

Butterfly may stop \$50M project on California coast

WEST MARIN, Calif. — A 36 hole, \$50 million golf course and resort along the rocky Marin coast may not take wing because of the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly.

Marin Coast Associates seeks county approval to transform the rocky coastline, now an overgrazed pasture accessible only to a herd of sheep, into a first-class golf club.

Besides a golf course, the project embraces a 200-room lodge, conference center and restaurants.

The Myrtle's silverspot butterfly,

which could land ever so gently on the federally protected rare and endangered species list, has been found on large portions of the 1,254-acre site north of Dillon Beach eyed by the developers. If the butterfly makes the endangered list, large portions of its habitat could be restricted from development.

Developers say they could redesign the project around the butterfly — or even move its habitat.

Plans are to routinely close the course so sheep may graze there.

Voters approve bond for course

O'FALLON, Mo. — City residents recently approved a no-tax-increase bond issue for up to \$7.3 million to fund construction of a proposed 18-hole, par-72 course.

To be built on a 150-acre tract, the course would include a driving range, clubhouse and restaurant.

A market study had indicated that fees, in addition to income from the pro shop and concessions, would bring in \$1,454,550 in gross revenue by the third year of operation against expenses of \$799,910, for an annual net income of \$654,640.

Developer fined \$2,500 for draining bog, other work

MESICK, Mich. — Developer Paul Guthrie has paid a \$2,500 fine for allegedly violating several environmental laws last year on his Briar Valley Golf Course here, but he remains at loggerheads with the state Department of Natural Resources and the courts.

He was scheduled to respond July 26 to a court order charging failure to comply with terms of his course permit.

Chief among "numerous violations" on the golf course project,

according to DNR water quality specialist Stu Kogge, is failure to restore a 10-acre bog Guthrie converted to a small lake.

Kogge said, "The bog drained underground to the headwaters of a top-quality trout stream, Burkett Creek, and the damage to the creek and the bog have been really horrendous."

Guthrie opened the first nine holes of his Briar Valley course last year and converted the bog to a lake over the past several months in the process of developing another nine holes in what Kogge claims was a "blatant disregard" of environmental laws.

Greenman Group picked for project

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. — The Greenman Group, Inc., of Hollywood, Fla., has been selected to create a new public golf course and adjacent residential community here.

Greenman will assist the city in defining the parameters and overall scope of the project and coordinating the land development process. It also will help facilitate recruitment and supervision of the development team. Robin Miller will be development manager.

The city's lone golf course, Pine Oaks, generates 65,000 rounds annually. Demand for golf course time here is expected to accelerate dramatically in the next decade.

UST topic of firm's new newsletter

EXTON, Pa. — A subscription to a newsletter on the latest developments in secondary containment of underground storage tanks and piping is available free.

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Course would replace home plan

SAN MARTIN, Calif. — A San Mateo firm that a year ago abandoned plans to build luxury homes in the Hayes Valley near San Martin now wants to put a golf course in the scenic valley.

The 170-acre golf course, proposed by H-R Development Partners, would run practically the length of the valley floor.

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