

## Maine court sides with injured golfer

FORT KENT, Maine — The Maine Supreme Court has upheld a \$40,000 jury award to a woman golfer who was injured when her own ball bounced off railroad tracks and struck her in the face.

Jeannine Pelletier sued the Fort Kent Golf Club for damages for nose and facial injuries. Both sides then appealed to the state Supreme Court: Pelletier and her husband over the amount of the award and the club to overturn the verdict.

The club, located in remote northern Maine at the Canadian border, argued it was not liable because it did not own Bangor and Aroostook branch railway line, which crosses the club's first fairway. The line was little used at the time of the accident and is idle now. The rails are visible from the first tee. Under a club "free lift" rule, a golfer whose ball lands near the tracks can move the ball to the other side.

In upholding the size of the award and rebuffing the club's appeal, the court stated, "Although the tracks are not under the club's absolute control, the club's duty extends to the land which it has invited golfers to use."

Second-class postage paid at Yarmouth, Maine, and additional mailing office. *Golf Course News* (ISSN 1054-0644) is published monthly by United Publications, Inc., 38 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Phone number is 207-846-0600.

The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material or prices quoted in the newspaper. Contributors are responsible for proper release of proprietary classified information. Copyright 1995 by United Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole and in part, without the written permission from the publisher is expressly prohibited.

Reprints and permission to reprint may be obtained from Managing Editor, *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Back issues, when available, cost \$5 each within the past 12 months, \$10 each prior to the past 12 months. Back issue orders must be paid in advance either by check or charged to American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

*Golf Course News* is distributed in the U.S. without charge to qualified personnel of golf course facilities and to golf course builders, developers and architects. Subscriptions to Canadian golf facilities cost \$25 annually; other paid subscriptions to the U.S. and Canada cost \$45. All foreign subscriptions cost \$125 annually to cover air delivery. All payments must be made in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. **For subscriber services, please call 215-788-7112.** Send address changes to *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 3047, Langhorne, Pa. 19047-3047.

## Calif. Mayor prefers course to prison

SAN MATEO, Calif. — Irv Amstrup, the former mayor of Burlingame, recently proposed shutting down the San Francisco Jail in San Bruno and building a golf course on the site.

Amstrup's suggestion was made partly out of frustration over the reluctance of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to include a golf course in its long-range master plans for the watershed area.

"We need to kick up a storm and tell them to move their jail out of our town — put it in their own town," Amstrup said.

"This is something that everyone could really get behind: golfers, non-golfers, even the environmentalists. No one likes the jail there, everyone wants it to go.

"It is time to start fighting the infringement of San Francisco upon our county."

## Newly public Presidio reopens

SAN FRANCISCO — The complicated transition of the private Presidio/Army Golf Club to the public Presidio Golf Course is complete.

The scenic, historic course — which is run by Arnold Palmer Golf Management — opened for public play in September.

Greens fees are \$35 on weekdays and \$45 on weekends.

Palmer's management firm, which is based in Orlando, Fla., and owns or leases 16 golf facilities in the U.S. and abroad, has a

10-year contract and will play the National Park Service an undisclosed percentage of gross receipts.

The firm has agreed to invest several million dollars in a new irrigation system, clubhouse and golf cars.

"It's a great golf course which has had limited public play," said John DePriest, general manager and director of golf for Palmer Management, "and I think the excitement is going to be at a high pitch."

