

## BRIEFS

### PGA PULLS OUT OF SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — In a late-July letter to San Antonio mayor Ed Garza, the PGA of America withdrew its plans to build a golf resort in the city. The project, which received city council approval in April, was to have been built above the Edwards Aquifer recharge area. Because the aquifer is the sole source of water for San Antonio, environmental groups and residents lined up in opposition to the development. A coalition that had fought the plan collected enough signatures to put the matter to voter referendum in the fall, effectively killing the project. The project's developer, Lumbermen's Investment Corp., also withdrew from the project.

### JACOBSEN TO DESIGN BROWNFIELD COURSE IN WILLIAMSBURG

LIBERTYVILLE, Ill. — Golf course architect Rick Jacobsen will design the new Hawk's Nest Golf Club in Williamsburg, Va. Hawk's Nest is part of a larger brownfield redevelopment project, which will ultimately include an office campus near the 18-hole daily-fee facility. The golf course will feature a 10-acre practice facility, including a driving range, short game area and putting greens. Jacobsen said Hips Pond, a nine-acre water hazard on the property, will come into play on several holes. The land has been used since World War II to house 23 bomb-proof storage tanks underground. Current plans call for Govco Builders to begin construction in March 2003 in anticipation of a 2004 opening.



Rick Jacobsen

### PALMER SEEKS THREE-COURSE DESIGN DEAL

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Palmer Course Design Co. is a frontrunner to design three golf courses on urban brownfields as part of a proposed \$2.2 billion development. The three courses would be an 18-hole tournament course and possibly an 18-hole resort course and a nine-hole executive and practice course. Arnold Palmer reportedly wants the project and met with developer Robert Congel to discuss the development, slated for the southern and western shores of Onondaga Lake.

## Lake Las Vegas takes next step

Owners hope third 18-hole course adds to attraction as golf destination

By DOUG SAUNDERS

HENDERSON, Nev. — Lake Las Vegas Resort, the ambitious \$4 billion development 17 miles south of Las Vegas, has been emerging along the shores of a 320-acre man-made lake for the past 10 years.

This massive development project already boasts two Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses and a 425-room Hyatt Regency hotel. It takes its next big step toward becoming the premier golf destination in the Southwest this month with the opening of its second public golf course, The Falls Course designed by Tom Weiskopf.

"The Falls course is built on a very dramatic stretch of mountainside that offers over 400 feet of elevation change. Tom

Weiskopf did a masterful job blending the layout into this rugged terrain and this course will be a great compliment to our Reflection Bay Golf Club which opened in 1996," said director of golf John Herndon.

The driving force behind Lake Las Vegas is a partnership of visionaries that include Transcontinental Properties of Santa Barbara, Calif., former chairman and CEO of Caesar's World Harry Gluck, and Sid and Lee Bass of Fort Worth, Texas, who own the property.

The Falls Course will join Reflection Bay Golf Club as an amenity for resort guests at Lake Las Vegas, as well as the private South Shore Club that hugs the shoreline of Lake Mead, which was



Big-horned sheep roam the grounds of the Tom Weiskopf-designed Falls Course at Lake Las Vegas Resort, the third of potentially six courses to be built on the site.

Photo: Freddy Bird

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## Bates to design complex on Olympic site

SALT LAKE CITY — More than six months after the Olympic Games ended in Salt Lake City, construction is underway at Soldier Hollow Olympic Golf Complex, a 36-hole facility to be built at the site of the Olympics.

Located in Utah's Wasach Mountain State Park, adjacent to the Olympic Nordic ski trails outside Salt Lake City, the Gene Bates-designed Olympic and Midway courses will be open for public play.

The natural terrain of the land plays heavily in the design of the course, Bates said.

"There is 400 feet of elevation changes through the course, with dramatic views on every hole of the surrounding Wasach Mountains," he said.

Bates received approval for the facility from the state of Utah prior to the 2002 Winter Olympics. Grow-in is scheduled for completion in August 2003, with play expected to begin in

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## EnCap gets approval for 72-hole resort

NORTH ARLINGTON, N.J. — After months of planning and re-planning, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission gave preliminary approval to EnCap Holdings LLC of Tampa, Fla., for its amended plan that would convert former landfills into four golf courses and a resort.

Phase I of the project will include the first 36 holes, a clubhouse and support buildings, two hotels, office buildings, a retail center and residential components in Rutherford, Lyndhurst and North Arlington. Phase II will comprise the second 36 holes and related amenities in North Arlington and Kearny.

The agreement, which originated in May 2000, calls for EnCap to cap seven landfills — a total of 1,330 acres — and

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## Timing, coordination, teamwork are keys to renovation's success

By KEVIN DOWNING, CGCS

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles by Willoughby Golf Club

superintendent Kevin Downing outlining the renovation process at the Stuart, Fla., club. His final installment later this fall will cover the events leading up to the club's re-opening.

STUART, Fla. — With all the renovation plan-

ning and discussions with members complete here at Willoughby Golf Club, the question I'm fielding now is: "How are we doing and are we on schedule?"

The timeframe for most renovation jobs is usually quite tight with just a small margin for weather or other interruptions factored in. Time schedule estimates must allow for the reasonable delays, so golf course operators and superintendents must be realistic about the needs of the contractors so the various tasks can be integrated. One of the keys to avoiding construction pitfalls is to obtain all permits before the commencement of work.



Creation of a more visible fairway bunker complex on the 17th hole was completed by generating all of the necessary fill from on-site.

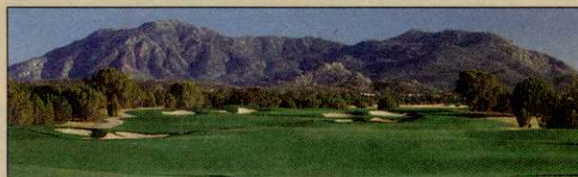
At Willoughby, we used three separate contractors, which meant the layering of their responsibilities had to be well sequenced. The clearing and tree-removal contractors had to be coordinated with the shaping and construction contractor to make sure they disposed of their materials in a timely fashion. We also had a separate irrigation company install our replacement hydraulic components in the first six weeks of the project. The soil was purposely left firm to minimize trencher and sub-surface equipment damage while all other excavation and topsoil transporting were taking place. By coordinating these efforts you can effectively reduce cleanup operations during the grow-in phase of the project.

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## Environmentally friendly Talking Rock Ranch to open in Arizona

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — Talking Rock Ranch, a private 18-hole Jay Morrish-designed course, will open to members Sept. 14.

Built on one of the most historic ranches in Yavapai County, which occupies a little-known canyon with hundreds of ancient petroglyphs (drawings chipped into



The panoramic view from the 17th hole at Talking Rock Ranch.

rocks that tell stories of those who passed before), Talking Rock will feature a ranch compound with small clusters of territorial-style buildings in lieu of a large clubhouse.

Harvard Investments deeded the property to the Yavapai Prescott

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## Lake Las Vegas adds third course

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created by the Hoover Dam.

The front nine of the course flows along a descending landscape while the back nine climbs up into the mountain-side, where a series of holes work through steep cliffs, and phenomenal views. The terrain is natural habitat for big-horned sheep that can be found graz-

ing the landscape.

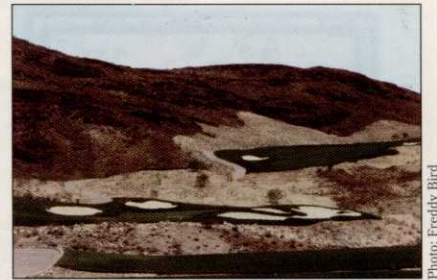
"The front nine was pretty straightforward to build but the back nine was a bit more difficult to create a routing as we had to swing the holes above the designated home sites. The steep elevation drops made it difficult to get heavy equipment around efficiently," Weiskopf explained.

The back nine is memorable for the stretch of holes 12 through 15. These holes climb to the highest point to provide views of both Lake Las Vegas and the city of Las Vegas to the northwest. Weiskopf created two holes with drops of over 100 feet from tee to fairway.

"These types of holes really become a leap of faith as a designer, as you are never really sure how good the golf hole is

going to be until it is completely done. You can end up with a hole that either becomes too tough and controversial or a golf hole that makes players want to come back again. I think that we ended up with the latter at the Falls Course," Weiskopf said.

The \$11 million course will stretch to 7,250 yards over 100 acres of maintained fair-



The Falls Course joins Reflection Bay GC and South Shore GC at Lake Las Vegas Resort.

Photo: Freddy Bird

ways and is planted with Tifway 2 bermudagrass fairways and tees and Crenshaw bentgrass for the greens.

The Falls Course is the third of what may become a collection of up to six golf courses to be built at Lake Las Vegas. Ground will be broken on a Fazio-designed layout this November as the developers are in full swing to create this international resort destination.

Along with the golf courses, Transcontinental Properties has teamed up with Ritz Carlton Hotels and Intrawest Corp. to build MonteLago Village, which will open next spring. This Mediterranean-style village will include a 350-room luxury hotel, 800 condominiums, a 50-acre village with cobblestone streets with commercial space, office space and a 40,000-square-foot casino. ■

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## Talking Rock Ranch to open

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Indian Tribe as a means of preserving and protecting the natural environment. More than a third of the property is dedicated to open space. The plan seems to have paid off, as the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office awarded Talking Rock Ranch its 2002 Heritage Preservation Award.

According to Morrish, the owners of the property wanted an environment where golfers and homeowners would coexist in harmony. In designing the course, Morrish said the owners essentially told him, "Here's 3,500 acres. Put the course where it makes the most sense." The result is a course that plays at more than 7,300 yards from the back tees, with five tee boxes on each hole.

Last summer, RLS Development, which managed construction, brought in Native Resources International, an organization that works to preserve indigenous materials that were destroyed as a result of intense development in the Southwest. The company salvaged approximately 150 native trees from the golf course and roadway areas. These trees were later replanted on the site. ■