

GULFPORT, Miss. — Who is the newest player on the fast-growing Mississippi Gulf Coast golf course scene? Try the Naval Construction Battalion Center in this coastal city.

The base, which has had a nine-hole layout since the mid-1970s, is adding nine holes in a substantial upgrade. The newly expanded 18-hole course should be ready by November.

Miss. base expands course

Architect Willard C. Byrd designed the addition. The new Pine Bayou Golf Course will measure about 6,800 yards and feature numerous new bunkers and hazards.

Base officials were faced several years ago with a decision over the fate of the course and decided to move ahead with a

major upgrade and expansion. The facility will also be getting a new clubhouse in 1999.

Commander Jack Zimm, the base's executive officer, told *The Sun Herald* of Gulfport: "We had to make a decision... Either make this course a viable proposition for generating revenue or get out of the golf business." Zimm

said the expanded Pine Bayou will be comparable to nearby courses like The Oaks and Windance Country Club.

The base has already taken a step toward generating more play at Pine Bayou. In April, the Seabees opened the course to the public. The expansion should allow the facility to host from 40,000 to 50,000 rounds per year, up from 17,500 in 1997.

Williams, Gill design new Dallas layout

CARROLLTON, Texas — Construction is underway on Coyote Ride Golf Club in this Dallas suburb.

The 18-hole, daily-fee track includes a practice facility, beverage/banquet services and a pro shop. The \$5 million course is part of the 1,000-acre master-planned community of Indian Creek Ranch.

Williams & Gill Associates designed the course for developer Mesa Golf Inc. Nine holes will play through an abandoned gravel quarry adjacent to the Trinity River and the other nine along a ridge overlooking northern Dallas. The course is scheduled to open this fall.

Madison board OKs Wis. track

MADISON, Wis. — Prospects for a golf course between Madison and Sun Prairie have improved with the Madison Board of Estimates' endorsement of the purchase of 79 acres for \$1.73 million and spending \$195,000 for consulting a course architect and soil lab.

The City Council must still approve the purchase and consultant contracts. The purchase would give the city 72 percent of the 247 acres needed for the Madison-Sun Prairie Open Space Project, which includes plans for a golf course on the property.

Remaining land acquisition includes the 18-acre Whitson Swift property and the 50-acre Tancho property. The 18 acres aren't considered vital for a golf course, and the 50 acres will be donated to the city under an annexation agreement if certain conditions are met by next April.

Estimated costs range from a \$2 million for a nine-hole course to \$4 million for an 18-hole layout.

SANTA FE MAN HOPES TO BUILD NEW LAYOUT

ARROYO SECO, N.M. — A Santa Fe man wants to build an 18-hole course on state trust lands south of Espanola and use the city's wastewater to irrigate it. Eddie Peck, who runs the Santa Fe Family Golf Center, wants to build a daily-fee layout. He said his partnership, Capital City Golf Services, has secured financing to build the proposed \$7.5 million project.

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