

## NEWS

**Chotokan Group buys B.C. resort**

Chotokan Group of Hamamatsu, Japan has purchased Radium Hot Springs Golf Resort in southeastern British Columbia for \$20 million.

Former owner Douglas McIntosh will stay on as general manager. An additional \$5 million in renovations will be done to the resort located 50 miles west of the Alberta border.

**LAX course may be grounded**

A decade-old plan to build a 27-hole course just west of Los Angeles International Airport may never fly if returned to the city's time-consuming planning process.

Hatched in the late 1970s, the design calls for three nine-hole courses and a jogging track on rolling sand dunes that are home to the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly and several rare lizards and plants.

Those believing the course should return to the planning process argue the project

poses environmental problems, is obsolete and would never be a popular course because of jet noise and fuel odors.

Airport officials counter that a golf course is the best way to develop the area. They contend it would fit the natural terrain and revenues could be used to restore the dune's ecosystem.

The airport recently completed a biological study of the dunes and is ready to submit the plan to the California Coastal Commission. But

since the plan has not been re-approved by its originating agency (the City Council) in the past four years, the commission could rule that it return to the Los Angeles Planning Department for review and public hearings.

"I suspect that if it has to go through the governmental merry-go-round again, it could take 10 more years to resurface," airport environmental manager Maury Latham told *The Daily Breeze*. "There are just too many agencies and individuals involved."

**Any site will do in Japan**

An 18-hole course under construction in land-poor Japan shows to what lengths the Japanese will go to play their national obsession.

According to the monthly magazine *Public Information Abroad*, a Tokyo Metropolitan Government project underway on reclaimed land in Tokyo Bay:

- sits on more than 18 million tons of garbage buried in the 1960s;
- vents 1 million cubic feet of methane a day that are released by 70 shafts spaced throughout its 134 acres;

- is Japan's only absolutely non-smoking course because of the danger of gas explosions from uncontrolled methane leaks ignited by a cigarette;
- enjoys spectacular views of the sea and city.

The "dream islands," as the reclaimed landfills are commonly called, are also the site of city sports facilities and an indoor tropical greenhouse.

The 18-hole course cost \$25 million to build. Japan's top woman golfer, Ayako Okamoto, was one of the primary financial backers.

**Jamaica opens facility for teaching**

Jamaica became the first Caribbean country with an all-year golf teaching facility when the Jamaica Golf School opened in mid-November.

Director of Tourism Carrole Brady opened the new school which includes practice facilities, lecture room, book and video-cassette library, equipment and 10-bay golf range. Paul Hunt of the United Kingdom is the head professional.

Jamaica has hosted such tournaments as The Mazda Champions and the Jamaica Classic.

**Utah withdraws \$1.5M pledge**

Springdale, Utah, will have to develop new plans to build an 18-hole municipal course at an entrance to Zion National Park.

The state Community Impact Board withdrew its pledge of \$1.5 million in grants and loans for the project when local developer Dan Marriott, a former congressman and candidate for the 2nd Congressional District seat, was unable to raise his \$1.3 million share of the project.

The agreement between the CIB and town was cancelled because the conditions weren't satisfied. However, the CIB invited the town to re-apply should it find other investors, which it is expected to do.

In other action, the CIB agreed to give the town of Price \$873,400 to expand Carbon Country Club from nine to 18 holes and was told that Hurricane City plans to build a course using \$500,000 from the CIB.

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