

Williams named new director at Raven Golf

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Rick Williams has been named the new director of golf operations for Raven Golf, a Scottsdale-based golf course management, ownership and development company.

Williams, who was director of golf for the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain in Phoenix, will oversee golf operations, maintenance, and sales and marketing for all Raven Golf Properties.

Raven, which opened the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain in Phoenix in late 1995 and another Raven club at Sabino Springs in Tucson in January, is looking to explore new markets for upscale, daily-fee golf.

"Rick was instrumental in making the Raven Golf Club at South Mountain one of the top golf courses in Arizona, and his influence will ensure us of providing the same type of exceptional experience at all our new golf courses," said Larry Lippon, owner of Raven Golf. "With the growth of our company, we decided to create the director of golf operations position to ensure a consistent level of quality and excellence at each Raven Golf Club."

Prior to joining Raven, Williams was head pro at Arizona Country Club in Phoenix and at Stonecreek Golf Club in Paradise Valley, Ariz.

LinksCorp inks Nashville deal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — LinksCorp, Inc., of Northfield, Ill., has bought the Nashboro Village Golf Course, an 18-hole daily-fee 10 miles outside downtown Nashville, Tenn., long considered one of the finer layouts in the area.

"We've been looking to expand our presence in the growing Nashville market," said Ben Blake, chief executive officer of LinksCorp, a national golf course acquisition and management company that owns and manages

18 private, semi-private and public golf facilities nationwide. LinksCorp already owns two facilities in Tennessee — Temple Hills, a private country club in Nashville, and Stonehenge, a top-rated public layout in the Crossville area.

LinksCorp plans several improvements at the 144-acre tree-lined Nashboro Village course, according to Blake. Turf, bunker and drainage work is expected to start in the near future. There are also plans to renovate and improve the clubhouse.

"We plan to immediately make the improvements to the facility and golf course while increasing the level of service to our customers," said Blake. "Our intention is to deliver a high-quality golf course at a good value — in the same manner as we have done at Stonehenge and Temple Hills."

Jersey town agrees to take over VA links

BERNARDS, N.J. — The nine-hole course at Lyons Veterans Affairs Medical Center has been revived thanks to a new agreement with the township.

The Township Committee agreed to manage the Coakley Russo Memorial Golf Course for Lyons. The contract is for one year with the option to renew every two years.

The course, which normally opens in May, was closed until the agreement was reached. Last year, Congress notified VA Hospitals with courses that federal money can't be used to operate them.

It will cost the township \$132,000 a year to run the course, which officials say will come from membership fees. Under the agreement, in-patients at Lyons medical center will still be able to golf for free. Lyons is a 300-acre facility with about 1,000 employees. Maintenance of the course will be handled by Lyons staff.

Wentworth and Brassie sign consulting pact

TAMPA, Fla. — Brassie Golf Corp. recently corrected terms for its management contract for Wentworth Golf Estates.

The duration of the Wentworth consulting contract is one year and contains no profitability incentives. Brassie's previous announcement in May had incorrectly stated the contract was for two years and included profitability incentives.

Brassie Golf Corp. and its Hale Irwin Golf Design division acquire, design, construct, operate and manage courses. Brassie operates facilities in 10 states.

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