BRIEFS

KEMPER TO REVAMP NAVAL BASE

NORTHBRIDGE, Ill. — The Village of Glenview selected Kemper Sports Management to build and operate a daily-fee facility on the grounds of Naval Air Station Glenview, a 1,121-acre former military base being converted to a mixed-use development. Glenview trustees approved the sale of 180 acres of land at the air base to Kemper Sports for use in building a course and club house that will include a golf museum, restaurant and banquet facilities. Kemper’s vision for the planned $20 million project is to create a world-class course and practice facility. As part of its bid, Kemper formed an alliance with the Illinois Section of the PGA (IPGA) enabling the IPGA to move its headquarters to the Glenview site. Upon opening, the new facility will also house the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, an interactive museum celebrating the history of golf in Illinois and those who have made contributions to the game. Plans are to start construction this fall and open the course by spring 2001.

MOUNTAIN COURSE ADDED IN WIS.

MERRIMAC, Wis. — Offering “some of the best mountain golf in the Midwest” on 800 acres of glacier-formed bluffs in Wisconsin’s Baraboo Hills, Devil’s Head Resort & Convention Center enters the 1999 season starting work on nine new holes to add to its 18-hole championship course. Some 45 minutes north of Madison, Devil’s Head is located between Portage and the Wisconsin Dells.

IRWIN DESIGNS NEVADA COURSE

SPARKS, Nev. — Red Hawk Golf Club is adding an 18-hole course and 18-hole putting course designed by Hale Irwin. Winding along the cottonwoods and marshes at Wingfield Springs Village Center, the putting course is scheduled to open in the fall and feature 18 challenging bentgrass holes put together by the three-time U.S. Open champion. The Hills Course will wind through the Pah Rah Range, complementing the 18-hole Springs Course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

VERMONT’S OKEMO GC READIES FOR SPRING 2000 OPENING

OKEMA VALLEY, Vt. — Okemo Valley Golf Club, an 18-hole facility here, is scheduled to make its debut in the spring of 2000. The course will be home to the Okemo Valley Golf Academy, an 18-hole golf learning center. Okemo is also planning an expansion, called Jackson Gore, which will include a nine-hole executive golf course.

Architects honor Palmer, elect president and new members

An ‘icon of golf,’ life given Ross Award

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Hailed as an icon in both golf and life who receives “grand and profound respect from all ages,” Arnold Palmer received the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at the group’s recent annual meeting here.

Eight elected to ASGCA

CHARLESTON, S.C. — There are two keen ways to make it to the big time in golf course architecture: learn the craft from your father, or understudy to Pete and Alice Dye.

A DREAM REALIZED

Affordable golf in Kansas’ sand hills

ABILENE, Kan. — The sand hills of Kansas produced one of the best golf courses of the last couple of decades in Sand Hills Golf Course. The sand hills of Kansas produced Perry Maxwell’s top-rated Prairie Dunes in nearby Hutchinson in 1937. Dr. Jon Thayer hopes the same magic has been woven through the sand hills of Abilene — specifically on his Chisholm Trail Golf Course, which opened for public play here April 1 to far less fanfare than his famous neighbors.

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Palmer
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ber, and said: "The competition — in golf and course design — is what we're all about. It's what makes America what it is today ... Jack and I agree on a couple of things. One is the golf ball. We need to slow it down."

The way in which the golf industry controls the golf ball, he said, "will keep all of us going in the right direction in the years to come."

Returning to the $2 million annual maintenance cost for his Bay Hill Golf Club in Orlando, Fla., Palmer said: "Somewhere along the way we have to... 'back away' [on high maintenance] if we're going to keep the game going.

"We need to look at all the aspects of the game — from players and their equipment to superintendents to people coming into the game — in order to retain the traditions of the game."

Seay, a past president of the ASGCA, introduced his design partner, saying, "Everything he does is measured at different levels of seriousness."

Reading a comment by former ASGCA President Don Knott that the golf course should not be reduced to a "standard predictable venue," Seay added: "The golf course architect must resist design standards, or we get further away from the origins and very essence of the game. Arnold's real contribution to golf course architecture is that he has allowed all of us at Palmer Course Design Co. the privilege to resist."

He said Palmer has taught the design firm's 24 employees (including 10 course architects) about design, business, discipline, style, commitment, responsibility and humility.

"Arnold has allowed, supported and encouraged variety and individuality in all of our designs," Seay said, adding that Palmer:
• "has supported our expanded concepts in business and design;"
• is always eager and excited with a new twist; and
• loves to solve design and construction obstacles.

Quoting Palmer in his new autobiography as saying, "Golf is my foundation," Seay said, "Golf is founded on integrity."

Seay went on to say about Palmer, "Actions are doctrine, and his actions are the foundation of honesty and integrity in his life."

While "accomplishments come from individuals who are outstanding achievers of unusual capabilities," Seay said, Palmer relishes the mantle of proud parent, grandparent and gentleman.

And he quoted from Bob Hope: "Arnie's Army doesn't just consist of his golf supporters, but includes the countless individuals who recognize that his character, stability and just plain niceness will be emulated by generations to come."

ASGCA issues
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the scenes to center stage," speaking of environmental stewardship, explaining the financial viability of maintaining the cost side of the game, and "explaining to people what the beauty of golf is all about: the landscaping, the tournament conditions."

While the GCSAA pursues these aims, golf course builders have determined to put money and labor behind its Sticks for Kids Program, the premise of which is to get golf clubs into the hands of people who wouldn't normally get them.

"The GCBA has donated more than $125,000 to date," said Kubly. "We have 10 programs across the United States, in cities where we have builder members."

Also, he said, his colleagues have agreed to build the first 100 courses in that program at cost or a deeply discounted price. This contribution is estimated to amount to $10 million to $15 million, Kubly said.

To give developers and would-be developers an idea of the cost of building golf courses, GCBA has updated its regional construction cost databases and is making them available on CD-ROM and sending them to all USGA Green Section members and First Tee participants, Kubly added.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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