Board bows to pressure and cancels goose hunt

SCOTTSBORO, Ala. — A gaggle of Canadian geese that has taken over parts of the Goosepond Colony Golf Course was spared a beauty hunt by the public golf course board.

The board voted to cancel a hunt ordered by the club's directors to get rid of hundreds of geese that were eating grass on the greens and fairways and fouling them with waste.

The proposed hunt, which was to begin in late January, joined together two groups usually opposed to each other: traditional hunters and animal-rights advocates.

The club had planned to hold four daybreak hunts to reduce the population of the gray-and-black geese, which can weigh up to 24 pounds as adults. Each hunter was supposed to pay $50 for the hunt and be limited to two geese. There are an estimated 500 to 1,000 geese on the course at any one time.

Cheered by the cancellation, conservationists and others who supported the geese said they will try to trap and move the geese this spring to Mobile and other parts of the state. In the meantime, the greens will also be treated with a special non-lethal chemical to keep the geese from eating the grass.

Jacksonville set for Fazio design

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — An exclusive equity golf club with a Tom Fazio-designed golf course and $40,000 initiation fees is being planned for a tract of land just north of Pablo Creek. A Dana Doles, chairman of Winn-Dixie, has donated 300 acres for Pablo Creek Club, a golf-only facility that will limit membership to 250 people.

Jay Skelton, the primary organizer of the club, said the first 200 members would pay a $40,000 initiation fee, with higher fees for the remaining 50.

Three employees charged with theft at Ill. track

ELGIN, Ill. — Three former employees in the Dundee Park District have been charged with the theft of $55,000 in cash and merchandise from the district's two golf courses. Philip W. Simonsen of Medinah, Thomas J. Bychowski of Elgin and Michael Murphy of Mount Prospect were named in complaints filed by the Kane County State Attorney's office.

The charges cap a 10-month investigation into missing funds, first uncovered by the park district during a December 1993 audit. Officials discovered the district's two golf courses — Bonnie Dundee and Randall Oaks — were short $37,814 in cash and $17,835 in pro shop merchandise.

The complaint also states Bychowski and Bychowski pocketed park district money in several ways. One was keeping golf lesson money that should have gone into the golf course cash register. Another was taking cash out of the till in amounts equal to checks received from green fees or merchandise.

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The complaint also states Bychowski would swap green fee revenues into accounts for commissioned sales. The charges allege Simonsen and Bychowski pocketed park district money in several ways. One was keeping golf lesson money that should have gone into the golf course cash register. Another was taking cash out of the till in amounts equal to checks received from green fees or merchandise.

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