

BRIEFS



PRESCOTT LAKES PICKS WESTERN GOLF

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Bill Brownlee and Jeff Davis, principals of The M3 Companies, have named Western Golf Properties, Inc. as the management group for The Country Club at Prescott Lakes in Prescott. The community will include the country club, which features an 18-hole, Hale Irwin-designed championship course and traditional clubhouse with a separate fitness, tennis, and swim complex.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE PROMOTES PAIR

CALABASAS, Calif. — Environmental Care Inc. recently promoted David Hanson to director of West Coast operations for ECI's golf maintenance division and Barry Troutman to manager of technical support for East Coast operations. Hanson, who has 28 years experience in the green industry, will oversee technical operations for courses throughout California, Arizona and Texas. Troutman, a past president of the Georgia Turfgrass Association, will manage ECI's technical programs for fertility, weed and pest control. ECI is a leading provider of landscape management, irrigation, arborist and horticultural contract services to commercial clients, including 22 golf courses nationwide.



David Hanson



Barry Troutman

GOLF TRUST REPORTS EARNINGS

CHARLESTON, S.C.— Golf Trust of America, Inc., a self-administered real estate investment trust, reported second-quarter Funds from Operations (FFO) of \$3.5 million, or 43 cents per share on revenue of \$3.9 million, compared to pro forma FFO of \$2.8 million, or 30 cents per share, on pro forma revenue of \$2.8 million for the prior year's second quarter. The increase in FFO per share of 43 percent is due primarily to the addition of two courses in Virginia that opened in summer 1996. "The Company's second-quarter results demonstrate that there is great opportunity for growth in the upscale golf course industry, which is the focus of our business plan," said Brad Blair, president and chief executive officer.

Family Golf Centers top half-century mark in course properties

MELVILLE, N.Y.— Family Golf Centers, Inc. has acquired Leisure Complexes, Inc. for approximately \$46 million in cash, stock and assumption of existing indebtedness. In the transaction, Family Golf Centers acquired the Ponds Golf Center, and Sports Plus, a family entertainment complex, both located in Lake Grove, Long Island, N.Y., as well as Leisure Complexes' bowling division.

Dominic Chang, president and chief executive officer of Family Golf Centers, said: "While we continue to be the leader in the consolidation of stand-alone golf centers, we have reviewed numerous opportunities to enhance our golf centers by including additional family-oriented recreational activities. We are very excited about this acquisition, because Leisure Complexes' indoor family recreation concept has outstanding growth potential, in major demographic areas. Our businesses are complementary, and will enable us to counter the seasonality of the golf business."

Bill Reitzig, president of Leisure Complexes, Inc., said: "We are equally enthusiastic about joining forces with Family Golf Centers. We have been searching for a business partner to help us achieve our ambitious growth plans, and decided that Family Golf Centers' impressive growth, experience in consolidating the golf driving range industry and financial strength made them the ideal partner for us."

Mr. Reitzig will remain with Family Golf Centers as president of its Lake Grove subsidiary, created to acquire Leisure Complexes, Inc.

The Ponds at Lake Grove Golf Center, located in Lake Grove, N.Y., consists of an 18-hole executive course, lighted driving range and pro shop. Leisure Complexes' family entertainment complex, a new 170,000 square-foot state-of-the-art

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Canadian manager, developer ink deal

KING CITY, Ontario, Canada — ClubLink Corp. has arranged a formal business relationship with Bruce Evans, owner of one of Canada's leading course and recreational amenity construction companies and the five-star Grandview Inn in Huntsville, Ontario.

The arrangement includes the expansion of ClubLink's golf facilities in Ontario's Muskoka recreational area on 550 acres of prime recreational real-estate adjacent to Grandview Inn. The agreement also provides for supervisory management by ClubLink of Grandview's existing Tom McBroom-designed, 9-hole golf course, the grant to ClubLink of a two-year option to acquire Grandview Inn at a fixed price and favorable terms and

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ANOTHER TROPHY PROPERTY FOR KSL RECREATION

LA QUINTA, Calif. — KSL Recreation Corp. has purchased Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich., from the City of Detroit General Retirement System for an undisclosed price. Grand Traverse is an award-winning vacation destination, conference resort and residential community located 6 miles northeast of Traverse City along the shores of Lake Michigan's East Grand Traverse Bay. The resort includes two 18-hole courses — The Bear (above) designed by Jack Nicklaus and Spruce Run designed by Bill Newcomb. A third course designed by Gary Player is under construction. La Quinta-based KSL Recreation, along with affiliate KSL Fairways, owns and operates 40 golf facilities throughout the United States including PGA West and La Quinta Resort and Club in La Quinta and Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami. Irving Kass, formerly of Doral, has been named general manager of Grand Traverse.

PERSONNEL CORNER

Patience a virtue when dealing with people

By VINCE ALFONSO

Solomon I'm not. You remember Solomon? You know, the King of Israel who was the wisest man who ever lived, except for Jesus, of course. Solomon, the King who held up the baby in question and said to the two women claiming to be his mother, "Since both of you claim to be equally mother of this child, I will cut him in half and present half to each of you." The woman who begged King Solomon not to do such a thing was awarded the whole child. She was obviously the real mother.

Now, as wise as King Solomon was, I doubt very much if he had rehearsed or had been trained in the specific area of how to deal with two mothers each claiming to be a child's mother and

asking him to decide who's who and what's what. I think he just did what he felt he should do, and since there was no such thing as DNA testing back then, he came up with a dramatic, perhaps, but equally successful approach to solving the problem at hand.

Don't you wish you were as wise as Solomon? Especially when you are faced with sudden, unexpected decisions you don't feel trained or prepared to make. It happened to me late one

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Vince Alfonso Jr. is a 40-year golf industry veteran, president of Alfonso Creative Enterprises Inc., and owner of Kimberling Golf Course near Branson, Mo. He can be reached at 417-639-4370.

AGC explains East Coast headquarters move

By PETER BLAIS and wire reports

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.— In a strategic move to operate in closer proximity to its East Coast golf properties, American Golf Corp. (AGC) recently relocated its Northeast Region headquarters from Toledo, Ohio, to Virginia Beach, Va.

The new American Golf Northeast Regional offices are located in Virginia Beach on First Colonial Road in the Great Neck area.

Since opening the offices in Toledo seven years ago, the Northeast Region has taken on greater territory and more responsibility. AGC now manages golf courses

in 16 different cities on the East Coast. The Northeast is one of American Golf's six regional operations spread throughout the country.

"Because of the tremendous growth in the number of properties operated by American Golf through acquisitions over the past few years, Toledo is no longer a central location," stated AGC Regional Vice President Rich Hohman.

"Norfolk has a bigger and better airport which will help greatly with our transportation needs. Our East Coast properties are now more accessible, allowing us to be at the prop-

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Rich Hohman

Shadow Creek accepts tee times

LAS VEGAS — One of the most exclusive courses in the world, Mirage Resorts' Shadow Creek, is about to make its first public appearance. Mirage Resorts has made a limited number of tee times available to play Shadow Creek.

The course, which has been rated among the country's best, has been reserved for an exclusive list of the Las Vegas resort's employees, guests and colleagues. Since mid-July, however, the general public have been able to purchase a limited number of tee times.

For \$1,000 an individual guest receives a tee time to play the highly-acclaimed course and a suite at any one of Mirage Resort's

Las Vegas hotels including the Golden Nugget, Treasure Island and The Mirage, based on availability. A maximum of two players may participate per suite with additional rounds available for purchase for \$500. Included in this price is transportation to and from Shadow Creek and a caddie to escort guests around the course.

Since opening in 1989, Shadow Creek has been named the top new private course by Golf Digest magazine in 1994 (its first year of eligibility) and was subsequently named one of the top 10 golf courses in America in the magazine's annual ratings. Shadow Creek was designed by architect Tom Fazio in collaboration with Mirage Resorts Chairman Steve Wynn.

Family Golf

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facility adjacent to The Ponds Golf Center, includes an ice hockey rink, bowling lanes, high-tech batting cage, a variety of indoor amusements, restaurants and a conference center. Leisure Complexes' bowling center division has seven locations throughout Long Island.

In addition to Sports Plus and Leisure Complexes' bowling center division, this transaction brings the total number of golf facilities owned, operated or under construction by Family Golf Centers to 52 in 18 states.

Family Golf also recently acquired three golf facilities and was awarded contracts to build three golf centers.

The newly acquired facilities are Supersports Family Fun Park in Carver, Mass.; Palm Royale Golf Course in Palm Desert, Calif.; and Southampton Golf Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Construction contracts were awarded by Cerritos College for a golf center in Los Angeles; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority New York City, for a golf center on Gunhill Road in the Bronx; and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, for a practice center in Dreier-Offerman Park in Brooklyn.

The previously announced acquisitions now completed are the San Bruno Golf Center in San Bruno, Calif.; Rio Salado Golf Course in Tempe, Ariz.; and Divot City Golf Center in Milpitas, Calif.

Each of the sites offer features common to all Family Golf centers, including driving ranges, pro shops and short-game practice areas.

The Palm Desert and Tempe properties also include nine-hole executive golf courses, and the Family Fun Park in Carver, Mass., has additional leisure activities such as a go-cart track, bumper boats, and batting cages.

Family Golf will manage the centers it constructs in the Bronx and Brooklyn. The Brooklyn center will be the third location the company has been asked to operate for the New York City Parks Department, which has licensed centers to Family Golf on Randalls Island and Douglaston, Queens.

Added Chang: "The expansion is representative of our strategy to build, acquire and operate golf-related facilities that also provide family entertainment. The three new facilities to be constructed in New York City and Los Angeles are in densely populated middle income urban locations which have proven to be very profitable for Family Golf."

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