

## California airport board seeks private course operator

LOS ANGELES — Golfers in Palmdale, Calif., will continue playing the Desert Aire Golf Course as the Los Angeles World Airports Board of Airport Commissioners voted Thursday to seek a long-term private operator and end the city of Palmdale's lease to operate the course at that city's request.

The city of Palmdale has leased and operated the nine-hole, 47-acre golf course since 1982. Delano Enterprises, operator of the course's pro shop and restaurant under a lease from the city of Palmdale since 1991 and 1994, assumed the operation of the golf course in the high desert city in October. The

\$700,000 cost of operation and maintenance exceeded the course's revenues by \$200,000 last year.

With the city of Palmdale's lease with LAWA expiring on Dec. 31, Palmdale Parks and Recreation officials asked LAWA to relieve them of their role and find a private operator for the

long term. The board of airport commissioners agreed to allow Delano to operate the entire course on a month-to-month basis, while LAWA begins a process to find a private operator.

"The City of Palmdale is very much in favor of the continued operation of the golf course, as it represents a popular and important community recreational asset," said John Driscoll, LAWA's

executive director.

Delano's term of lease will last for six months. LAWA then will award a two-year lease to an operator through a request for proposal. During that period, LAWA will prepare a comprehensive request for proposal for a long-term operator. Desert Aire is located on Palmdale Regional Airport property at Avenue P and 40th Street East.

## Heckenkemper 18-hole layout opens in Ark.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Fayetteville's newest course, the 18-hole, daily-fee Stonebridge Meadows, has opened for play to rave reviews.

Golf course architect Randy Heckenkemper of Tulsa used the natural terrain of the former Goff Farms east of downtown Fayetteville to create a 7,150-yard layout. Bill Meadows, CEO of Meadows Enterprises, gave Heckenkemper freedom to take advantage of the 1,000-acre site. John Streachek is the course superintendent.

The course is named for a bridge on Stone Bridge Road, which dates back to around 1900 and is visible from the course's 10th hole. The site of Stonebridge Meadows was also reportedly the setting for an early golf course in the early part of the century. The facility's 2,400-square-foot clubhouse is a renovated business farmhouse from Goff Farms.

Meadows has said long-term plans include a second 18-hole layout on the property, with one of the courses becoming private.

## Phoenix planners vote to preserve Biltmore course

PHOENIX — The Adobe golf course at the Arizona Biltmore — the centerpiece of an ongoing controversy over landowners' rights — is a step closer to being preserved.

The city's planning commission has approved placing a "golf course district" designation for the Adobe course and adjacent courses, which would protect them from development. The City Council must still approve the designation.

The owner of the land on which the golf course sits, Kabuto Arizona Properties, is strongly opposed to the designation. Kabuto has said it plans to shut down the golf course and develop the land. It has also said it will fight any attempts to prevent it from developing the land.

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