



Judges give green light to Jacksonville plan

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A long-awaited Florida Supreme Court ruling has opened the door for developers to begin work on the massive Saint Johns and World Golf Village projects here.

The construction of a residential community and golf resort in St. Johns County had been delayed since last summer by a legal challenge.

In a ruling released in February, the court rejected an appeal to stop the county from selling bonds to build a controversial

\$11 million convention center considered central to the project.

In a unanimous ruling, the justices said the argument by a St. John County political action group to halt the sale was without merit.

Richard Bowers, a lobbyist with the PGA Tour, said the ruling cleared the way for the association to build a planned golf mecca at Saint Johns that will include a \$100 million complex featuring a golf hall of fame and other amenities. The resort is anticipated to

draw a million visitors a year.

Davidson Development, the company building the 7,200 residential units and a golf course on 6,000 acres enveloping the PGA's World Golf Village, also will restart stalled development next month or in early April.

Central to the project was the development of a hotel and convention center. Hotel development could not proceed without the county agreeing to sell \$11 million in revenue bonds for an 80,000-square-foot convention center.

New Nicklaus track to host Tour stop

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii — The new Jack Nicklaus-designed Hualalai Golf Club at Four Seasons Resort will host the Senior PGA Tour's Mastercard Championship starting in 1997.

The Mastercard Championship will be held the week before the high-profile Senior Skins event and is expected to draw some of the world's best senior golfers. Further, the Mastercard Champion-

ship will be televised on either ESPN or ABC and will be held at Hualalai for at least the next 10 years.

The Hualalai Golf Club is the first facility to be designated a PGA Tour resort. The Nicklaus course in North Kona is 7,117 yards long from the professional tees. The course is private and open only to property owners and Four Seasons Hotel guests at the 625-acre resort.

LA set to review 6-year-old golf course proposal

LOS ANGELES — A plan to build two public courses on sand dunes west of Los Angeles International Airport has been revived after six years of inaction.

Airport officials said the plan, which includes an 18-hole course and a nine-hole layout, will be considered later this year as part of the airport's new master plan.

Officials are halfway through a detailed study, at a cost of \$10 million to \$15 million, to come up with a master plan for the airport that could dramatically change the face of the airport.

The idea of building courses near the airport was first broached in the late 1970s. They were to be built on sand dunes between Pershing Avenue and Vista del Mar, a neighborhood razed by the airport in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The site is home to the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly and endangered lizards and plants. Part of that land was to be earmarked for a wildlife preserve.

The idea surfaced again six years ago, when airport officials said a course could generate profits that could be used to restore the ecosystem of the dunes.

Maui could ease watering bans

WAILUKU, Hawaii — The Maui Council is proposing to ease a ban on the use of potable water for irrigating courses on the small island of nearby Lanai.

The proposal would amend a zoning condition for the Koele project district that prohibits the use of potable water on the course.

Some residents are concerned about damage to the courses if there is not enough irrigation water. Irrigation water is supposed to be from non-potable sources, including treated effluent.

Lanai Resort Partners has struggled for years to develop new irrigation sources. A hearing was held in February on charges the company violated a state Land Use Commission prohibition on high-level water usage.

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