Garl designs South Carolina layout for women

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Golf course architect Ron Garl is doing something few of his colleagues have considered. He’s designing an 18-hole golf course specifically for women. After months of surveys with women golfers in 39 states, Garl has designed the yards from the shortest tees, which is 1,000 yards from the shortest tees, which is 1,000 yards or more shorter than the yardage for typical women’s tees. There will be no special women’s tee markers, but rather five different tee choices on each hole, each tailored to handicaps.

One of the keys is that golfers of all handicaps should play roughly the same shots on each hole. For example, if a low-handicap player uses a driver and 5-iron to get to a par-4 in regulation, then a high-handicap player, playing from the appropriately measured tees, should be able to get to the green using a driver and a 5-iron.

Garl plans another round of research and said he plans to develop more specialty-tailored courses in the future.

City says OK to Calif. land sale

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — A second 18-hole golf course next to the Bennett Valley Course inched closer to reality when the City Council recently decided to buy an option on 126 acres in the area.

The council will spend $450,000 over two years on the option to buy property for a pro-
posed par-63 golf course in the foothills behind the existing par-
72 course.

Before the course can be de-
veloped however, the city must complete an environmental im-
pact report in response to ar-
cheological finds of Indian arti-
facts along Matanzas Creek on the property.

City Manager Ken Blackman estimated impact studies could take up to two years before con-
struction could begin, which means it would be three or four years before the course could open for play. The total cost of the golf course is estimated at $3.75 million plus an estimated $3 million for development.

Ala. golf resort seeks investors

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The ambitious $14 to $17 million Ditto Landing-Hobb’s Island water-
front resort and residential com-
munity proposed on the Tennes-
see River — which includes an 18-hole public golf course — is now seeking private investors.

The Huntsville-Madison County Marina and the Port Au-
thority for Ditto Landing recently hired consultant Jim Mitchell to find investors to finance devel-
oment of the mixed-use recre-
aition/business park project, which was first introduced in 1991 by LDR International Inc.

The county marina, Port Au-
thority and state are sharing the cost of the proposed project.