

Mahan gets OK for Golden State links

MOORPARK, Calif. — The county Board of Supervisors has approved a proposal to build two golf courses at Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park.

Developer Ralph Mahan grew up in the Happy Camp area and plans to preserve as much of the 3,700-acre property in its natural state as he possibly can.

Previous plans for the park

have included being the site for the 1984 Olympic rifle events and a large resort complex that was supposed to be built by Quor Resorts.

Quor Resorts backed out of the deal last spring, leaving the state-owned property for Mahan to assume.

Mahan anticipates a two-year environmental review process before course construction can begin.

City must pay Calif. course operator \$4.1m

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — A federal judge has ordered the city of Mountain View to pay \$4.1 million in damages to the operator of its municipal golf course because the city failed to adequately maintain a landfill underneath the greens.

The lack of proper maintenance led to sinkholes on the golf course while large patches of grass were killed by escaping methane gas.

The decision may settle a lawsuit stemming from the bank-

ruptcy filing of the Mountain View Golf Co.

Mountain View is a private firm that has operated the 180-acre golf course at Shoreline Park since 1987.

The golf company charged that its problems were the result of the city's failure to maintain the landfill underneath the course, which opened in 1982.

The city, meanwhile, blamed the golf course operator and sought to terminate the 20-year lease agreement so it could op-

erate the golf course itself.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge James R. Grube was highly critical of the city's handling of the development of the golf course. He said the city knew that the water needed to irrigate a golf course could seep through cracks in the clay cap covering the landfill and therefore speed up decomposition and the buildup of methane gas.

The gas escaped and cut off oxygen to the roots of the grass on the greens.

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CIRCLE #107

Mayor loses battle for new greenskeeper

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. — It appears Mayor Mario Villa, one of the city's most avid golfers, has lost the Battle of the New Greenskeeper.

Villa wanted the city's Golf Commission to hire a full-time specialist greenskeeper for its 18-hole municipal golf course, something it doesn't currently have. A general superintendent runs the course. But the five-member commission voted it down.

"The consensus was to stay the way we were," said Villa. He then ended a very brief telephone conversation by saying, "Sorry, have to go."

The proposal generated a fair amount of controversy in this upstate New York city. Under Villa's proposal, the greenskeeper could potentially have made \$36,000, which is \$5,500 more than the mayor's annual salary.

Palmer to craft Cincinnati track

CINCINNATI — No word on the size of the golf carts, or whether a fez will be de rigeur, but the Shriners have hired Arnold Palmer design an 18-hole course at their Shrine Oasis in Clermont County.

Project architect Robert Bicknaver called the decision a big step in the development of the Oasis property with its Conference and Banquet Center now under construction.

The proposed new Shrine facility will be located on 220 acres and include soccer, softball, fishing lakes, walking trails, swimming, tennis, camping and other family amenities.

The Oasis Golf Course will be operated as a daily-fee private club.