

BRIEFS



KEMPER TO REVAMP NAVAL BASE

NORTHBROOK, Ill.—The Village of Glenview selected Kemper Sports Management to build and operate a daily-fee facility at the former Glenview Naval Air Station, a 1,121-acre former military base being converted to a mixed-use development. Glenview trustees approved the sale of 180 acres of land at the air base to Kemper Sports for use in building a course and clubhouse that will include a golf museum, restaurant and banquet facilities. Kemper Sports' vision for the planned \$20 million project is to create a world-class course and practice facility. As part of its bid, Kemper formed an alliance with the Illinois Section of the PGA (IPGA) enabling the IPGA to move its headquarters to the Glenview site. Upon opening, the new facility will also house the Illinois Golf Hall of Fame, an interactive museum celebrating the history of golf in Illinois and those who have made contributions to the game. Plans are to start construction this fall and open the course by spring 2001.

MOUNTAIN COURSE ADDED IN WIS.

MERRIMAC, Wis.—Offering "some of the best mountain golf in the Midwest" on 800 acres of glacier-formed bluff in Wisconsin's Baraboo Hills, Devil's Head Resort & Convention Center at Merrimac enters the 1999 season starting work on nine new holes to add to its 18-hole championship course. Some 45 minutes north of Madison, Devil's Head is located between Portage and the Wisconsin Dells.

IRWIN DESIGNS NEVADA COURSE

SPARKS, Nev.—Red Hawk Golf Club is adding an 18-hole course and 18-hole putting course designed by Hale Irwin. Winding along the cottonwoods and marshes at Wingfield Springs Village Center, the putting course is scheduled to open in the fall and feature 18 challenging bentgrass holes put together by the three-time U.S. Open champion. The Hills Course will wind through the Pah Rah Range, complementing the 18-hole Springs Course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

VERMONT'S OKEMO GC READIES FOR SPRING 2000 OPENING

OKEMA VALLEY, Vt.—Okemo Valley Golf Club, an 18-hole facility here, is scheduled to make its debut in the spring of 2000. The course will be home to the Okemo Valley Golf Academy, an 18-acre golf learning center. Okemo is also planning an expansion, called Jackson Gore, which will include a nine-hole executive golf course.

Doak's Apache Stronghold 'new-fangled' for desert

By MARK LESLIE

GLOBE, Ariz.—The San Carlos Apache Nation had The Apache Golf Casino, a couple thousand square miles of Apache land and plenty of Apache labor. What were they missing? A golf course.

But that will be remedied in May or June when the Tom Doak-designed 18-hole Apache Stronghold opens to public play here.

It will be a new-fangled type of course for the desert: wide (200-foot) landing areas, a lot (100 acres) of turfgrass, plentiful water supply, immense length (7,500 yards from the back tees), and cooler weather than most desert tracks (leading to a choice of dwarf bluegrass fairways and Dominant bentgrass greens because Bermudagrass would die at this 3,200-foot altitude in the mountains above Phoenix).

"The Apache Nation wanted to build a golf course that was good enough to make



The 2nd hole at Tom Doak-designed Apache Stronghold, built by the San Carlos Apache Nation, sits on the edge of the mountains above Phoenix.

people want to stay," said Doak who, with Apache Stronghold, has his first design west of the Mississippi River. "We think we've done that."

Given a couple thousand acres to choose from in building his course, Doak said he found "a terrific piece of land." So

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Native grasses play a key part, visually, around Chisholm Trail Golf Course, including this par-3 3rd hole located in the Sand Hills of Kansas.

A DREAM REALIZED

Affordable golf in Kansas' sand hills

By MARK LESLIE

ABILENE, Kan.—The sand hills of Nebraska produced one of the best golf courses of the last couple of decades in Sand Hills Golf Course. The sand hills of Kansas produced Perry Maxwell's top 25-rated Prairie Dunes in nearby Hutchinson in 1937. Dr. Jon Thayer hopes the same magic has been woven through the sand hills of Abilene—specifically on his Chisholm Trail Golf Course, which opened for public play here April 1 to far less fanfare than his famous neighbors.

Chisholm Trail was "laid gently on the land," Thayer said, "a rolling piece of

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Architects honor Palmer, elect president and new members

An 'icon of golf,' life given Ross Award

By MARK LESLIE

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Hailed as an icon in both golf and life who receives "grand and profound respect from all ages," Arnold Palmer received the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) at the group's 53rd annual meeting at Country Club of Charleston here March 22.

Citing Ross as a man who designed hundreds of golf courses which are "still the best in the world," Palmer said it was a pleasure and privilege to be there and accept the award. The man whose Ed Seay-led design company has laid out scores of courses over the last 35 years, made an appeal for golf course architects to maintain the traditions and integrity of the game of golf.

Palmer pointed to Jack Nicklaus, another designer/PGA Tour great who was in the room as an ASGCA mem-

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Tim Liddy at work on the draftboard.

Eight elected to ASGCA

By MARK LESLIE

CHARLESTON, S.C.—There are two keen ways to make it to the big time in golf course architecture: learn the craft from your father, or understudy to Pete and Alice Dye.

That is what Rick Phelps (son of Dick) and Tim Liddy (understudy to the Dyes)

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LaFoy named president of Architects Society

CHARLESTON, S.C.—John LaFoy of Greenville, S.C., who has built a national reputation with his new course designs and remodeling projects, was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's recent annual meeting here.

"This is a great honor for me," LaFoy said. "I am proud to be president of the society, whose members are the most experienced, creative and professional practitioners of golf course architecture in the world."

As head of his own golf course design firm and a former partner with prominent golf course architect George Cobb, LaFoy has designed, renovated or master planned more than 100 courses.

Among his designs and remodels are: Linville Ridge Country Club in Linville, N.C., Neuse Golf Club in Raleigh, N.C., Country Club of Charles-

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Joneses join forces in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Robert Trent Jones Sr. and son Robert Jr. are jointly designing the new Southern Highlands Golf Club here.

Southern Highlands Golf Club, which broke ground in January, is the centerpiece to a 2,300-acre master-planned community under development by Southern Highlands Development Corp. The golf

course is expected to open to members in December.

"We are extremely fortunate to have both Joneses designing this golf course," said Garry Goett, president of Southern Highlands Golf Club, L.L.C. "Jones Sr. is one of the true legends of the game, and his son, Robert Jr. (Bobby), is an extraordinarily

gifted architect in his own right. They have both been very active in the project. Senior has reviewed all of the routing and grading plans and has had input in every aspect of the design.

"Bobby also has been very hands-on, and has visited the site numerous times to ensure that the course is everything we have envisioned."

The Joneses' design features

a 7,240-yard, par-72 layout built on 220 acres of rolling desert foothills and rocky ridges 12 minutes south of the Las Vegas Strip.

"What's most striking about this golf course is the tremendous variety the golf experience provides," said Jones Jr. "Although it is a very traditional design in some respects, with lush landscaping and plenty of

turf, we've used the elevation changes, water features and bunker patterns to give each hole a personality all its own."

Southern Highlands' construction and early golf operations are being supervised by Raven Golf, an Arizona-based golf course development and management company that operates courses in Phoenix and Tucson, as well as in Florida.

Doak's Apache

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good, in fact, that the Apache builders moved just 25,000 to 35,000 cubic yards of dirt, enough to build an irrigation lake.

The "great stuff" this property consists of, he said, is "valleys between hills 50 feet high and just wide enough for one golf hole," a big wash meandering down through it, a number of smaller washes all around, and desert vegetation minus saguaro cacti.

"The puzzle in the desert," Doak said, "has always been how to keep the golf course playable. While it's going to be challenging from the back tees, it's a casino resort and has to be playable for the average golfer. The key in the desert is to get it wide enough to make it playable. And we have no big carries.

"In Phoenix and Tucson they take the washes out of play. But we wanted to do as little of that as possible. We used the washes as much as we could. But 'wide' was the key. We have 200 feet of grassing on most holes. Instead of instantly going from manicured to desert, we have rough on the edges."

The dwarf bluegrass fairways and bluegrass-fescue blend in the roughs was seeded the first of November "We're high enough and it gets cold long enough that consultants thought Bermudagrass would die," Doak said. "And they wanted something they wouldn't have to oversee. We're trying varieties of bluegrass that you can cut to a half-inch."

The local contractor, Apache West, "did a fine job shaping the lake," Doak said, and a 50-man crew of Apache laborers did the majority of the construction, led by project manager Neil Iverson (who helped install the \$1.3 million irrigation system) and shaper Jim Urbina.

The intention of the San Carlos Apache Nation, Doak said, "is to get casino visitors and others to drive up for the day from Tucson or Phoenix where it is 15 degrees hotter in the summer."

Once those golfers are there, Doak thinks he will have them hooked. Among his designs, he said, Apache Stronghold ranks "way high. It looks different from anything else in the desert and certainly than anything we've done. It has great topography and the best set of par-3s in Arizona."

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