a town-owned parcel near the Francis J. Clarke Industrial park on Route 33. The idea of a municipal course in Bethel has been floating around for years. The commission does not have a cost estimate for building the golf course. But Timothy Burke, director of the Parks and Recreation Commission, says taxpayers won’t bear the financial burden of any such project.

Conference focuses on Asian management

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The supply of club managers in Asia-Pacific has never met demand and, as golf course development continues to boom in the region, the need for experienced club managers becomes more and more critical. With this in mind, the International Association of Golf Course Managers (IAGCM) will stage the first certificate course in “Club Operations and Golf & Country Club Management,” beginning Oct. 1 here at the Pan Pacific Glenmore Resort.

“This program is being held first in the Asia-Pacific region, as there is an acute shortage of qualified golf & country club managers in the region, especially Malaysia,” said Jin Siew, IAGCM secretary.

“Many in the club management profession have risen through the ranks. Very few have achieved degrees in the hospitality field. The ever-changing climate of golf & country club management demands a highly qualified, highly trained professional who can manage the changes occurring daily.”

The IAGCM is a non-profit body formed in 1989 to provide for and enhance the international professionalism of the golf club manager. The association is the only one of its kind to represent managers on an international scale, according to C.R. Leong, attorney for IAGCM.

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The intensive six-week course will begin Oct. 1 and conclude in mid-November. According to Leong, the program is

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AND FAZIO MAKES TWO...

The new, Hale Irwin-designed golf course at Cordillera (above) — the 3,100-acre mountain-top community overlooking Vail Valley, Colo. — will soon have a sister course. Slated to begin construction this spring, the new course will be designed by Tom Fazio. Situated at a 6,500-foot elevation, it will be called the Valley Course, in contrast to Cordillera’s 8,250-foot-elevation Mountain Course (see above), designed by Irwin and opened in 1994. An additional short course is slated to begin construction in 1996.

Conference focuses on Asian management

By HAL PHILLIPS

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Tatum, JMP plan private walking course in Monterey

MONTEREY, Calif. — Imagine, a golf course where all except those with physical disabilities would be required to walk ... with caddies.

That's the plan at an exclusive golf course proposed by developers of Rancho San Carlos on the scenic south ridge of Carmel Valley. An 18-hole golf course and 15,000-square-foot clubhouse are part of a use-permit application submitted to the county by the Rancho San Carlos limited partnership composed of the Pacific Union Co. of San Francisco and Daishinpan Ltd., a financial firm based in Osaka, Japan.

Sandy Tatum, former president of the U.S. Golf Association, is working with the Michael Poellot Golf Design on the project. Tatum envisions the club as a private, proprietary club with about 250 members from around the world.

Several landowners near the proposed golf course site have said they oppose the proposal because of concerns that runoff of pesticides, fertilizer and irrigation water (some of it treated sewage) could contaminate nearby watersheds that provide water to the peninsula. There have also been concerns raised about the effect on the wildlife habitat, including eagles. A draft environmental report by Jones and Stokes of Sacramento is expected later this month, with hearings on the development as early as July.

Calif. county to bolster public golf portfolio with five courses

With as many as five public golf courses proposed for development and others possibly on the horizon, golf is becoming the new growth industry in Ventura County.

Golf courses are being proposed by the county, some cities and private developers. Each says the demand is high, and some even say there is potential for Ventura County to become a golf destination, though not on the scale of Palm Springs or Myrtle Beach.

S.C. A 1992 study released by the county said at least seven courses are needed to ease overcrowding on county courses. Golfers play 1.2 million rounds annually on Ventura County's 13 public courses. By comparison, the Coachella Valley has more than 80 public golf courses.

Some of the courses being proposed or built are:
- Camarillo Regional Golf Course. The county will offer the developer a ground lease and get a split of the revenue.
- Moorpark. Two courses proposed here will be privately owned public layouts.

Asian conference

Continued from page 3

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Attendees will receive valuable instruction from industry experts in the areas of club operations, food & beverage, agronomy and accounting. Amongst the panel of experts leading instruction will be two well known members of the U.S. golf industry: Larry Gerstner, co-author of "Club Operations and Management;" and Mike Peterson, assistant director at the PGA National Academy of Golf and former director of Junior Golf for the PGA of America.

Conferences will also have the opportunity to network with managers who run some of the top clubs in Asia-Pacific and tour existing operations in the region. The hospitality portion of the course will be administered by the International Institute of Golf Course, Hotel & Resort Management.

The program will be officiated by Dato' Dr. Afffuddin bin Hj. Omar, parliamentary secretary to the Malaysian Ministry of Finance, who holds his doctorate degree from Cornell University. Graduation certificates will be presented by Malaysia's Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Dato' M. Mahalingham.

Lloyd Daser, general manager of the Pan Pacific Glenmarie Resort, is providing attendees a special rate of US$22.50 per night with breakfast on a triple sharing basis. In addition, the IAGCM has secured special arrangements include plane fares through Malaysia Airlines System. Registration is encouraged before the May 28 deadline.

For more information, contact Simon Hanley at IAGCM administrative center here in Kuala Lumpur by calling 603-443-7000, or faxing 603-443-7001.