

Norman, bank to build resorts

SYDNEY, Australia — Greg Norman took a further step into big business by joining forces with an Australian investment bank to build golf resorts worldwide, the bank said.

The Australian golfer has entered a joint venture with Macquarie Bank to raise investment funds to back the project, according to a bank statement.

The company, Turnberry Resort Developments, is considering eight sites in Australia for projects worth more than A\$500 million (US\$365 million). In addition to designing and building golf courses, the joint venture will also involve property and leisure development.

Quoted in the bank statement, Norman said the new company represented a logical extension to his existing business empire, which focuses on leisure wear and golf course design.

Couples, Bates busy on Superfund site

MIDVALE, Utah — PGA Tour star Fred Couples and architect Gene Bates recently unveiled plans for The Moorfoot Hills Golf Club, an \$80 million project that will include a 250-room luxury hotel and clubhouse on the Sharon Steel Superfund site.

With 14 million cubic yards of toxic tailings lurking below the surface, Couples and Bates will have to come up with a low-impact design. The project is headed by a German-based hospitality company known as Ganter USA and will need several levels of approval, from the Environmental Protection Agency and Utah's Department of Environmental Quality to Salt Lake County and Midvale City officials.



The Craig Schreiner-designed Tregaron Golf Club adds spice to public golf in Nebraska.

Tregaron added to Omaha daily-fee offerings

BELLEVUE, Neb. — Sitting on a site that traverses rolling terrain and flat river bottoms, Tregaron Golf Club has been added to the mix of public golf courses in the Omaha area.

Designed by Craig Schreiner of Kansas City, Tregaron is an 18-hole, par-71 layout that is the focal point of a residential community by the same name. It opened for preview play in July.

Schreiner relied on the site's undulating topography and natural features characteristic of eastern Nebraska to dictate the design. Golf holes were routed to take advantage of significant elevation changes, river bottom land and a tributary of the Big Papillion Creek. From east to west, the property falls more than 150 feet and is bisected by a heavily traveled road.

"The site was rolling farmland void of any trees except along the tributary, which gave us the opportunity to design a truly unique golf course in this market," said Schreiner.

The course has two distinct identities. The front nine and holes 10, 11, 17 and 18 blend with the site's rolling terrain and sparse vegetation, with elevation changes of 40 to 60 feet.

The remaining holes transformed river bottom land into golf holes that are anything but flat. Four lakes bring water into play on eight holes.

Tregaron is managed by Evergreen Alliance Golf Ltd., which also manages five other courses in Omaha metropolitan area. The course was built by Duininck Brothers, Inc. of Prinsburg, Minn.

Multi-course complex planned

DALLAS — The city of The Colony has reached an agreement in principle with Matthews Southwest, an area residential and commercial developer, and American Golf Corp. to construct a multiple-course golf complex on Wynnwood Peninsula, north of the city.

The first phase of construction — a premium daily-fee course and three-hole practice course — is scheduled to begin October for a September 1998 opening. When completed, the complex will feature 54 holes of golf.

"We believe this will be the most unique setting for public golf in the area, with lake views and lakefront golf holes dominating the initial 18 holes," said Ken James, senior vice president for American Golf Corp., which will manage the facility.

Presidents' playground being renovated

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Claremont Country Club, once played by Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge, will begin a series of renovations after September.

Wilson, who summered in nearby Cornish, joined Claremont CC in the summer of 1914, while Coolidge used to play the course while living in Plymouth, Vt. They would recognize the track today since it has undergone little change since being built in 1912.

But that is about to change, according to superintendent Dan Whitcomb. He will oversee construction of a new pond this fall, a prelude to additional irrigation on three fairways and enlargement and reconstruction of the par-3 8th green and surrounding sand bunkers next year.

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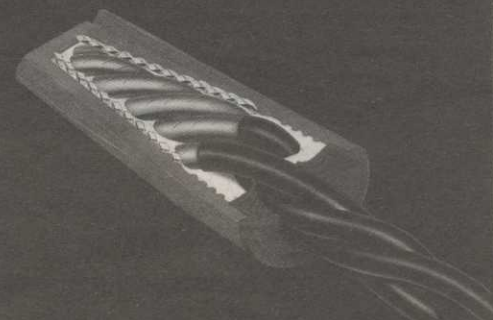
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