

## Louisiana joint venture rejected

ALEXANDRIA, La. — The city of Alexandria and the England Authority will not join forces to expand this city's air park golf course to 18 holes.

This city originally offered to pay \$2.5 million to expand the links, with the stipulation that it would control managing the track. In exchange, the England

Authority would turn over the existing nine holes to the city through a lease agreement.

The England Authority rejected the city's requests, noting that the authority is in the economic development business, not the public recreation business, according to authority officials.

The city will go ahead with its plans to build its own 18-hole track.

Meanwhile, authority officials say they too will continue their search for funds to build a separate course.

The authority is known to be seeking state funds to build the links, according to local newspaper reports.

The authority has already

hired landscape architect Pat Moore of Alexandria and course designer Jim Lipe, who has worked for Jack Nicklaus' design firm. Design work is expected to be completed by August, with the opening slated for the spring of 2001.

Budget figures are still to be determined, but the authority expects to spend between \$2 million and \$3 million. More ex-

act figures should be available by July.

The England Airpark course is currently leased by Landco Inc., which has the option of extending the lease agreement for another 10 years. Landco currently pays the authority \$82,800 annually in base rent. Plans for an adjacent hotel/conference center are part of the authority's vision statement.

## Eagles stall Fla. golf development

JUPITER, Fla. — A family of eagles may endanger the construction of a proposed \$50 million golf course community here.

The eagles have settled in about \$1.8 million worth of land destined for development. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking into whether nearby construction is interfering with the eagles' nesting period and feeding habits.

Eagle couples remain together for life and often use the same nest for 15 years. This pair set up house on 30 of the 320 acres owned by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Two eaglets share the nest.

Laws protecting the national symbol would keep the foundation from developing the 30 acres, known as Frenchman's Creek North.

The land is about 3 miles from the spring-training site shared by the Montreal Expos and St. Louis Cardinals. To the east are 350 acres where Nicklaus wants to create The Bear's Club, which would have about 75 homes, starting at about \$1 million each, on an 18-hole course.

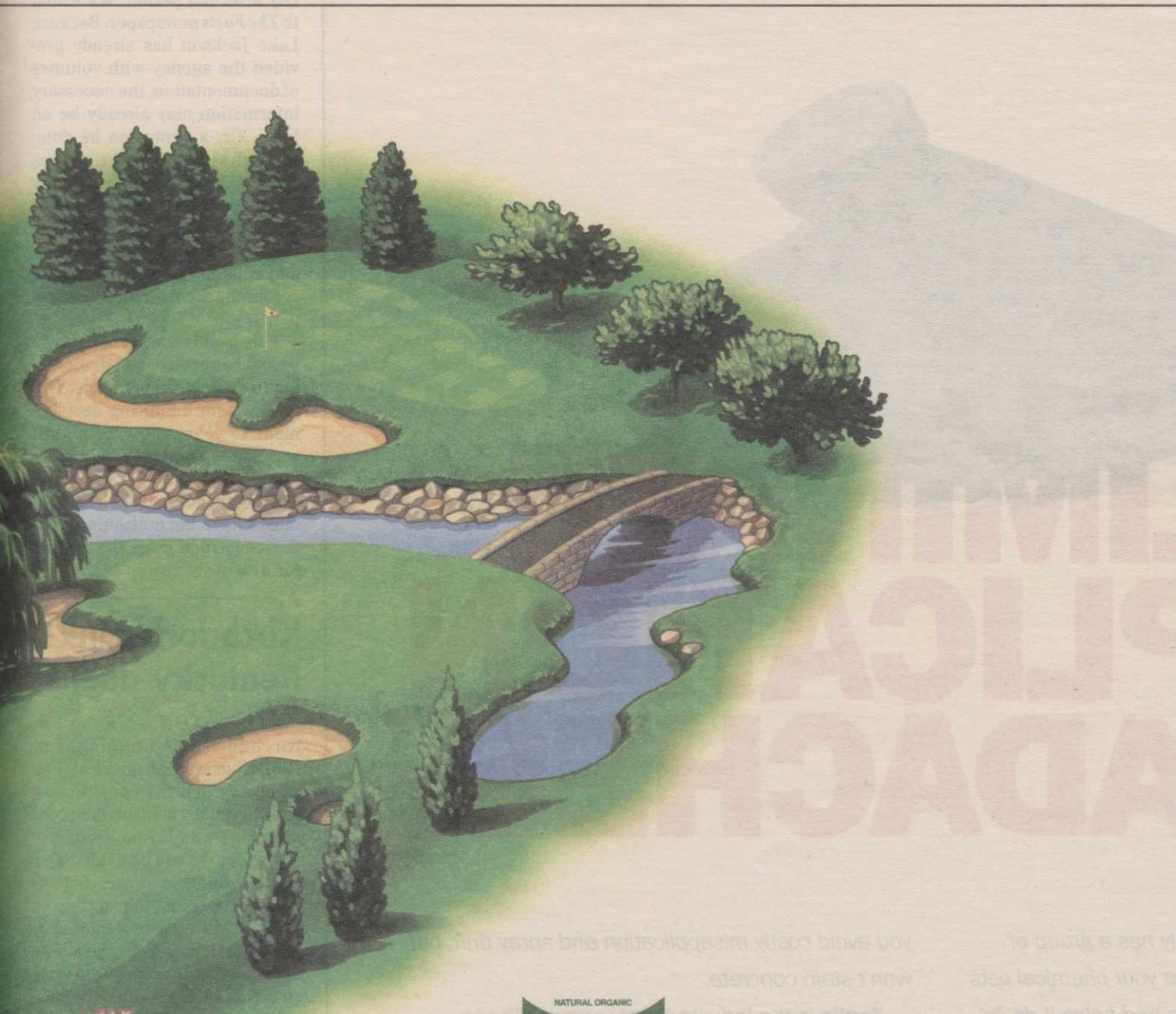
Under federal guidelines, new developments cannot be built within 750 to 1,500 feet of a nest.

## State, PGA to manage La. links

BATON ROUGE, La. — A proposed 18-hole course near Bayou Segnett State Park in Westwego was recently turned over to the state Department of Economic Development so it can work with the Professional Golfers Association in constructing and managing the world-class facility.

The \$18 million project is expected to cost the state and the PGA \$6 million each. Marrero Land Co. will donate 300 acres worth about \$6 million, said Harold Price, assistant secretary for the office of commerce and industry.

Though the project is still in its infancy, Price predicts construction will begin in early 1999. An opening date has not been set. A resort is also being planned to be built near the course.



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