

## Second public layout under consideration in Sonoma County's bustling Bennett Valley

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — A second 18-hole city golf course in Bennett Valley might be a boon to elbow-to-elbow players squeezed onto the city's existing 18-hole layout, the busiest in Sonoma County — but area homeowners don't share such enthusiasm.

The city would have to allow many more homes per acre on the remainder of the developer's picturesque land, which lies outside the city limits.

Public courses consider 90,000 rounds a year heavy use. Bennett Valley racked up 113,000

rounds last year.

City officials weighed putting a course on the western side of the city, but undeveloped land there contains vernal pools—a type of federally protected wetland — and endangered species of wildflowers.

City manager Ken Blackman has approached developer Dennis Hunter, who owns land just south of the present golf course and adjacent to Galvin Park.

Hunter is weighing the city's request to consider a course on his land.

## Phoenix reservation system tried

PHOENIX, Ariz. — American Golf Corporation announced a pilot central reservation service for six of their resort and public golf courses in metropolitan Phoenix.

Golfers can make a tee time for any one of AGC's Phoenix-area public courses. They are: Tatum Ranch Golf Resort, Cave Creek; The Legend Golf Resort, Glendale; Superstition Springs Golf Resort, Mesa; Villa De Paz Golf Course, Phoenix; Continental Golf Course, Scottsdale; and El Caro Golf Course, Phoenix.

The system has been averag-

ing approximately 6,000 calls per week, with more than 4,400 of those calls resulting in scheduled tee times.

Although the system offers automated access to tee times 24 hours a day, golfers can choose to speak directly with a reservation agent or any of the six golf shops.

Members also enjoy preferred tee times up to five days in advance—longer than what is available at most other courses in the area. The one-time annual membership fee is \$12.

## Fla. seeks more information on Dupont fungicide

The Florida Department of Agriculture wants more information on Dupont Corp.'s Benlate DF fungicide.

The Department is suing to ascertain whether the fungicide caused millions of dollars in plant damage in addition to creating health hazards.

Dupont has paid \$500 million in claims nationwide, including \$395 million in Florida. Dupont insists Benlate did not cause damage and has ceased all outstanding claim settlements. Only about a dozen claims nationwide covered damage to turf and ornamentals, mainly bluegrass.

Dupont released research purportedly showing Benlate does not damage plants. Florida state officials are conducting their own research to evaluate the product's potential plant and human health damage.

## Local voters reject coastal Texas proposal

PORT ARANSAS, Texas — Local voters have rejected by a 452-354 count a proposed \$4.5 million 18-hole municipal golf course.

Opponents coupled cost with possible environmental hazards, stressing concern about herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer entering surrounding water.

The Port Aransas City Council had approved issuing \$4.5 million in certificates to pay for building the golf course and municipal pool, and had approved spending \$450,000 to buy about 70 acres of land adjacent to the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.

## Culinary correction

Because of a reporting error, there was a piece of misinformation in the January edition of *Golf Course News*. The onetime biker bar across from the I-Hop in West Hollywood is called Barney's Beanery.

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\*As reported by the Center for Golf Course Management, a subsidiary of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.



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