

NEWS IN BRIEF

DECATUR, Ga. — Pinched by rising competition from nearby private golf clubs and shrinking public funds, DeKalb County is getting out of the golf business. The county is seeking bids from private contractors to see how they would go about privatizing the county's two courses, Sugar Creek and Mystery Valley. DeKalb is following the lead of other metro governments, such as Atlanta and Cobb County, which have turned over most operations of public golf courses to private companies.

NORMAN, Okla. — The \$4.4 million renovation and upgrade of the Oklahoma University GC is on schedule and the course is set to reopen in July. Golf Works Inc. of Austin has completed its phase of the golf course project, which started in February 1995. Bulldozers and tractors reshaped greens and rerouted some fairways. When finished, the course will have fully irrigated greens and fairways.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Golf course architect Robert C. Walker Inc. of Atlantic Beach is the designer behind an ambitious \$1 million renovation of the Municipal Golf Course (north course) here. The 18-hole layout has deteriorated in recent years and has been a major source of complaints. The city formed a Golf Course Advisory Board about two years ago.

Golf still riding casino coattails

By HAL PHILLIPS

Golf development continues to benefit from the burgeoning gaming market, much of it administered by Indian tribes on reservations exempt from state and federal statutes.

As casinos of all types sprout up and expand in Connecticut, Mississippi, Nevada, Missouri and California, golf has proved a profitable ancillary component to gaming establishments intent on transforming themselves from mere bingo houses into diverse family-oriented, en-

tertainment centers.

Those casinos located on reservation land have proved even more accommodating to golf, as a tribe's sovereign-nation status frees golf developers from local, state and national environmental restrictions. Tribes also hold unfettered water rights on their reservations, making golf possible in arid climates like the American Southwest [GCN, July 1994].

"They've got land and they've got water. With the gambling element at play, it

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PALMER TEAMS WITH AGC

Hiddenbrooke Country Club in Vallejo, Calif., an Arnold Palmer signature course, opened for play Oct. 4. Owned by Tokyo-based Misawa Homes of America — one of Japan's premier house-builders — Hiddenbrooke is also the latest addition to the management portfolio at American Golf Country Clubs, a division of American Golf Corp. (AGC). For more AGC news, see page 81.

WITHOUT RESERVATION?

What follows is a list of casino-related and Indian-related golf projects now under construction, in planning and being considered across the country.

- **Where:** Bay St. Louis, Miss.
Casino: Magic!
Architect: Arnold Palmer/Ed Seay
Holes: 18
Status: Under construction
- **Where:** Pequot Nation Reservation, Ledyard, Conn.
Foxwoods Casino
Architect: Rees Jones/Robert Trent Jones Sr.
Holes: 36
Status: In planning
- **Where:** Chippewa Reservation, Watersmeet, Mo.
Lac Vieux Desert Band GC
Architect: Mattingly Kuehn Golf Design
Holes: 9
Status: In planning
- **Where:** Paiute Reservation, Las Vegas
Las Vegas Paiute Resort
Architect: Pete Dye
Holes: 72
Status: 18 completed, 18 under construction, 36 in planning
- **Where:** Stateline, Nev.
Primm Creek Golf Complex
Architect: Tom Fazio
Holes: 36
Status: 18 under construction, 18 in planning
- **Where:** Chataway Reservation, Philadelphia, Miss.
Dancing Rabbit Golf Club
Architect: Tom Fazio
Holes: 18
Status: Under construction
- **Where:** Golf Ranch Casino, Verdi, Nev.
Genoa Lakes
Architect: John Harbottle
Holes: 18
Status: Completed fall '95
- **Where:** Fort Mojave Reservation, Loughlin, Nev.
Project not yet named (managed by Southwest Golf)
Architect: Landmark
Holes: 18
Status: Under construction

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