

## Calif. judge rules against driving range

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The driving range at the 18-hole public Los Robles Greens golf course may be closed after a Ventura County judge recently refused to revise an injunction that forbids any golf balls from landing on adjoining property.

The injunction calls for zero golf balls to fall on a construction site for an office building on Moorpark Road next to the golf course.

The city had argued there was no way to keep a golf driving range open without a few stray balls and therefore the injunction should be eased. The city had also said it could solve the problem by building a higher safety fence or realigning the range.

But Judge Barbara Lane de-

clined to modify her preliminary injunction and set the trial date for a permanent injunction on Aug. 19. The city has asked Lane to allow the minimal number of stray balls to pass over the range's existing 40-foot-high protective screen.

The controversy started last year when neighboring property owner Al Dickens sued the city-owned golf course. Dickens complained that 30 golf balls a day pelted the construction site. One of them apparently struck

Dickens in the head on Dec. 8, 1995 and knocked him unconscious. Dickens did not enforce the injunction while the city tried to find a solution to the dilemma, but attempts to find an agreement failed.

City attorney Mark Sellers said he sees no way the city can guarantee there will be no stray balls from the driving range and therefore the range will have to be closed to the public. He said the range could still be used for lessons and controlled groups.

## Ore. airport track readies for take-off

BEND, Ore. — An 18-hole municipal golf course project on city-owned land north of Bend Airport has picked up a new head of steam.

Golf Services Group Inc. of Houston, which originally proposed a course five years ago, is interested in developing the course and is in the midst of lease negotiations with city officials.

Golf Services recently announced it had secured some

\$4 million in private investor financing and reportedly wants a minimum 50-year land lease for the course.

One key lure for Golf Services Group is the prospect of the free use of city-owned land as well as treated effluent from Bend's sewage treatment plant.

PGA Tour pro Peter Jacobsen, who lives in Portland, Ore., would design the golf course.

## Sacramento track garners county support

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — County supervisors are supporting a proposed 18-hole public course known as the Teal Bend project despite Federal Aviation Administration concerns about collisions between birds and airplanes in the Sacramento International Airport flight path, which runs over the proposed golf course site.

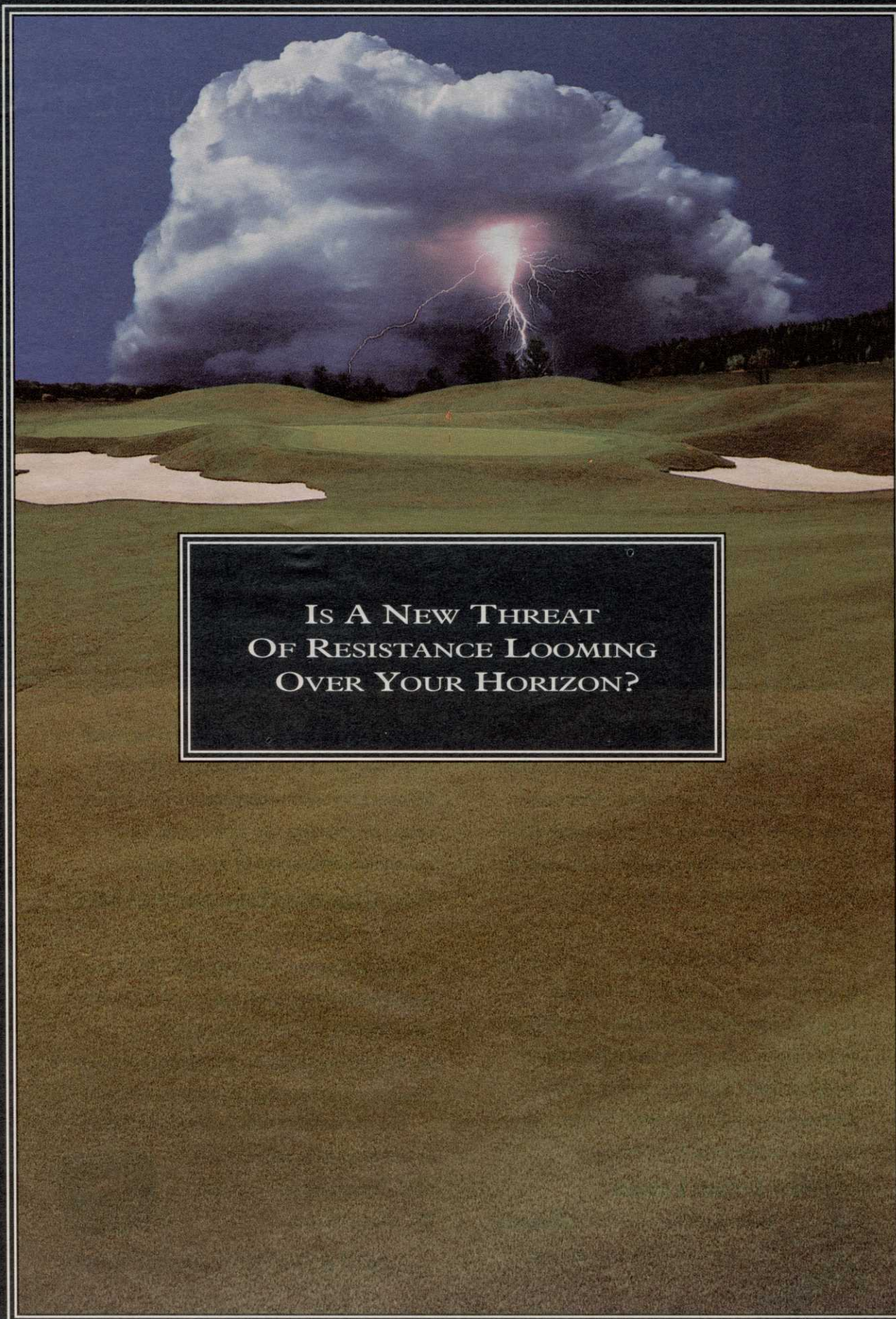
Developer Chris Steele of Rancho Cordova will build the golf course on 284 acres of agricultural land west of the airport between Elverta Road and Elkhorn Boulevard. The facility will include a driving range, clubhouse, pro shop, restaurant, snack bar and 100 acres of additional open space.

A federal aviation inspector had spoken against the proposal, saying the course would attract migrating ducks, geese and other birds that could interfere with airplane traffic overhead, which is already a problem.

County officials and the developer said that they will use scarecrows, dogs, water sprays and approved repellents to try to minimize the bird population on the course once it is built.

### ARIZONA LAYOUT TO ADD NINE NEW HOLES

FLORENCE, Ariz. — A facelift is in store for the nine-hole Gold Canyon Ranch Golf Course. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors has approved a nine-hole expansion which would give the mountainous course 18 holes as originally intended. The new nine holes will be used as the front nine and the current nine will be expanded and become the back nine, according to Harold Christ, a representative of Jupiter Realty, the group in charge of the project.



IS A NEW THREAT  
OF RESISTANCE LOOMING  
OVER YOUR HORIZON?