New military base funding? All from consumers’ on-base spending

By Peter Blais

PHOENIX — Falcon Dunes Golf Course at Luke Air Force Base, which opened Dec. 22 here, is a good example of the modern-day realities of military course funding. No taxpayer dollars were used to build the Gary Panks-designed, 18-hole course, said Luke AFB Business Operations Chief John Beckett. Funding came from money spent by consumers at Luke facilities, particularly the base exchange, social clubs, bowling center and other recreational activities. Profits from those operations go into a central construction fund. Various projects apply to the funding program and moneys are awarded based on the project’s ability to pay back those funds. The $87 million golf course project showed sufficient promise to receive funding. The course itself will be self-supporting, using no government employees or money in its daily operation. “A lot of people don’t realize that,” Beckett said. “They see a golf course as an Air Force base and assume tax dollars paid for it. That’s not true and we want people to realize it.”

— John Beckett
Luke AFB operations chief

Strange joins muni design team

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — PGA Tour pro and local son Curtis Strange is lending his name, and expertise, as a design consultant, to improve the municipal Bide-A-Wee Golf Course and The Links at City Park here.

The city park facility will include a nine-hole executive course, lighted driving range, natural grass putting course and pro shop. The new learning center will offer youth programs, lessons, equipment, tournaments and affordable golf for every skill level.

Portsmouth City Manager Ronald W. Massie said: “Pros just don’t put their names on shoddy products. Our courses will speak to quality.”

Quality golf facilities improve the livability of a community for its residents and will attract business and spur commercial development nearby, he feels.

The Links at City Park opened in November. Bide-A-Wee closed in November, with a scheduled re-opening next summer.

Total improvements to the two courses total approximately $5 million.

Falcons Dunes, the Luke AFB course was built with no taxpayer funding.

‘A lot of the young guys can’t afford golf in the Phoenix area, particularly in the wintertime. We have a tiered fee structure so young guys can get involved in the game.’

— John Beckett
Luke AFB operations chief

Specializes in large rolls

SPI 2400 Sod Installer

The grass is always greener on the side with a Brouwer Sod Installer.

Choose the self-propelled Brouwer SPI 2400 or one of our tractor-mounted or hand-pulled models to install rolls 24” wide and up to 100 ft. long or more. Brouwer self-propelled and tractor-mounted sod installers can function with or without core tubes, and all models handle net-wrapped sod with unmatched efficiency.

For large roll installation with military precision and minimum waste, Brouwer is the professional’s choice.

BROUWER TURF EQUIPMENT

Nobody cuts it like Brouwer