

## Five-holer left behind in Saudi desert

"The Dune Country Club" will go out of business as quickly as it was fashioned. Creators WOIEric Binger and 1st Sgt. Gary Marquardt will have few regrets.

They built the five-hole, 2,424-yard course "somewhere in the Saudi Arabian desert" a few weeks after arrival last October with the Fort Carson, Colo., 52nd Engineer Battalion.

Flags were made from scraps from the base camp. The final hole is a 928-yard par 9, dogleg right. Small, sagebrush-like plants

cover the first half of the hole, rocks the rest of the "fairway."

Most of Marquardt's irons have chunks missing from contact with rocks, and he may be stateside now in possession of a new set.

A home-made scorecard lists these rules:

- No carts allowed on the course.
- A one-liter bottle of water, or two one-quart canteens per person mandatory for play.
- Raking of sand traps not necessary.

The most important piece of equipment Binger and Marquardt carried was not in their bags, but rather strapped on the outside. An M-16A1 can be more valuable than a favorite driver or putter.

Their loads now will be much lighter.

No more rifles and no cumbersome battle dress uniforms with protective gas masks hung from their waists.

And there'll be the cooling prospect of the 19th hole at round's end.

## Corps goes back to board to examine Colorado project

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — The proposed municipal golf course at Bear Creek Lake Park, hopefully scheduled for construction launch in mid-April, may be in hibernation for some time.

Following a flood of letters protesting the project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans a close look at Lakewood's plan to convert 450 acres to a 27-hole course.

A preliminary report in December said construction posed no sig-

nificant threat to area wildlife and complied with the original Bear Creek Lake master plan.

Because of protests from Sierra Club members and a group called Friends of Bear Creek, the Corps may take several weeks to decide whether a full environmental statement will be required before the city is issued a construction permit.

Should the corps decide this is necessary, construction could be halted for several months.

## Ancient cooking utensils found, course developers hit with tab

CHIBA, Japan — The snail darter and endangered species counterparts giving construction companies and golf course builders headaches aren't confined to the United States.

While Japanese archaeologists rejoice over discovery of 2,000-year-old Jomon-style cooking utensils on the grounds of The Country Club Glenmoor in Chiba Prefecture, developers of the Pete Dye-designed course find themselves further frustrated.

They'd previously been plagued by a storm and a fire.

After the utensils were unearthed, construction was halted. Costs of excavation, transport and care of the artifacts will hit several hundred million yen, which the course must pay.

Despite these setbacks, Glenmoor is expected to open this spring.

## City withholds design payments

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The Costa Mesa City Council has balked at paying a Santa Rosa design firm \$21,000 to renovate the driving range and irrigation system at a municipal golf course.

The firm, Ronald Fream Design Ltd., has incurred the costs of the redesign and was under the impression that the work was ready to go out to bid, according to design associate David Dale. He added that the company does not do work on speculation, and is expecting payment.

City officials will seek bids from other firms interested in the project, said Mayor Mary Hornbuckle.

Council members accused the Santa Rosa firm of designing the Los Lagos driving range as if it existed in a more arid area such as Palm Springs.

The city manager and golf course committee had recommended that officials award the contract to the firm based on the belief that the city had an existing contract with it and that the irrigation and driving range improvements would be added to that contract.

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