

Ocean Trails earns split decision from Calif. judge

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Both sides claim they are pleased with state Superior Court Judge Robert O'Brien's ruling that the proposed Ocean Trails golf course does not meet the state's affordable housing requirements, but is environmentally sound.

Ocean Trails developers Ken Zuckerman and Barry Hon want to build an 18-hole, Pete Dye-designed course and 83 homes along the coast.

O'Brien ruled their plan for a cash contribution to a city affordable housing program that does not yet exist did not meet the state's Mello Act requirements that coastal developments provide low- or moderate-income housing within three miles of the development.

But O'Brien also ruled the city's environmental approval of the project need not be reviewed.

Zuckerman and Hon were pleased with the judge's environmental nod and planned to work on the affordable housing requirement.

Opponents, led by the Sierra Club, were happy with O'Brien's ruling that work be halted until affordable housing guidelines are met. They could appeal O'Brien's ruling on the environmental issues.

Opponents have another lawsuit against the California Coastal Commission, which approved the project, set to go to trial in December or January. The suit alleges Ocean Trails violates state laws regarding coastal development.

Errant balls wreak havoc in Colo.

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — City-owned Lincoln Park Golf Course has erected a 20-foot net meant to protect Hanna Van Houten's fairway-side home from errant tee shots.

Unfortunately, the net appears approximately 10 feet short for the purpose.

According to Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Director Ted Novack, the net curbed the number of snap hooks that ended up in Van Houten's backyard. But an average of four or five clear the net each day and come to rest near Van Houten's home, which

was long ago equipped with shatterproof windows, she said.

"I got hit in the leg the other day," Van Houten told the *Daily Sentinel*.

The soil won't support a taller net, said Novack, who added that another 10 feet would also make the structure more vulnerable to high winds.

However, Novack said city staff will explore the idea of extending the net further toward the second tee box.

Van Houten has lived on the site since 1971. Lincoln Park was built in the 1920s.

Huisenga makes splash in Fla. golfing market

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, Fla. — The owner of the Florida Marlins baseball team, Florida Panthers hockey team and Blockbuster Video is jumping into the world of golf.

H. Wayne Huisenga expects his firm Stuart Property Holdings Ltd. will break ground soon on a 300-acre development near Harbour Ridge that includes an 18-hole golf course, country club, 90 homes, an 88-slip marina and two helipads.

Stalled for two years because of concerns about gopher tortoises and sensitive scrub habitat, the Harbour Links Yacht and Country Club project was cut back from an original plan for 200 homes. The course is expected to open for play next year.

Majette Dunes reopens with new manager

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Newly renovated Majette Dunes Golf Course marks the first day of a 35-year lease when it reopens for play this month.

Phoenix Golf — whose sister firm, Phoenix Construction, also handled the makeover — will receive all profits for the first six years of the lengthy agreement. In the seventh year, Phoenix will give Bay County 15 percent of gross receipts from greens fees in excess of 40,000 per year. Should Majette Dunes amass more than 500 memberships, the county will, after seven years, receive 15 percent of membership dues receipts.

Upscale NC club ready for play

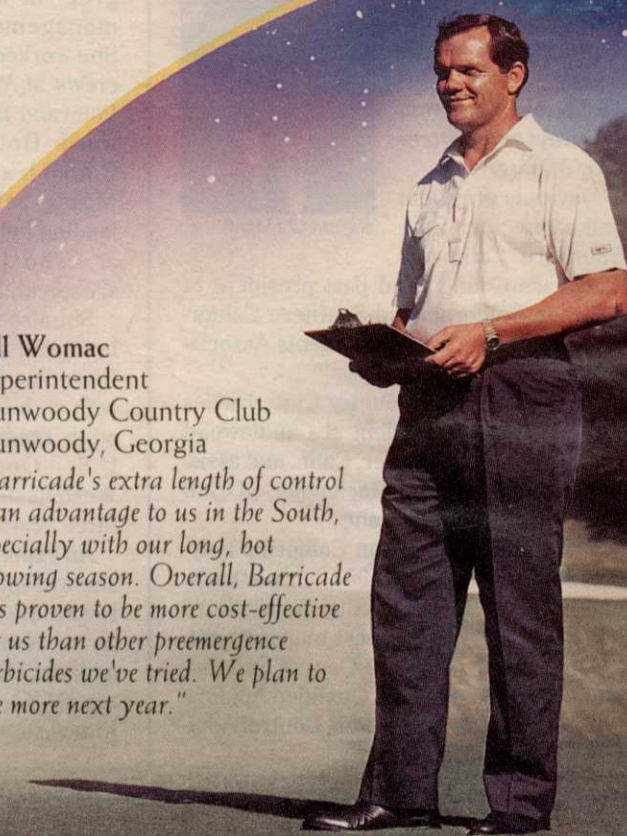
STATESVILLE, N.C. — Buffalo Shoals Golf Club is scheduled to open late this year.

The Mike Young design is an upscale, semiprivate course. The par 72, 6,800-yard layout boasts bentgrass greens and a 3,500-square-foot clubhouse.

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