

Nicklaus to design private Tenn. links...

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. — Jack Nicklaus will design a private, 18-hole course on a 600-acre tract in Shelby County known as Spring Creek Ranch for world-renowned Memphis-based eye surgeon Dr. David Meyer.

Nicklaus and Meyer reportedly met in Arizona where Nicklaus was hunting and Meyer backpacking. The planned site is farmland that has been in Meyer's family for 20 years. Meyer had been considering a golf course for years. The course, called Spring Creek, will be designed, built and managed by Nicklaus. Developers hope it will become one of the state's top courses.

Nicklaus has become involved in recent years with the designing of a four-course system for the Tennessee State Parks that will be known as Bear Trace. But the Spring Creek project with Meyer will be only the second private club Nicklaus has designed in Tennessee. The first was the Richland Country Club in suburban Nashville.

Meyer has already formed steering committees for the project that include some of the 40 founding members and others. Some of Meyer's concepts for the project include a small house reminiscent of older, traditional European golf courses as the entry point to the club, with about four cottages nearby for guest instructors and others

... while state park project resumes

JACKSON, Tenn. — Construction on the Jack Nicklaus-designed 18-hole golf course proposed for Chickasaw State Park could resume this summer after a nearly year-long delay.

State representatives said long-awaited construction on the 200-acre facility could begin within the next couple of months, now that officials have identified specific wetlands areas to avoid.

Construction stalled last summer on the 18-hole course due to the discovery of wetlands. Now, the only barrier is for state and federal Environmental Protection Agency officials to reach an agreement on which areas to avoid.

Erskin Bonds of Golf Services Group of Houston, the company building the course, told *The Jackson Sun*: "We are depending on the state to try to settle this with the agency. We're not going to back off of it — we're going to be sure that we get it in down there."

who will participate in some of the club's educational programs, a large practice area, and an environmentally-sensitive approach. Spring Creek plans have already been submitted for review in the Audubon's Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Meyer said he would also like to see the course eventually be a site for top state and national amateur golf events.

Nevada's Empire Ranch finally dry and ready for play

CARSON CITY, Nev. — After three months of digging out from a New Year's flood, the \$6 million daily-fee Empire Ranch Golf Course has opened all 27 holes.

In early January, the Carson River overflowed its banks and caused more than \$200,000 in damage to growing fairways and greens. The flood submerged the new 27-hole course under 10 to 14 feet of water. Three months were spent

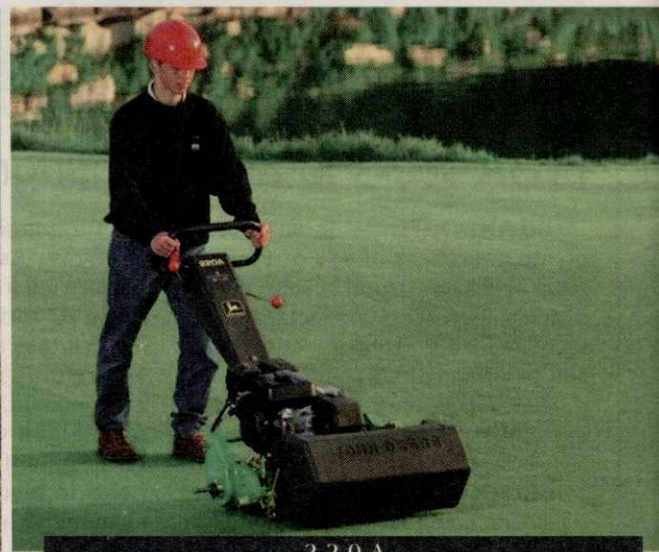
doing little but cleaning up and the work delayed the scheduled opening by 45 days.

Eighteen holes opened in mid-April and the other nine in early May, giving Carson City yet another public-access course. Each of the three nines — named the Sierra, River and Comstock courses — is a par-36 layout.

Empire Ranch Golf Course is part of a 300-acre residential development.



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