

NEWS IN BRIEF

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—*Golf Course News* will conduct an advertising readership study in conjunction with its September issue, according to Publisher Charles von Brecht. The formal study will be conducted by Baxter Research Inc. of Austin, Texas. Industry firms wishing to participate should contact von Brecht at 1-800-636-7077.

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HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark.—Diamante Golf Course, the longest in Arkansas, is now under construction. Measuring 7,500 yards from the back tees, the 18-hole development will feature a 9,000-square-foot clubhouse, a tennis facility and swimming complex. The completion date for the \$7.4 million project is September 1995.

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TROY, Ohio—The park board here has approved the expenditure of half the set-aside funding for development of a Miami Shore Golf Course master plan. Up to \$18,000 will be spent on the preliminary site plan, which will be prepared by Ferdinand Garbin of Export, Ga.

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LAWRENCE, N.Y.—James Henn, an employee of the Lehman Bros. securities firm, is suing the Rockaway Hunting Club and a coworker after being hit by a golf ball on a company outing. Henn named alleged ball-striker Alan Greco, the club and its golf pro, Randy Cavanagh in the suit. Henn charges that Cavanagh and the club were negligent for not monitoring the golfers' abilities and actions.

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SHOSHONE, Idaho—A proposed municipal golf course here awaits approval from the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The city council has sent a letter to the BLM asking it to designate 480 acres as "disposal," allowing the city to acquire it for municipal use.

Homestead advances 9-hole plan

By ALEXA AINSWORTH

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — The Homestead Resort will open this fall a nine-hole, par-3 golf course here at the bottom of its downhill ski facility. The resort's long-proposed 18-hole development remains in flux, caught in the substantial red tape of state and federal courts.

The par-3 course was designed by Robert Walker over 1,200 yards of ski slope. "The golf course will help to extend the resort's summer season into spring and fall," said Bob Kuras, president of The Homestead.

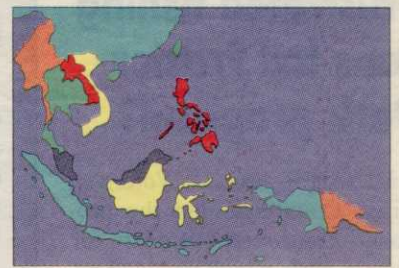
"Importantly," Kuras continued, "this nine-hole golf course neither eliminates our need to build an 18-hole regulation golf course on another site adjacent to The Homestead, nor tempers our resolve to do just that."

Approval of controversial 18-hole development remains tied up in court

Nearby, 267 acres await approval for the 18-hole design. For more than six years the site — which contains sizable wetland areas — has sat idle at the mercy of state and federal courts.

In April, Judge Lawrence Glazer of the Ingham County Circuit Court found in favor of The Homestead and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Glazer determined the DNR and the Michigan Natural Resource Commission were correct in issuing Homestead a construction permit, provided the developer met

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American supers witness rioting at Vietnamese course

By ROBERT B. GLUCKSMAN

HANOI, Vietnam — Vietnam's first modern-era golf development, King's Island Golf Resort and Country Club, has reopened following a riot instigated by the project's construction foreman, who is also a village headman, upset at his suspension for insubordination and poor performance.

"The workers just started running around the range, yelling and screaming," and dodging golf balls, according to U.S. project manager Ron Kirby. "We were told to leave by flashlight after dark. It was pretty hairy."

Following a weekend of sit-down strikes and general disruption — but no damage to the course — the club owner made the decision to immediately shut down the project until the national government agreed to guarantee everyone's safety. With six of 18 holes playable, King's Island has since reopened, though Kirby's villa is protected 24 hours a day by armed guard.

Most of the 70 workers involved in the disturbance have been relocated by the Vietnamese government, said Kirby. The headman was suspended for continued insubordination by American construction shaper Scott Japp the weekend of April 9. According to Japp — who has worked extensively overseas for architect Denis

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FAZIO MINES COURSE FROM CALIFORNIA DESERT

The Quarry at La Quinta, designed by Tom Fazio, has opened for play in the desert footing the Santa Rosa Mountains. The 7,076-yard, par-72 golf course has replaced the scarred pit of a quarry floor, which now includes four lakes, 1,000 lineal feet of streams, and more than 300 native California fan palms. Fazio incorporated buffalograss native to the prairies of the Midwest on some of The Quarry's fairway roughs for water efficiency and visual contrast.

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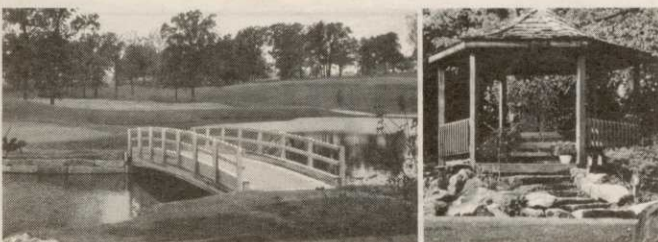
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CIRCLE #156

Homestead case

Continued from page 3

expectations regarding the wetlands.

A local environmental group, Friends of Crystal River (FCR), appealed and the matter remains deadlocked.

"We are not against golf or golf courses," said Scott Jones, president of FCR. "We would be for [the development], if it were on another site."

In 1992 the Chicago Region 5 branch of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) vetoed the wetland permits. Later that year, the EPA in Washington, D.C., reversed its Chicago branch decision.

According to Jones, the EPA in Washington, under pressure from the Bush Administration, lobbied to overturn the Chicago decision. Michigan Gov. John Engler, an ardent Republican backer, has voiced his support for The Homestead expansion throughout the six-year permitting process.

Jones said he believes the Engler/Bush connection was behind the federal appeal of EPA's own branch office.

"The EPA exceeded its authority in overturning its own Region 5 — the [jurisdiction] really belonged to the Army Corps of Engineers," said Jones. "Michigan is the only state in the country where the EPA permits the local state to grant wetland permits. If politics had not gotten into it, the EPA would not have overturned its Midwest region."

"Is this golf course going to pollute the waters, or isn't it? That is what this should be about."

The decision of the EPA in Washington — rendered May 8, 1992 — was appealed by FCR and six co-litigants: The Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Lake Michigan Federation, Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited and the Indiana Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. A federal judge granted the environmentalists an injunction against the federal EPA on May 11, 1992. This prohibited construction. It was the last decision before April's pro-Homestead finding and FCR's subsequent appeal.

"It has gone through gauntlet after gauntlet — legal gauntlets, emotional gauntlets and design gauntlets," said Ben Whitfield, town supervisor for Glen Harbor. "[The golf course is a] state-of-the-art design, being sensitive to the environment. The township voted in favor of the golf course. DNR approved it... I'd like to know where the leverage, the pressure is coming from."

Phillips comment

Continued from page 12

ity. Las Vegas has only recently decided to push for this more wholesome, all-encompassing image and — in my humble opinion — the jury remains out as to its profitability.

A similar transformation is taking place in Ledyard, Conn., where the Mashantucket Tribe is adding golf and other resort components to its wildly successful Foxwoods casino complex. But this is a special case. Ledyard is situated between Boston and New York in a heavily populated area. The Foxwoods courses will get significant play irrespective of gaming patrons.

Further, from a golfing perspective, the Greater Vegas area has long been under-supplied, meaning daily-fee and resort development was imminent regardless of whether Las Vegas decided to make The Strip more appealing to "the whole family."

Similar golf development may be inevitable in Loughlin and Fort Thompson, but I'm not so sure the rounds will be there.