

## Coeur d'Alene's action against beavers draws public outcry

By Bob Spiwak

Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Resort golf course has been open two months, and some statistics are in. While there has been some superb iron play, a little guy named Castor Canadensis has dominated the woods. The resort is not happy.

Castor is the Latin name of the American beaver, and his breed has been chomping on poplar trees that cost the resort \$2,000 each. Thirty trees were planted. Six became beaver breakfast.

Chicken wire was wrapped around the trunks but Castor, recognizing these as man-made hazards, pulled it away. Repellent was used and electric fencing tried. Castor simply played through.

According to Steve Wheeler, the resort's director of communications, the rotund rodents may have been but a single "rogue" beaver, and not a foursome. At the end of May, the nocturnal nibbling seemed to have stopped. Wheeler said no traps were used and no beavers killed.

Earlier, a Seattle newspaper reported that trapping would be used to remove the marauders. Even resourceful beavers are not too adept at playing out of traps.

Thankfully, there has been a lull in the poplar poaching. If the beaver returns, some wisecracker from the press will give it a name.

Like, Bill Castor.

## Judge denies appeals as \$30M project proceeds

EAST LYME, Conn. — A Superior Court judge has cleared the way for a proposed \$30-million golf course, by dismissing appeals to block construction of the project.

The decisions, issued by New London Superior Court Judge D. Michael Hurley, remove any pending environmental legal barriers to construction of the Country Club of New England, a 19-hole championship course and club on 300 acres. However, still at issue, is whether the construction delays could sink funding for the project.

New London resident Robert Fromer had gone to court to try and overturn approvals of the project granted by the East Lyme Conservation and Zoning commissions in September 1989.

Country Club founder Nathan M. Shippee of Old Lyme said Fromer's appeals have stalled construction of the club, and Shippee predicts Fromer might attempt to appeal the recent judgment. Shippee said he is considering suing Fromer, an environmental activist, for filing what Shippee calls "frivolous" lawsuits.

Earlier this year, Shippee was given legal notice of foreclosure on the property, by Suffield Bank.

## China's first modern course opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, China — Golf returned to Shanghai amid firecrackers and lion dances on May 21 as Shanghai International Golf and Country Club, the first modern 18-hole championship golf course in Shanghai opened.

To the sound of trumpet fanfare played by schoolchildren, club Chairman Shen Jia Ling and other officials hit ceremonial golf balls to officially open the course. The ceremonies ended with a Chinese banquet at Westin Tai Ping Yang Hotel for 200 invited guests from throughout China and around the world.

The course was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., who attended the ceremonies.

The concept for a golf club and sports center was originated by Prescott Bush of New York when he and Jones visited Shanghai in 1983 to meet with city and sports officials.

Shanghai Mayor Wang Dao Han's agreed to Bush's proposal in 1985, and the Aoki Corp. of Tokyo joined the project as its major investor and developer.

The club is located on the bank of the Dian Shan Lake, about 36 miles

west of the center of Shanghai. In addition to the golf course, the facilities will include three practice holes and a water driving range. The club will add 12 tennis courts, a swimming pool and villas.

The project, with an investment of \$18 million, is already filling a large number of the 800 memberships available.

Representatives of the club said players at the course were attracted by the special concept and cosmetic touches of the white sand bunkers, lakes and specially planted trees.

The clubhouse, in the 19th-century

British villas style, provides a unique tone to the development. The building was designed by P&T Hong Kong Ltd., which also designed the earliest Western buildings in China in the 1920s, including the Shanghai City Hall, the Peace Hotel and other buildings along the famous waterfront bund area of Shanghai.

The Aoki Corp. was responsible for construction management. The club received great support from the government of China and the people of the region who built much of the course by hand.

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