

Black investors seek funding for Tennessee club

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — A group of predominantly black business leaders are pursuing a vision that would have been unthinkable just decades ago.

Led by Jim Brooks — a Brownsville native who left as a boy and returned as an investment broker — the group is working to build an 18-hole private country club on land Brooks owns in Haywood County between Jackson and Memphis. Brooks believes the Haywood Country Club will be the first minority-owned combination golf course and country club in the United States. The club is actively seeking both black and white investors and members.

Construction has started on the first nine holes and the group hopes to have it open for play by spring 1997. A second nine will be added next summer. The group's vision for Haywood Country Club includes a full 18-hole golf course, a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse, an Olympic size swimming pool, tennis courts, a banquet room, cottages for overnight lodging and riding trails.

The club's leaders are looking to raise \$8 million to complete the project, which is located in one of the more economically-depressed counties in the state. As of July 1996, the unemployment rate in Haywood County was 14.5 percent, more than three times higher than the state average of 4.9 percent. Brooks and the group hopes the project will be a catalyst to spur interest and jobs in the county. The Rev. Jesse Jackson was scheduled to come to the Jackson Civic Center in October to speak and support the venture, according to Brooks. The group has also contacted celebrities like Michael Jordan to join or financially back the club.

Va. Beach muni track reopens

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Bow Creek is back. The venerable 18-hole Virginia Beach municipal course is open again after a nine-month hiatus caused by the city's Plaza Drainage Project.

Bow Creek underwent several changes while closed. The city built a lake and several drainage canals to carry water away from surrounding neighborhoods during heavy rains. The lake comes into play on the second, third and fourth holes. The canals come into play on six.

"It changes the nature of those holes," Bow Creek pro Phil Stewart told *The Virginian-Pilot*. "It's like playing a whole new golf course."

Ill. golfers look forward to RTJ II track

BEACH PARK, Ill. — The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course planned here will be called Thunderhawk.

"When I strike with my club, it sounds like thunder, and the ball soars like the speeding hawk," said Robert Grever, a member of the Lake

County Forest Preserve District Board who settled a tumultuous committee argument on the name of the district's planned golf course.

Construction is expected to start later this year on the 253-acre, 18-hole course. It should open in two years.

Ariz. facility dubbed Longbow GC

MESA, Ariz. — When it comes to naming a new golf course, developers in Arizona usually draw on scenic landmarks like lakes, canyons and mountains for inspiration.

But the McDonnell Douglas aerospace company came up with a different twist for a new course it is developing in Mesa. They're naming it the Longbow

Golf Course after the AH-64D Longbow Apache, a helicopter gunship built almost across the street from the course by its helicopter division. McDonnell Douglas Realty Co. of Long Beach, Calif., is developing the 6,811-yard track.

Construction on the desert-style layout, designed by Ken Kavanaugh, started earlier this fall.

If 15 years of being the foremost fungicide isn't enough, might we snare you with our drum?

