Celebrities fight over Dye course in Miami

MIAMI, Fla. – Residents of Miami’s exclusive enclave of Fisher Island are faced with a tough decision on what to do with 40 undeveloped acres: add nine more holes of golf, or build 315 more condominium units?

The issue has caused quite a rift between the usually cordial residents of the island, who include corporate executives and celebrities such as Mel Brooks and Oprah Winfrey.

Suzanne Bosze has enlisted P.B. Dye to draw up expansion plans for the golf course, which would become a par-68 layout and cost an estimated $3 million. Bosze estimates the addition would generate another 500 memberships at $150,000 each.

However, developer John Melk, who recently acquired the land, is against the golf course proposal and is pushing for the construction of more condos. Existing condos on the island fetch $1 million each. Melk expects to break ground by late spring, barring further controversy.

EXECUTIVE TRACK UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SO. FLORIDA

DADE CITY, Fla. – Developer Chris Burdge is hard at work on the $3 million Hidden Creek Golf Club being built on 128 acres west of Zephyrhills. Three holes of the 18-hole, par-63 layout have already been rough shaped and, weather permitting, the course is due to open this summer. High Tech Golf, along with builders and designers Jimmy Croom and Rich Osborne, have tackled the short-course project which will feature numerous bunkers, treacherous water hazards and heavy mounding.

Trump pledges to use minority firms in Florida

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – Donald Trump has promised to hire minority construction firms to help build the Trump International Golf Club here, according to the Associated Press.

Because Trump is building the 18-hole, $40 million course and clubhouse on 215 county-owned acres, 30 percent of the project must be handled by minority firms. The club is set to open in November.

“We still have a long way to go in completing the project and we fully intend to honor these very important commitments,” Trump wrote in a letter to the Palm Beach County Commission.

Impact Golf nets lease to operate Fla.’s Quarry GC

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. – Bob Mallek, owner of Impact Golf, has reached an agreement with city officials here to operate and lease the Quarry Golf Course.

Mallek, the only bidder to fulfill the city’s bidding requirements, will rent the golf course from the city for a reported $24,000 a year.

As part of the deal, green fees will remain low and youth golf will continue to be promoted. Currently the course lets all golfers under 12 years of age play for free, as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

Mallek will be working to improve the course layout in order to attract more play.

CITRUS HILLS, Fla. – The Citrus Hills Golf Club opened its third nine-hole layout at the end of January. The Terry LaGree-designed Skyview links joins the existing Oaks and Meadows runs. Skyview features hilly terrain and small well-protected greens. By all accounts, this 3,355-yard addition also has the most spectacular views. On a clear day, golfers can see all the way out to the Gulf of Mexico.

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