

BRIEFS

SOLAR ENERGY ILLUMINATES ANAHEIM COURSE

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anaheim Hills Golf Course has been cited by the California Municipal Utilities Association for helping to relieve the state's power crisis. The 18-hole municipal facility, opened in 1972, has 18 stand-alone photovoltaic cells installed in its parking lot. The solar cells store energy during the day and power 576 watts of lighting at night. The system at Anaheim Hills has been operational for more than a year. The utilities association recognized the club for its efforts during a recent convention in San Diego.

DUNES CLUB WRAPS UP \$6-MILLION REHAB

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — The Dunes Golf and Beach Club has completed the final phase of its year-long, \$6-million renovation project, which included renovations to the golf course and the clubhouse. The project, which began in April 2000, added more than 12,000 square feet to the member and guest areas of the clubhouse, doubled the size of the driving range, and modified the golf course. A new tee box was added on the 18th hole. The club also added an "alternate" hole between the 13th and 14th holes. The extra hole will be substituted when another hole is closed for maintenance.

VON HAGGE READIES 11TH MEXICAN COURSE

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — The Texas-based golf architecture firm Von Hagge, Smelek and Baril is preparing for a fall 2001 opening of an 18-hole championship layout here at a gate-guarded development called Paradise Village Beach Resort & Spa. This will be Von Hagge's 11th course in Mexico, making it the most prolific course design company in the country. Mexico ranks second only to Hawaii as a golf destination for mainland Americans, and according to Von Hagge, the potential for golf in Mexico is "unlimited, and magnificent properties are still available in abundance." The firm also has a new project under way in Genoa, Italy.



Mungeam breaks ground on Westchester County's first daily-fee course in 63 years

By PHILIP HALL

NEW CASTLE, N.Y. — It's been 63 years since a new public golf course opened for play here in Westchester County. Exclusive private clubs abound (there were 59 at last count), but a dense population and real estate prices gone berserk make the development of public-access facilities a virtual impossibility.

This shortage of affordable golf courses is something local players have come to accept. Indeed, the nation gained insight into this regional problem last year when *The New York Times* published a front-page story on the subject.

But help is on the way.

Ground was broken in June at Hudson Hills Golf Course, an 18-hole daily-fee layout designed by architect Mark Mungeam, a partner with Uxbridge, Mass.-based Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, Inc. Developed by Westchester County itself, the course is scheduled to open for play in 2002.

"The main portion of the land we're using for Hudson Hills used to be a golf

course," explained Mungeam. "The club changed its name many times. It was called Pine Ridge when it opened in the 1920s, then Sunset Hills, then Pine Ridge again before it took the name Hudson Hills Golf Club in the mid-1960s."

reincarnation."

CONTROLLING GREEN FEES

How do 110 acres sit unused for nearly two decades just 30 miles north of New York City, in the heart of one of America's most outrageously priced real estate markets?

Well, the club closed down because IBM purchased the property with plans to build a corporate research laboratory there. Those plans never materialized.

Five years ago, the county successfully negotiated to buy the property back. At that time, the county had intended to develop the project privately, via a third-party lease arrangement.

"Eventually, the county decided to develop the course itself," said Mungeam, who recently completed tournament renovations at Chicago's Olympia Fields Country Club, site of

the 2003 U.S. Open. "That was the only way to control green fees. In Westchester County, a private operator could charge just about anything and get away with it. Better than anyone, county officials recognized the need for affordable golf here."

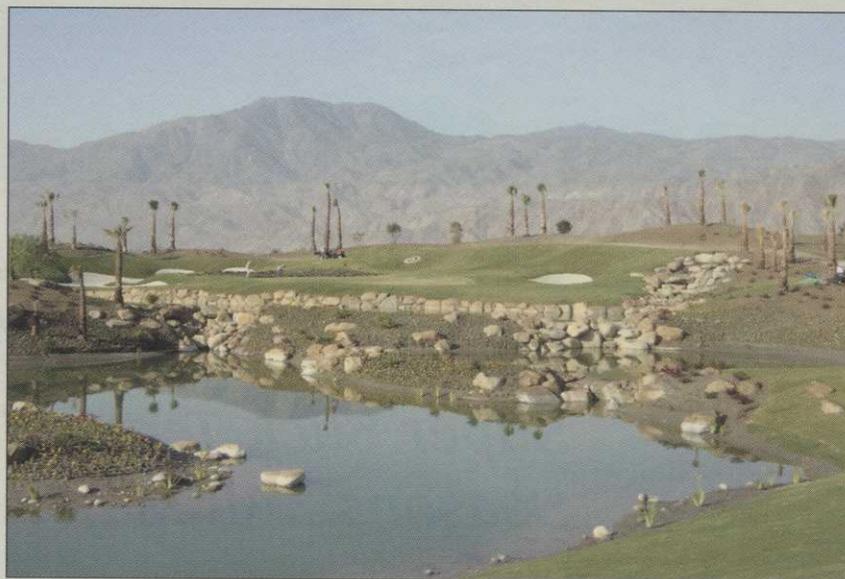
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Number 14 at Mungeam's Charleston Springs course, in New Jersey, opening this fall

The club shut its doors in 1982 and today the course site is totally overgrown.

"We've appropriated the most recent name for this new project," Mungeam added, "but we've essentially designed a brand new golf course here, a completely new routing. This isn't a restoration; it's a



Number seven at the Clive Clark course at the Country Club of the Desert

New 54-hole complex taking shape near California's Palm Desert

By JAY FINEGAN

LA QUINTA, Calif. — The Country Club of the Desert plans to open the first 27 of 54 holes of golf by the end of the year, adding another marquee complex here in the arid Palm Desert area south of Palm Springs. There are already some 100 courses in this part of the Mojave.

A development consortium called La Quinta Land Partners, in tandem with Nationwide Realty Investors, is building the three new courses and 819 houses on a 1,000-acre piece of real estate near the Santa Rosa Mountains.

The first course to come on line, designed by Pete Dye, will play to

7,331 yards. The second layout, by Clive Clark, will run to 7,184 yards. No architect has been named for the third course, but plans call for a 7,132-yard track. Par for each course is 72. Some 40 lakes and ponds will be excavated on the courses.

Landmark Golf Co., of nearby Indian Wells, is managing construction.

A huge clubhouse — 65,000 square feet — will serve the three courses and act as a focal point. "It will be one of the largest clubhouses out here, probably the largest," said John Gasper, CGCS MG, director of golf course and property operations. "It's a total of

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Fream's Nine Bridges GC puts Gleneagles in Korea

By JAY FINEGAN

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea — Architect Ron Fream has opened his fifth course in Korea since 1984. Nine Bridges Golf Course here on this subtropical ocean resort destination, less than an hour's flight from Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka, held a soft opening June 1. The layout will hit full swing in August.

Fream said early players have been



Fream's seventh hole at Nine Bridges

"very impressed" by the par-72, 18-hole course, which runs to a championship length of 7,200 yards and down to 5,250 from the front pegs. The scenery is "amazing" around the site, said Fream, who noted that volcanic outcroppings line the several creeks that cross the property. The entire island is volcanic.

BASED ON GLENEAGLES

The California-based architect, who has designed courses all over the world,

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GCBAAs adds five new members

LINCOLN, Neb. — A trio of course construction companies has achieved member status in the Golf Course Builders Association of America. The three — Davenport, Iowa-based McCubbin Construction Corp., Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Sema Golf LLC, and Phoenix-based Weitz Golf International — have met the main requirement, having held the general contract on at least three courses in the last five years.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Meanwhile, Loveland, Colo.-based Bilberry Golf and Caseyville, Ill.-based Munie Outdoor Services have been granted associate member status in the GCBAAs, based on having built at least one course in the last five years.

CC of the Desert

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80,000 square feet with all the decks and verandas and terraces. We hope to have it completed for New Year's 2002."

\$90,000 FOR INITIATION

The whole operation will be run by the developers until members take equity control over the club. Membership will be limited to 275 per course to allow ready access. The developers recruited a number of founding members from some of the most exclusive clubs in the area.

When 275 members are on board, the project will kick into phase two — the final 27 holes and amenities. Phase one, besides the first 27 holes and clubhouse, includes the practice range, putting course and entranceway.

"We are a very private, high-end equity country club," said Gasper. "We'll be compared favorably to the better clubs in the

Coachella Valley — Bighorn, Vintage, Tradition and Quarry at La Quinta."

Gasper said membership fees start at \$90,000, with annual dues in the \$825 range. "The way it works out here, once you get to about 100 members, the initiation fee will go to around \$150,000," he said. "After we've created some interest and equity, the fee will jump to about \$250,000." Building lots, he said, run from \$250,000 to about \$950,000.

HUGE AQUIFER UNDER DESERT

Water for irrigation should not pose a problem, Gasper said. The All-American Canal, carrying mountain snowmelt, flows near the property. And a 1,000-foot-deep well on the property can produce more than 3,000 gallons per minute.

"We think at least 80 percent of the

water we use on the courses and the common area will be canal water," he said. "In the winter, which is our season, you don't get snowmelt, but we'll have the well. Underneath Palm Springs there's a huge aquifer. This whole area used to be under water. It dried up after the last Ice Age, but

there's a massive amount of water underneath this desert floor."

For now, the cost of the well water is purely the cost of pumping it up. Gasper sees that changing over the next five years. "I think eventually there will be a permitting process," he said, "or they will bill you for groundwater. There will be restrictions, like you have over in Phoenix, where it's five acre-feet per acre per year." ■

'At least 80 percent of the water we use will be canal water.'

— John Gasper



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