

## Graham/Panks jazz up Scottsdale

RIO VERDE, Ariz. — Touring pro David Graham and design partner Gary Panks have opened Tonto Verde Golf Club here.

The softly contoured 6,737-yard par-72 course is the centerpiece of the 600-acre Tonto Verde subdivision, being developed by Rio Verde Development, Inc. Views of the Mazatal, Superstition, and McDowell mountain ranges surround the course, providing the players with spectacular panoramas unique to the area.

They have also broken ground of the Talon Course at the Grayhawk Golf Club, in north Scottsdale.

Grayhawk developers Gregg Tryhus and Del Cochran are in the initial stages

of construction of the 7,000-yard, par-72 layout.

"Scottsdale is fortunate to have several of this country's finest courses, and we have set our sights high. From the day it opens, we intend to have our first course considered as one of the best in the state," said Cochran.

Construction plans call for grassing the 176-acre layout to begin by early summer, with the course opening scheduled by year's end.

The fairways and tees are to be planted with Tifway 419, and the grassy hollows and collars around bunkers will be Tifgreen 328. The greens will have Penncross bentgrass, with a three-foot ryegrass border.



The par-4, 350-yard 5th hole at Graham/Panks' Tonto Verde Golf Club.

## 'That sinking feeling' is more than an expression at Shoal Canyon

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building the course.

"It's a unique project, that's for sure," said Siemens. "The site itself is sinking as we speak. Most of the greens are being built without any features because you're going to get features over time, whether you want them or not.

"There's no way to predict it. Some areas are sinking faster than others."

Ground was broken last November, with seeding scheduled for July. Twelve holes

are being built on a former landfill that has been capped. The remaining six holes are perched atop a granite knoll, providing commanding views of the Los Angeles basin and even the Channel Islands on those rare, clear days.

The city of Glendale pursued a golf course development deal because the land has no other practical use, explained American Golf's Director of Construction Tom Devlin.

"We're developing the course in partnership with the city," said Devlin. "It's

a long-term lease: They provide land, we provide construction and management. We'll pay rent depending on the revenues.

"It's a wonderful site. On a clear day, there's nothing like it in L.A."

...

"There will be some unique problems and noticeable changes in topography. It will be a continuing maintenance problem for AGC," said Siemens.

However, if any management company is prepared to deal with a landfill course, it's American Golf.

"We probably operate more golf courses on landfills — eight — than any other management company," said Devlin. "We have a lot of experience with settlement and unique maintenance requirements.

"To say it's sinking six feet each year simply isn't accurate. That's just hearsay. It may have sunk six feet in one place while another doesn't move at all. We've also had a lot of rain, which makes the landfill settle even more."

According to Devlin, landfill courses require some special design and

maintenance measures.

Irrigation, for example, cannot be overdone because water "unsettles" the underground trash. Siemens noted that landfill courses must be "meticulously drained" to avoid excess water leaching through the cap to the landfill.

Irrigation lines break more often, so facilities should employ an in-house technician to act quickly, Devlin said. Further, polyethylene pipes should be used for main irrigation lines in order to withstand the bending and stretching.

Concrete cart paths are a no-no, due to the shifting topography. And whenever possible, drainage should be handled on the surface, via swales and barancas, as opposed to underground piping.

Does the sinking and settling ever stop?

"I'm not an expert on landfills," said Devlin, "but I've built enough to say it never really stops. There is a curve that shows settlement abates over time. But frankly, with Shoal Canyon, I don't know where we are on that curve."

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## Two family facilities planned for Dallas

DALLAS — Emerald Family Entertainment, Inc. will develop, construct and operate two new facilities in the Dallas area this year.

Galleria Golf Center will be a 52-station, lighted driving range in north Dallas' Galleria shopping/commercial district. Tour Play Golf Center, located in the suburb of Mesquite, will be a 48-station, lighted driving range, and upscale nine-hole par-3 course.

## Morrishes hang out design shingle together

FLOWER MOUND, Texas — Jay Morrish & Associates, Ltd. has opened offices in this Dallas suburb. Jay Morrish is president and son Carter is vice president of the course design firm.

"This central location offers us the opportunity to work on a variety of projects covering a large geographic area. I love the Dallas area and wish we had moved here 10 years ago," said Jay Morrish.

Carter is also designing golf courses with Roy Bechtol of Austin and PGA touring pro Howard Twitty.

## Graves-designed muni growing in

McCALL, Idaho — Substantial construction was completed in 1993 on a nine-hole addition to the 18-hole McCall Municipal Golf Course.

The par-35 layout was designed by Robert Muir Graves of Walnut Creek, Calif.

The addition, developed by O'Neill Enterprises, is to be given to the city, along with 100 acres of land. Developer Peter O'Neill also will provide a mile-long section through Spring Mountain Ranch for construction of an eastern bypass road for the city of McCall.

Golf course developments and other improvements will be financed by a city local improvement district bond issue, amortized by the sale of home sites at Spring Mountain.

Neal Meagher, Graves design associate, said, "In order to match the new nine to the existing 18, we've used sand bunkers sparingly, which leaves alternative open routes into the greens."