NEWS IN BRIEF

CANON CITY, Colo. — Shadow Hills Golf Club will open the year 18-hole golf course in Fremont County. Shadow Hills members started planning expansion from nine to 18 holes about a year ago and the work is now almost complete. If the weather cooperates, members will be able to play an 18-hole course by fall 1995. The estimated price tag for the Keith Foster-designed expansion is less than $700,000.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — An Austin, Texas-based developer said he’s interested in building a nine-hole golf course downtown here. The project could be tied to the city’s Metropolitan Area Projects plan, a downtown development proposal funded in part by a sales tax. There has also been discussion about building an 18-hole course straddling the North Canadian river.

BROCKWAY, Pa. — Veteran PGA pro Doug Lockwood is busy preparing to open the Tri-County’s newest golf course downtown here. The project could be tied to the city’s Metropolitan Area Projects plan, a downtown development proposal funded in part by a sales tax. There has also been discussion about building an 18-hole course straddling the North Canadian river.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The city’s park commission will decide in the next 30 days which of three nationally-known golf course designer will design a new 66 million municipal golf course at Riverside-Martin Luther King Park. Either Tom Fazio, Rees Jones or Jack Nicklaus will be awarded the project which calls for replacing the current nine-hole course with an 18-hole layout. The project also includes a clubhouse and driving range. The course could be ready for play by 1997.

The 17th hole at the Pete Dye-designed Nu-Wav Kaiv Course located on the outskirts of Las Vegas.

Paiute Nation moving ahead with development despite water wrangle

By HAL PHILLIPS

LAS VEGAS — The first of four golf courses proposed for Las Vegas Paiute Resort will open here this month, despite a state-sponsored lawsuit over water rights.

Litigation has been postponed until March 20, allowing time for the Paiute Indian Nation, the federal government and the state of Nevada to reach an out-of-court settlement, according to Sue Williams, legal counsel for the Paiute Nation.

“The Paiutes need enough water for all four golf courses,” said Williams, a principal in the Albuquerque law firm of Gover, Stetson, Williams. “The state is willing to give up the water for one course. Essentially the tribe claims it has federal water rights because it has occupied this land for time immemorial. The state believes there are no federal water rights.”

The state of Nevada and the Las Vegas Valley Water District filed federal suit late in 1994, alleging the Paiutes had recently dug six wells and are unlawfully diverting ground water to their fledgling golf operation. The state actually sued the Paiutes and the federal government, which serves as trustee for all tribal lands.

“We’re certainly not opposed to [the Paiutes] trying to develop those lands up there,” Peter Morros, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. “But before we could consider the options, they went ahead with drilling activity and proceeded with construction of their first golf course.”

That first course — the Nu-Wav Kaiv (pronounced nuwakai) which is Paiute for Snow Mountain — is positioned to take advantage of the celebrated golf dearth in Greater Las Vegas, where casino and theme park development have outpaced the city’s leisure services. Designed by Pete and Alice Dye, Nu-Wav Kaiv was developed by the Paiutes in conjunction with Landmark Golf Co.

According to Johnny Fott, the former PGA touring pro and Landmark’s director of golf at Nu-Wav Kaiv, more than 240 obsolete wells were plugged.

First Summit yields seeds of working relationships

By HAL PHILLIPS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Credibility.

The golf and environmental communities both exhibited this trait during the Environmental Summit held here in January, and both groups stand to profit from relationships forged during this unprecedented exchange of views, according to Paul Parker of the Center for Research Management (CRM), the Denver-based firm that facilitated the meeting.

“I think there were misconceptions about each other,” Parker explained. “In the golf community, they thought environmentalists were out to get them. That’s not the case. By the same token, the environmental community didn’t think golf was concerned with environmental issues. That was wrong, too.

“Like a lot of issues, you have things reported in the media and expressed during litigation. Unless you sit down and talk, there’s a great deal of misconception about motives.”

The January Summit sought to clarify these motives by bringing together representatives of major golf organizations, individual superintendents, architects and builders with emissaries from the environmental community: The Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Save the Bay, and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), which co-sponsored the event with Golf Digest magazine. The meeting was underwritten in part by...
Summit scenario
Continued from page 3
A continuing and understanding relationship... and... 

Grants from GNB Technologies, Rain Bird Sales, Gary-Williams Energy Corp. and The Toro Co. 

Attendees indicated the relationships and understanding nurtured during the three-day Summit makes possible a new era of cooperation. 

“T left feeling really good. I’ve got some people to talk to now,” said Courtney Cuff, a policy member at Friends of the Earth. “I can get honest answers from them. I would hope they feel the same way about me—that I’m not some maniacal freak; that I can discuss these issues with them.” 

As a member of the Wake Forest University golf team from 1990-94, Cuff brought a considerable amount of perspective with her to Pebble Beach. But she left with more. 

“I really thought the golf industry was open, willing and receptive about developing more sustainable management practices,” she said. “Because I have something of a unique background, I felt like I was pretty well versed. The surprising thing to me was how much of the onus falls on superintendents. We should be aware and help them as much as possible. We have to help them help everyone. “I talked to Steve Mona (CEO of GCSAA) and have him on my list of people to call. We want to decipher ways to mobilize public support behind superintendents,” The CRM’s Parker indicated the superintendents in attendance—Tim Hiers of Collier’s Reserve in Naples, Fla., and David Stone of the Honors Course in Chattanooga, Tenn.—made big impressions on those representing the environmental community. 

The idea of superintendents as “stewards of the land”—something the golf industry embraced long ago—was driven home with authority, said Parker. “Tim gave a real good overview of what they’re doing at Colliers,” Parker explained. “A lot of people were surprised with the scope of it. Not just birds, but recycling and native planting. They got a real sense that environmental concern is part of the overall management philosophy at Collier’s.” 

Sharon Newsome, vice president for resources conservation at the NWF, concurred. “Tim Hiers and David Stone gave excellent presentations and were very participatory in the break-out sessions,” Newsome said. “They helped us realize what was going on in their industry.” 

“I was aware of the New York Audubon Sanctuary Program, but I’m not sure others were. An area that I learned much more about is the ability of design and superintendents to modify both the course and what they do with the course. And their determination to do so.” 

Attendees agreed that more detailed discussions of management practices must take place at the next Summit, tentatively scheduled for 1996, probably on the East Coast. In the meantime, task forces will be formed to examine specific issues like the development of overarching environmental principles, public education, golf course siting and the effects of chemical leaching. “I believe in working off real data,” said Kurt Spalding of Save the Bay, a group dedicated to the protection of Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay. “Clearly, leaching can be a problem. But just as clearly, it can be a managed problem. I was impressed with the ways that some of the superintendents have minimized leaching.” 

“The level of commitment on the part of these superintendents was there. Clearly, these folks carry very much about the environment and the course’s relationship to the environment. I was impressed with their earnest commitment—you could see it by looking in their eyes.” 

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