

BRIEFS

KINGSTON, R.I. — University of Rhode Island officials have announced plans for a \$3.5 million course that would provide a place for students, faculty and the public to golf and would also serve as a working laboratory for turfgrass students. The course project is still in planning, but URI officials reportedly have already met with PGA Tour player Brad Faxon, a Rhode Island native, about their plans. The proposed site for the course includes part of a federal Superfund cleanup site

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WINDSOR, Colo. — Construction has started on Windsor's 18-hole, daily-fee Pelican Lakes golf course, a layout that will have 7 1/2 miles of shoreline. Steve Watson, a former wide receiver with the NFL's Denver Broncos, is one of the lead developers for the project. The course was designed by architect Ted Robinson. The extensive shoreline is a result of the Poudre River, which winds through the site and will border 17 holes. The course is scheduled to be open by summer 1999.

Airport officials seek to redesign LA's Westchester GC

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles International Airport officials want to redesign the public, 15-hole Westchester Golf Course at the airport and add three holes that have been missing from the layout since 1993 to create a "first-class golf course."

The airport has reportedly received more than 70 inquiries from different golf course companies about the project. American Golf Corp. has operated the course in recent years on a month-to-month lease and is expected to be one of the firms interested in a long-term agreement.

Airport officials have wanted to update the 31-year-old

course for several years and replace the three holes lost in the construction of the Westchester Parkway, a six-lane highway along the airport's northern border. The Los Angeles City Council will choose a winning company sometime next year. That company is expected to pump an estimated \$6.5 million into the 77-acre course adjacent to the Westchester community.

Along with the three new holes, airport officials are also looking for renovations to every existing hole, a new double-deck driving range and a new 9,000-square-foot clubhouse to replace the current, aging structures.

Palmer, Imperial strike deal on franchisee financing

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf management announced that Franchise Mortgage Acceptance Company's Imperial Golf Finance Group has agreed to provide up to \$30 million in financing for new and existing Palmer Golf franchisees.

"This agreement will simplify the financing process for golf course owners who want to upgrade their courses by affiliation with a branded chain like Arnold Palmer," explained Peter Nanula, Palmer Golf's CEO. "What's unique about this arrangement is that we'll be able to provide one-stop shopping for our franchisees."

The FMAC agreement provides two funding sources for Palmer franchisees: refinancing of existing property and equipment debt, and financing for the cost to upgrade an existing course

and facility to Palmer's standards.

"These programs from FMAC Imperial Golf Finance Group provide an attractive and convenient source of financing for qualified franchisees," commented Randy Clifton, Vice President of Franchise Development for Palmer Golf. "The ability to finance renovations through FMAC's program removes a major obstacle for owners who want to reposition their courses."

"FMAC was able to provide a unique product based on our knowledge of the golf industry," said Ed Boyle, Senior Vice President of FMAC's Imperial Golf Finance Group. "Having the prestige of the Arnold Palmer brand is important to us. And we look forward to future dealings with Palmer Golf franchisees."

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