

NEWS IN BRIEF

McALESTER, Okla. — Thundercreek Golf Course project manager Sam Green thinks an 18-hole course here could be open May 1. Green said March will be a big month. "If we avoid bad weather, sprigging and seeding should be done in late February or early March. This will allow the grass to have growing time to be playable by May 1."

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Richard B. Stahl has been named senior vice president of The Scotts Company. Stahl, who joined Scotts in 1967, will be responsible for integrating Grace Sierra, Scotts' most recent acquisition, into the organization and providing for an orderly transition of management of the Professional Business Group. Stahl will also continue to serve as Scotts representative in RISE, NACA and the GCSAA.

PALM BAY, Fla. — The City Council and the Recreation Advisory Board here plan to huddle with representatives of four firms vying to design Palm Bay's proposed golf course. If approved, the course would be built on a vacant parcel south of City Hall. The applicants are Clifton, Ezell and Clifton Golf Design Group of Deltona; Ronald M. Garl Golf Course Design Inc. of Lakeland; Sanford & Associates of Jupiter; and Robert Trent Jones II of Palo Alto, Calif.

ARBUCKLE, Calif. — A golf course aimed to place and keep youth on the right track has been proposed for a site west of this town, 45 miles north of Sacramento. The Elite Golf Club, formed by Pittsburg's Jess Turner in 1988 to get youths interested in golf instead of drugs and crime, would shift its base from the city-owned Delta View Golf Course in Pittsburg to the proposed course, tentatively named Rancho del Sol. Work on the driving range has begun, and Turner hopes the course will be open in two years.

Surfers & seals keep ARCO project on hold

By PETER BLAIS

GOLETA, Calif. — The California Coastal Commission will choose between surfers, seals and slices this April.

That's when it will hear an appeal filed by the Surfrider Foundation challenging the local government's approval of Atlantic Richfield Co.'s proposed golf course on an oil drilling facility west of the city.

Surfers have traditionally trespassed over the private property to reach beaches near Naples Reef. Their organization claims a golf course will stop them from doing so. They also claim errant balls and golfer traffic could pose a threat to the harbor seal rookery at the base of the 50-foot cliffs.

ARCO counters that the Ben Crenshaw/Bill Coore-designed Dos Pueblos Golf Links will beautify the ravaged site. The company has offered to build two paths surfers can use to reach the beach. And it believes surfboards are more dangerous to the nesting seals than the occasional mis-hit golf ball.

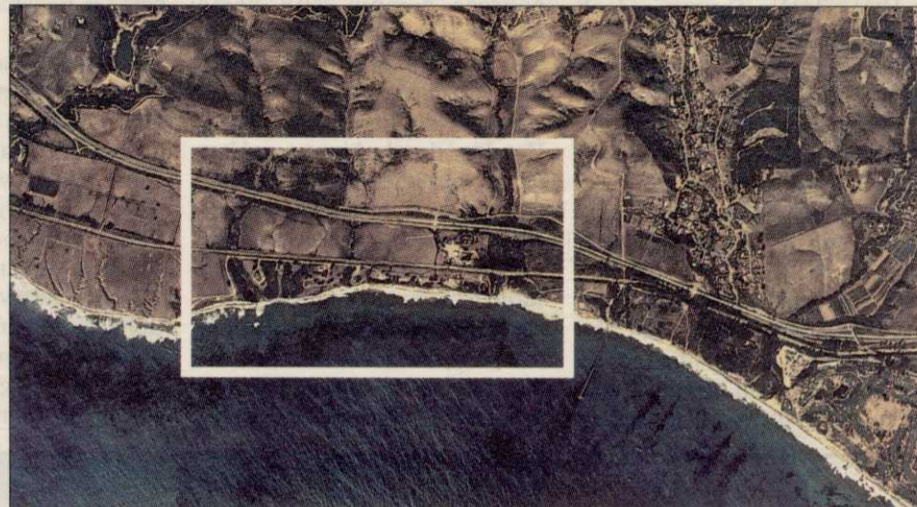
"We've offered to provide public access, but within our budget constraints," noted Whitt Hollis, ARCO's

local manager of land services. Hollis said surfers and Coastal Commission staff want ARCO to build, maintain and staff the trail around the clock to insure user safety.

"We don't want or feel it's fair for ARCO to absorb that cost," Hollis added.

ARCO presented plans for an 18-hole championship course, nine-hole par-3, clubhouse and seven-acre paved parking lot last year. The price tag for the 250-acre project was \$10 million.

The Santa Barbara County supervisors unanimously approved Dos Pueblos last



The Dos Pueblos site at Goleta (above), as seen through the lense of an aerial photographer, looking East. The existing golf course visible at far right is Sandpiper. The highlighted area in the above photo is enlarged, at left, showing how the proposed Coore/Crenshaw course would be routed.

August. ARCO was therefore fairly confident the Coastal Commission would approve the concept when it met in December. But to the company's surprise, the Coastal Commission staff recommended vetoing the project.

The reason was zoning. The land was rezoned for agricultural use several years ago, even though it hasn't been used for farming since the 1920s.

Fearing a golf course would erode the area's rural atmosphere by encouraging neighboring development, the Coastal

Commission staff recommended against allowing a golf course on the rurally zoned property.

In light of the staff's findings, which weren't available until early January, ARCO asked the full Commission to delay its decision until April, giving the company an opportunity to address zoning concerns.

"The staff said the property must first be rezoned for recreational use before it could recommend approving the project," Hollis said. "We believe current zoning regula-

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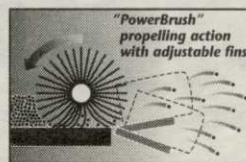
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Hawaiian island residents divided over resort plan

HANA, Hawaii — The first golf course proposed for Hana may not get off the ground.

Opponents have filed a civil lawsuit seeking to void earlier county approvals and to stop any work from being completed. The suit claims failure to adopt conditions to protect human and non-human resources in Hana, failure to allow public participation in the approval process and failure to require a proper environmental analysis.

Proponents claim the course is a necessary amenity that will attract visitors and ensure the financial health of Keola company, Hana's major employer.

The lawsuit claims that some council members received large campaign contributions from individuals connected with the project.

N.Y. airport may host public course

STEWART AIRPORT, N.Y. — Fairways soon may share space with runways at Stewart International Airport.

Stewart's land-use committee at a recent meeting seemed receptive to developing a public golf course on part of its 8,000 acres.

Mac Zeger of Newburgh presented the committee a petition containing 2,000 signatures favoring a course at Stewart. He added that a private backer is ready to put up \$4.5 million for the project.

Local golfers still are upset over the 1987 closing of the Newburgh Country Club near Stewart, which featured a 141-acre public course.

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TWIN CITIES, Neb. — Expansion of Gering Golf Course to 18 holes is under research committee study. The city would need to purchase land owned by Harrison Nelson on the south side of Country Club Road. Two hundred persons have signed a petition requesting course expansion.

SULPHUR, La. — Clearing has been completed for the golf course complex at Park Site 11, and seed may be planted in July or August, according to architect Dave Roberts. The complex eventually will include a hotel/convention center. He said the actual opening of the course would be delayed until 1995.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — The nine-hole Clearcrest Pines will become 18 holes in late fall of 1995. The site had been Clearcrest Country Club, but now will offer public golf. The course is owned by Gun Club Inc. Ron Pritchard is the architect.

College track delayed by wetland issues

LUDINGTON, Mich. — If environmental guidelines are met, a golf course proposed for West Shore Community College can be built here.

Representatives from Resource Management Group Inc. outlined three items for implementation. They include avoiding wetlands, streams and the South Branch of the Lincoln River during construction; that areas not essential to play be treated as wildlife habitat

and maintained in a natural or enhanced/managed site; and that best management practices be implemented in construction, maintenance and operation of the facility.

About 35 acres of the 185-acre site are regulated wetlands.

The course originally was proposed to the college last February as a "resort-style" 18-hole course on 180 acres of college-owned land.

Armco Steel sells Hills' Shaker Run

MIDDLETON, Ohio — Shaker Run golf course has been sold to a Cincinnati-based partnership for \$6 million.

Cincinnati developers David Brooks and Nick Bauer are the controlling partners. Other general partners are Pat Crooks and Bob Howard of San Francisco.

Armco Steel placed the 18-hole course, set on 538 acres in Turtlecreek Township in Warren County, on sale last year.

Shaker Run, designed by Arthur Hills and opened in 1979

for use by Armco employees, "just was not part of the core steel business," a company spokesman explained.

Long-range plans include building a new clubhouse and adding nine holes in 1995. Short-range plans include enclosing the dining areas in the clubhouse.

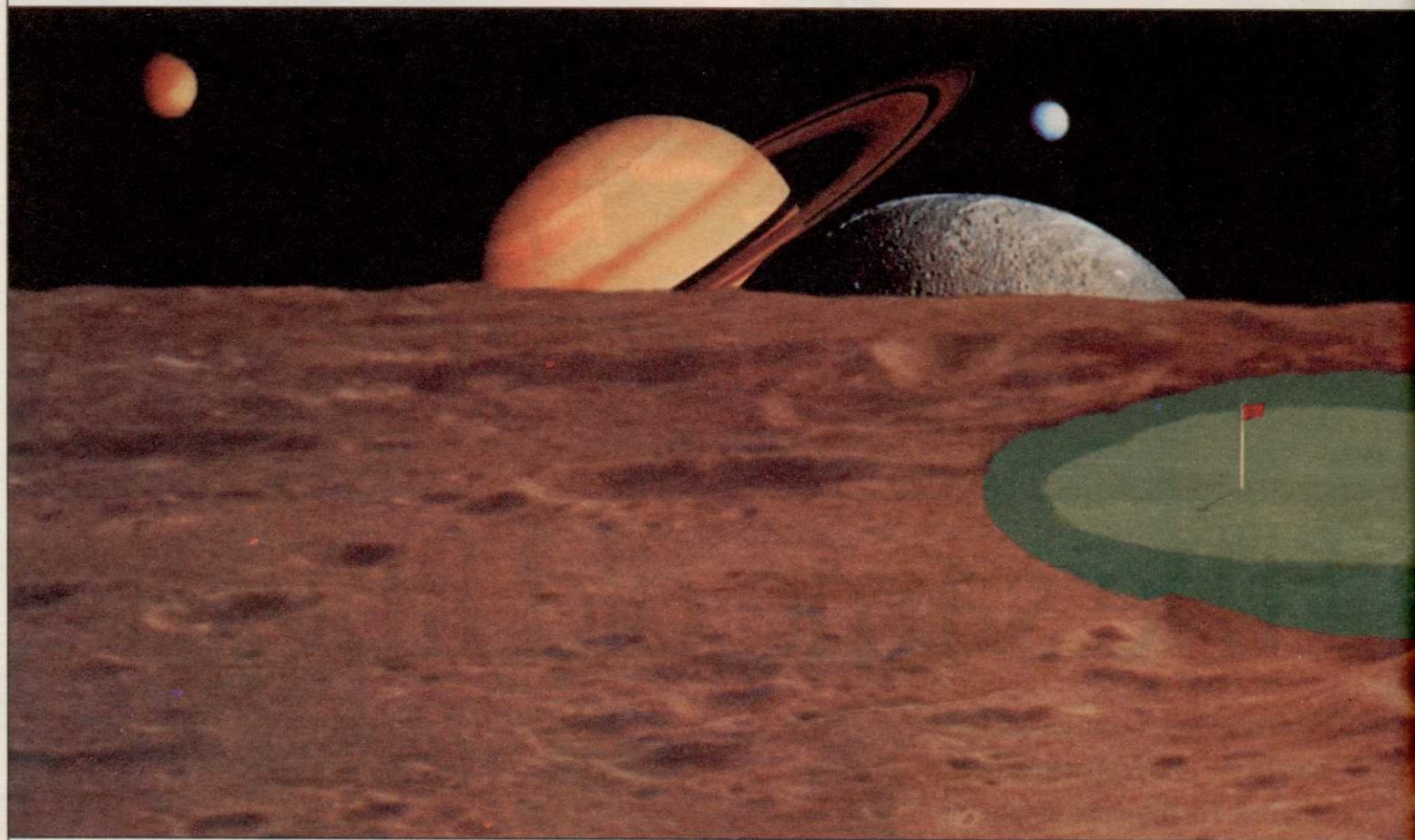
A 3,000-square foot pavilion for outings and awards ceremonies will be built near the 115-acre lake. The course will be re-manicured and the computerized two-pipe irrigation system expanded.

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