

NEWS IN BRIEF

HANA, Hawaii — A majority of area residents polled oppose Keola Hana Maui Inc.'s proposed 200-acre, 18-hole golf course project. Of the 726 people who cast ballots, 388 — or 53.4 percent — said "nay." The issue of the golf course will come before Maui's County Council's Planning Committee soon.

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SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — TRIMS Software International has announced the TRIMS \$1,000 Scholarship Award, bestowed annually on a student studying turfgrass management in a school or college with TRIMS Grounds Management Software as part of its curriculum. Students may receive information on the TRIMS Software Scholarship by contacting their turfgrass adviser or TRIMS at 1-800-733-9710.

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JANESVILLE, Wis. — Rock County officials will soon be accepting proposals for the development of an 18-hole golf course on 200 acres of county-owned land just south of the southern Wisconsin airport. The land was specifically set aside for recreational purposes under the Rock County Airport Master Plan.

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WILLOUGHBY, Ohio — Lake Metroparks recently spent \$2.7 million to buy the 18-hole Pine Ridge Golf Course, located in Wickliffe. Apparently, the public approves. Since the course went municipal in May, golfers in the immediate area have flooded the phone lines of Lake Metroparks Executive Director David Noble. Greens fees and course hours are the main concerns.

...

DIXON, Ky. — Golf developer Mike Walker has completed the first nine holes of his Wildwood Golf Course complex just off Kentucky 132 between Dixon and Sebree. Walker, who broke ground in July of 1992, also has plans to build an adjacent 18-hole championship course by next summer.

In California, Coastal Trails finally gains approval...

By PETER BLAIS

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — The California Coastal Commission's recent approval of an oceanfront golf course here represents a successful conclusion to a four-year battle waged by the local Zuckerman family and Orange County developer Barry Hon.

Local permits are still needed for the Ocean Trails Course at Palos Verdes. And an environmental group — the Coastal Conservation Coalition — has enlisted the support of such heavyweights as the Sierra Club and has a lawsuit pending to stop the project.

But the Zuckermans and Hon — who recruited some big-name support of their own in the persons of state Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and acting Senate President David Roberti — overcame their biggest hurdle April 14.

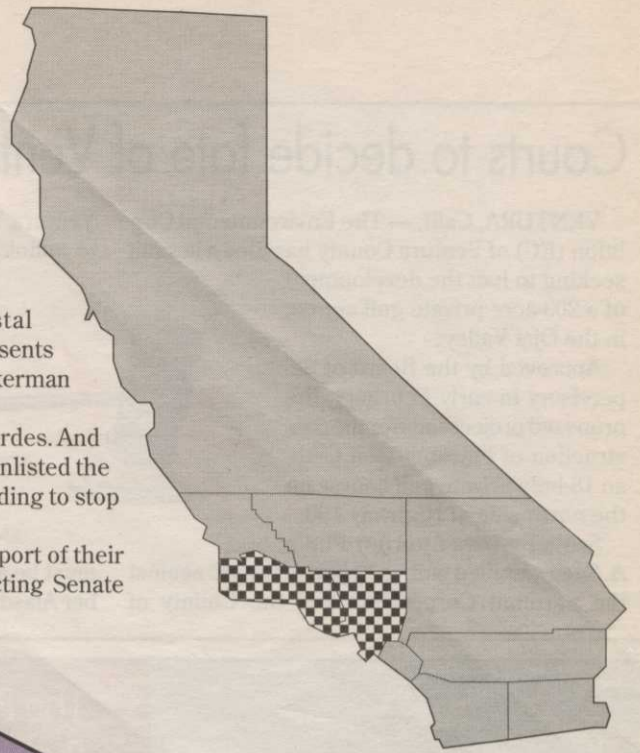
That's the day the Coastal Commission gave its blessing to the 260-acre project. In so doing, it overruled a staff recommendation that would have required tripling the amount of land set aside as a public park while reducing the course to just a dozen holes.

"We saw limiting the course to 12 holes as a way of effectively killing the project," Peggy Zuckerman said. "Conditioning something to death is a well-known method of stopping a project in California."

As is, developers agreed to many conditions. Approximately 30 acres of coastal sage scrub areas around the course and another 34 acres along oceanside bluffs have been set aside for public access and as a nesting area for the California gnatcatcher, a threatened species.

"We chose to treat the gnatcatcher as if it were endangered [rather than *athreatened* species that requires less protection]."

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... while Ahmanson Ranch project remains in bureaucratic limbo

By PETER BLAIS

VENTURA, Calif. — A land deal and lawsuit must still be settled before the long-awaited Ahmanson Ranch golf project becomes a reality in the hills abutting Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The proposed Ahmanson Ranch community includes two golf courses, 3,050 homes, 400,000 square feet of offices and shops, and 300-room hotel. Developer Ahmanson Land Co., a subsidiary of Home

Savings of America, first proposed the project more than six years ago.

A complicated arrangement was near completion earlier this year that would have placed 10,000 acres of private property under federal and state control in exchange for county approval of the multi-million-dollar development.

The land was to be acquired through developer donations as well as funds provided by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and federal government. Approxi-

mately 7,000 acres owned by entertainer Bob Hope was part of the package.

But the deal started to unravel in late January when Hope seemed reluctant to part with some of the property, according to Jeff Segol, a reporter who covered the story for the Ventura County Newspapers.

The National Park Service had placed a large amount of money in escrow to cover its share of the purchase. When Hope balked, the NPS threatened to use the

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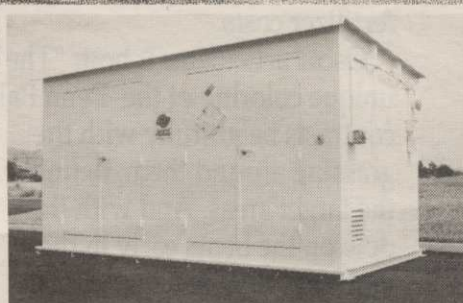
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CIRCLE #103

Mid-Am awards money to four schools

Monetary prizes have been awarded to four colleges and universities for top attendance at Mid-Am's 1993 Career Center, held Jan. 15 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Joliet Junior College received \$400 for the highest attendance, 27 students. The College of DuPage was awarded \$300 for the second-highest attendance (20), and the University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin each received \$150 for the third and fourth, respectively, highest numbers in attendance at the Career Center. Prizes were awarded to the schools' horticulture departments.

Twenty-two schools participated in the Ca-

reer Center, sending 115 students to meet with 50 industry companies having employment or internship opportunities.

The next Mid-Am Trade Show is scheduled for Jan. 20-22, 1994, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago.

Mid-Am is sponsored by the Illinois Nurserymen's Association, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, and Wisconsin Landscape Federation. The show is endorsed by the Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association, Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association, and Nebraska Association of Nurserymen.

For more information, contact 708-526-2010.

Hills' layout opens in Mich.

ROTHBURY, Mich. — Thoroughbred Golf Club at Double JJ Resort, a 6,900-yard championship layout designed by Arthur Hills, debuted in May.

"Arthur Hills did an incredible job designing the Thoroughbred," head pro Jeff Howland said.

"Superintendent Rod DeSmet has done a remarkable job getting the course in top condition. Owners Bob and Joan Lipsitz have set their standards of excellence high with their comfortable, friendly atmosphere in a spectacu-

lar setting."

The course opened to resort guests in May and will be available to the public following the official grand opening scheduled for July 2. Numerous corporate outings and fund-raising tournaments, including the LPGA Charity Pro-Am, have already been scheduled for this summer.

Construction of the Thoroughbred, the centerpiece of a \$20-million expansion of the popular Double JJ Resort Ranch, began in March 1992.

The Environment Is Right.

Ahmanson Ranch

Continued from page 3

money elsewhere, rather than tying up funds in the non-interest bearing account.

Hope and the federal government compromised. NPS acquired 2,308-acre Jordan Ranch from Hope and 300-acre Liberty Canyon for \$16.75 million.

But Ventura County Supervisors' approval of Ahmanson Ranch was also contingent on the acquisition of Hope's 4,369-acre Runkle Ranch and 339-acre Corral Canyon as well as the donation of 3,025 acres of Ahmanson Ranch property. Those issues had not been resolved as of mid-June.

"Buying the land from Mr. Hope and some other details still need to be worked out," said Ahmanson spokesperson Mary Trigg.

Another fly in the ointment is a lawsuit scheduled to go to trial in mid-November. Nine separate actions were filed this spring, including three by the cities of Malibu, Los Angeles and Calabasas; one by the County of Los Angeles; three by coalitions of homeowner and environmental groups; and two by individuals.

The suits claim the county's environmental assessment study was inadequate and seek to overturn the county supervisors' approval.

The Ventura County Court consolidated the nine suits into one and is expected to hear the case this fall.

"We're actively pursuing the lawsuits against the project at this point," Triggs said. "We want to concentrate on that before doing anything else."

Segol said Ahmanson hopes to settle the suit before November. One scenario has Ahmanson buying Hope's remaining land and donating it to the Conservancy, he added.

Ahmanson would have liked to have the matter settled by now. But the project, at least home construction, might have been delayed anyway because of the slumping California economy, Segol said.

"According to most economic experts, California is still very much in a recession," Triggs agreed.

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