

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** — A multi-million dollar expansion is underway at Still Waters Resort and Conference Center on Lake Martin, which includes 32 new golf villas, another 18-hole golf course, clubhouse and hotel. The cost of the first phase of construction is estimated between \$7 and \$8 million, according to Bill Hite, general manager of the resort. Defender Resort Development of Myrtle Beach, S.C., is managing the expansion. The 2,200-acre Still Waters Resort opened in the late 1970s.

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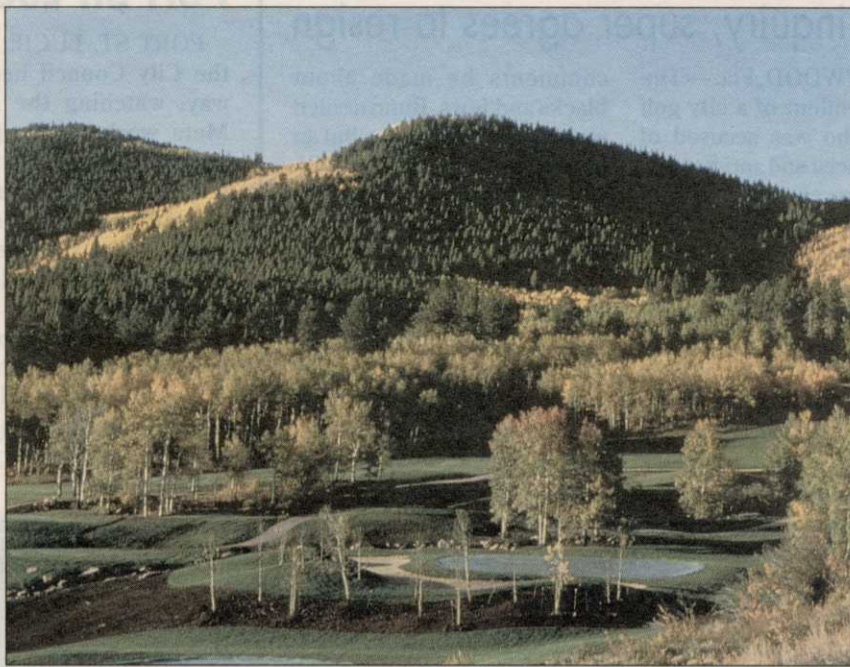
**BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP, Ohio** — First it was road embankments. Next up, Echo Valley Golf Course? Yes. After watching the Black River gradually gobble up most of a 30-foot road embankment in this northern Ohio town, Lorain County engineers will re-route part of the river 1,000 feet away from the road — and right next to the fairway on Echo Valley's par-4, 8th hole.

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**RICHMOND, Va.** — Local golf architect Lester George has signed on with Boonsboro Country Club in Lynchburg to help the club in its long-range master plan to renovate and restore the course originally designed by Fred Findlay in 1927. George has also done renovations at Birkdale, Kiln Creek in Newport News, Fort Lee and Hanover.

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**BETHEL, Conn.** — The Parks and Recreation Commission here is taking a step toward the creation of Bethel's first public golf course. The commission recently earmarked \$7,000 in its 1995-96 budget for a feasibility study of converting part of a town-owned parcel near the Francis J. Clarke Industrial park on Route 53. The idea of a municipal course in Bethel has been floating around for years. The commission does not have a cost estimate for building the golf course. But Timothy Burke, director of the Parks and Rec, said taxpayers won't bear the financial burden of any such project.

**AND FAZIO MAKES TWO...**

The new, Hale Irwin-designed golf course at Cordillera (above) — the 3,100-acre mountain-top community overlooking Vail Valley, Colo — will soon have a sister course. Slated to begin construction this spring, the new course will be designed by Tom Fazio. Situated at a 6,500-foot elevation, it will be called the Valley Course, in contrast to Cordillera's 8,250-foot-elevation Mountain Course (see above), designed by Irwin and opened in 1994. An additional short course is slated to begin construction in 1996.

## Conference focuses on Asian management

By HAL PHILLIPS

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** — The supply of club managers in Asia-Pacific has never met demand and, as golf course development continues to boom in the region, the need for experienced club managers becomes more and more critical.

With this in mind, the International Association of Golf Course Managers (IAGCM) will stage the first certificate course in "Club Operations and Golf & Country Club Management," beginning Oct. 1 here at the Pan Pacific Glenmarie Resort.

"This program is being held first in the Asia-Pacific region, as there is an acute shortage of qualified golf & country club managers in the region, especially Malaysia," said Jiun Siew, IAGCM secretary.

"Many in the club management profession have risen through the ranks. Very few have achieved degrees in the hospitality field. The ever-changing climate of golf & country club management demands a highly qualified, highly trained professional who can manage the changes occurring daily."

The IAGCM is a non-profit body formed in 1899 to provide for and enhance the international professionalism of the golf club manager. The association is the only one of its kind to represent managers on an international scale, according to C.K. Leong, attorney for IAGCM.

The intensive six-week course will begin Oct. 1 and conclude in mid-November. According to Leong, the program is

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## Former ranch may serve as backdrop for eco-showdown

By J. BARRY MOTHES

**KNIGHTS FERRY, Calif.** — A historic Stanislaus County cattle ranch has become the scene of what could be a landmark legal shootout over development of golf courses on farmland.

Plans to build a 600-acre golf resort on the hilly, dry terrain of Willms Ranch near Knights Ferry have put state farmers, environmentalists and the attorney general's deputies on the same team in a fight against developers and county supervisors.

Who wins may determine what can go on state-protected farmland in the future. The legal battle also may decide whether landowners will get tax breaks for putting recreation developments, such as golf courses, on agricultural land.

The National Audubon Society filed a lawsuit to stop the Willms Ranch project but received an adverse ruling from a Stanislaus County Superior Court judge. From there, the environmental group appealed its case to the 5th District Court of Appeals in Fresno. The California Farm Bureau and the state have joined in support of the Audubon appeal.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the Willms family wants to build a world-class golf course and resort called Wildcat Creek Resort on the 2,500-acre ranch it has owned since the mid-1800s. The plans include a public 18-hole golf course, driving range, restaurant, bar, meeting room, tennis courts and swimming pool.

State officials said the project is symbolic of the disintegration of the Williamson Act, a 1965 state law that gives a tax break to farmers who promise to keep their land in agricultural production for 10 years.

The project was approved by the county Planning Commission and

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