

Pittsburgh muni links receiving summer facelift

PITTSBURGH — The public courses in North Park and South Park are headed for facelifts this summer under the new management of Fore Star Golf, Inc. of Lubbock, Texas.

Fore Star, which operates courses in four states, has taken over management of the courses from Allegheny County and has pledged \$1 million in improvements to the 18-hole North course and the nine-hole South layout.

Plans call for green renovations, improved mowing practices on greens and fairways, better-defined rough areas, and rebuilt bunkers with new sand and expanded, level tee areas. Work is scheduled to start early this month and last about two months.

Okemo may add to Vt. course portfolio

LUDLOW, Vt. — Another new golf course in the Green Mountain state? Maybe.

Officials at Okemo Mountain Ski Resort have been buying up parcels of land for what they say could soon be an 18-hole course. In the past year, the resort has purchased four different parcels totaling about 172 acres.

Okemo vice president Dan Petraska said Okemo is considering developing an 18-hole layout on land that would be a mix of woodlands and old pastures. The town has only one golf course nearby, nine-hole Fox Run. Petraska said there is a pent-up demand for a larger course and that it would create more interest in the area during the summer and fall.

NEW 18 SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN SOUTHEASTERN PA

LIMERICK, Pa. — The new 18-hole Turtle Creek Golf Course designed by Ed Beidel of Hassenplug Associates is set to open for partial play this month. The course was eight years in the making. It sits on 167 acres and is owned and will be operated by the Waltz family, who have long been involved in the turf business and run a chip-and-putt facility in the area. At least nine holes are scheduled to open this month, with the other nine possibly opening in the fall.

Local residents team up to purchase R.I. golf facility

MISQUAMICUT, R.I. — A coalition of community residents and land preservationists teamed up to buy the nine-hole Pond View Golf Course that has been on the market for a year.

The 1350-member group, which includes members of the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation and residents of West-

erly and other surrounding towns, bought the 60-acre course for \$1.67 million from Samuel J. Urso, Jr., of Westerly. The course has been renamed the Weekapaug Golf Club and will remain open to the public.

As part of the purchase, development rights for the Shore Road course have been retired, mean-

ing that as long as the group owns the property it will never be developed. The course sits on scenic land overlooking Winnapaug Pond, one of Rhode Island's three environmentally significant saltwater ponds.

The group that bought the course was aiming to raise \$1 million toward the \$1.67 million,

but ended up raising \$1.1 million from about 135 investors. Under the plan, investors could contribute between \$2,000 and \$10,000 to become a charter member of the new club.

Improvements are planned for the nine-hole course, which has been in operation since the 1960s. An automated irrigation system is planned and changes are proposed for some holes.

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