SURPRISE, Ariz. — The golf course design team of PGA Hall of Famer Billy Casper and Phoenix-based golf course architect Greg Nash recently unveiled Granite Falls, their second golf course for Del Webb’s Sun City Grand here.

The new public layout 18 miles northeast of Phoenix marks a dramatic departure from the typical desert layout, and is strikingly different than nearby Desert Springs, the duo’s first course at Sun City Grand.

“Typically, a golf course in this part of the country is either integrated into the natural desert setting or landscaped to appear as an oasis,” Nash said. “Granite Falls has a totally different look and feel that is reminiscent of the more verdant regions of the country. We incorporated greener, leafier plants and trees that give this course a very lush appearance.”

With 36 bunkers and few water hazards, Granite Falls poses less of a threat to higher-handicap players. Golfers will be challenged however to get their shots close to the pin on greens that average a whopping 10,000 square feet. Fairway mounding will help direction, strategy and ball containment. Long, flowing ridges on the course resemble sand dunes and buffalograss gives a softer look to the backs of sharply-edged ridges and non-play areas.

GEORGIA LINKS RE-OPENS AFTER 1-YEAR HIATUS

TIFTON, Ga. — Sunsweet Hills Golf Club reopened recently after closing for a year due to an illness to owner Leonard Morris. Sunsweet, originally opened seven years ago, was designed by Don McMillan, a Tifton resident who has been involved with more than 150 projects worldwide. Sunsweet Hills boasts a setting that includes forests of pecan, pine, oak and poplar trees and eight holes bordering water. Kevin Touchstone is the superintendent.

Arizona course worker saves golfer’s life

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Putting for a $2 Nassau may not be a life and death struggle for some amateur golfers, but recently, the Boulders Golf Club witnessed first-hand that a heart attack knows no boundaries or limitations.

During a regular men’s member outing on the resort’s North course on Nov. 24, a member was stricken with an apparent heart attack while putting on the 14th green. Rob Turner, golf operations manager for the Boulders and a PGA Class A professional was touring the course with fellow employee, Mike Miller when they came upon a frenzied scene at No. 14.

“Apparently, the member was hit with the heart attack just a minute before Rob and Mike reached the green,” said Mike Lorch, head golf pro at The Boulders. “Rob knew CPR and began administering it immediately, while Rob went and called for an ambulance.”

The ambulance arrived within minutes and rushed the fallen golfer to Scottsdale Memorial North Hospital, where he underwent bypass surgery a day later. Paramedics on the scene credit the fast thinking of Rob Turner and Mike Miller for saving the member’s life.

“Rob and Mike acted without hesitation and The Boulders recognized their outstanding service with a special award and ceremony later in the week,” added Lorch.

IT TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT.