



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

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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

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 planning 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.

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.



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

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

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

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Timing, coordination and teamwork

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The single biggest component of streamlining a renovation and/or construction project is the establishment of a reasonable method for obtaining field approvals. When using a golf course architect, the coordination of their visit to approve preliminary shaping or final grades is paramount to a contractor completing the tasks within the proper time frame. Always schedule the visits well in advance but provide interim updates to proper individuals prior to the actual visit.

A written or audio executive summary every two weeks

will keep interested parties abreast of progress or aware of any substantial changes. Sending digital photos through e-mail also can illustrate current situations and minimize any future miscommunications. When it comes to design changes let common sense be your guide and focus on long-term benefits rather than quick-fix solutions

that will only get you through one season.

The last valuable contractor that needs to be coordinated with is the golf course maintenance staff. They are key to successful completion of the project and should be involved with most of the planning and implementation stages. Their coordination with selected phases is a benefit since it creates enthusiasm for the continued success of the

course. Our team focused on drainage, irrigation installation and programming, tree trimming and turf renovation.

Finishing a renovation project on time and on budget requires all contractors and golf course personnel to work together as a team. ■



Repairing bulkheads during construction is good insurance for the future.

EnCap gets golf resort approval

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provide a base layer for the golf course development.

Under Phase I, EnCap will pay approximately \$18 million to the commission, assume responsibility for the \$3 million cost of leachate disposal, and provide closure and post-closure of the Kingsland landfill in Lyndhurst, generating an additional \$45 million for the commission. Phase II will result in EnCap making payments of approximately \$30.5 million. In all, EnCap plans to spend more than \$1.2 billion on the project.

The project hit a minor snag earlier this year when Lyndhurst residents expressed concern that their section of the Meadowslands, where most of the housing will be located, will become overdeveloped. ■

Bates designing Olympic complex

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July 2004. Utah's Parks and Recreation department will manage day-to-day operations at the complex.

"I've been impressed by the state of Utah's commitment to such a wonderful golf recreation destination while also being attentive to protecting the character of the land," Bates said.

Bates and representatives from the state agreed the courses at Soldier Hollow should be built with golfers of all abilities in mind. As such, each hole will feature five sets of tees, with the Olympic course measuring 7,500 yards and the Midway course measuring 7,300 yards from the back tees.

Soldier Hollow is the first golf complex sanctioned by the state of Utah since 1972. ■

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