

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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## New members

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did en route to gaining membership in the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Holding their annual membership vote, ASGCA voted in Phelps; Liddy; Tim Freeland, with Gary Player Design Group; Bill Kerwin, with Hurdzan Fry; George Sargent, who works with Phil Wogan; Stan Gentry with

Hale Irwin Design, Mark Hollinger with Michael J. Poellot; and Art Shaupeter, who once worked with Keith Foster. The election swells the ranks of ASGCA members to 140.

"It's a dream come true. It's been something I've wanted to be a part of ever since I started working with Dad 10 years ago," said Phelps, whose father Dick was ASGCA president in 1980-81.

Personally, Phelps said, the "what it takes to get into the society adds instant credibility to you. As far as the firm goes, to have two ASGCA members in the same company is a benefit as well. We can start marketing differently and approaching clients who may not have wanted a firm with only one ASGCA member.

"It gives us more flexibility in how we work on projects, too. A

good percentage of our clients have wanted Dad to be heavily involved because he was the one who carries the credentials and experience. Once we got to know them and worked with them, they realized I had experience and know-how. But now they can look at my credentials as well and know I've passed muster."

The Phelpses now hope to expand their work area.

"We definitely want to expand to new territories," Rick Phelps said. "That's one of the things I like best about the job: traveling to new places in the country, seeing new places and new people, experiencing new golf sites, different vegetation. That makes it exciting."



Saying that until the last five to 10 years it was perceived as unethical for architects to advertise and promote themselves, Phelps said: "But that has become more the norm than the exception. We will do it very cautiously and carefully so that we maintain a high ethical standard. But it's obvious you have to do it if you're going to compete with the big boys."

"I want to be able to compete on the same platform as the Fazios, Dyes and Joneses, and work on some of those exclusive projects that they get all the time."

Liddy, who formed Tim Liddy Golf Course design in 1993 and has worked with the Dyes on and off for 12 years, said: "Pete and Alice changed my life, as they have a lot of people's. To me, they're icons of the profession of golf course architecture and of golf. I learned everything about design from them."

Liddy is one of a long line of architects whose careers were jump-started working with the Dyes. Among them: Bobby Weed, Tom Doak, Lee Schmidt, Bill Coore, William Newcomb and David Postlethwait.

Calling the Dyes "an unbelievable team," Liddy said: "The first thing you learn is, you design from many levels — the routing, the laying out of a golf hole and the details of building bunkers, tees and greens. Pete is a master at all three of those levels."

"I go to Alice a lot of times for both her artistic sense and logical sense. Artistically, she has helped me with spatial organization and with the logic of how people play golf. She has a great artistic eye."

A landscape architect who was working with a large engineering firm in Indianapolis when he first worked with the Dyes, Liddy's works include Rock Hollow Golf Club in Peru, Ind., named among Golf Digest's Top Ten 1995 Best New Public Courses; and Coffin Golf Course, winner of a 1995 Merit Award for Excellence in Design in Indianapolis.

Liddy was the Dyes' project architect for The Fort Golf Course in Indianapolis, which in 1998 was named 3rd among Golf Digest's Best New Affordable Public Golf Courses and was among Golf Magazine's The Top Ten You Can Play.

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## Palmer

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ber, and said: "The competition—in golf and course design—is what we're all about. It's what makes America what it is today ... Jack and I agree on a couple of things. One is the golf ball. We need to slow it down."

The way in which the golf industry controls the golf ball, he said, "will keep all of us going in the right direction in the years to come."

Returning to the \$2 million annual maintenance cost for his Bay Hill Golf Club in Orlando, Fla., Palmer said: "Somewhere along the way we have to ... 'back away' [on high maintenance] if we're going to keep the game going."

"We need to look at all the aspects of the game—from players and their equipment to superintendents to people coming into the game—in order to retain the traditions of the game."

Seay, a past president of the ASGCA, introduced his design partner, saying, "Everything he does is measured at different levels of seriousness."

Reading a comment by former ASGCA President Don Knott that the golf course should not be reduced to a "standard predictable venue," Seay added: "The golf course architect must resist design standards, or we get fur-

ther away from the origins and very essence of the game. Arnold's real contribution to golf course architecture is that he has allowed all of us at Palmer Course Design Co. the privilege to resist."

He said Palmer has taught the design firm's 24 employees (including 10 course architects) about design, business, discipline, style, commitment, re-

sponsibility and humility.

"Arnold has allowed, supported and encouraged variety and individuality in all of our designs," Seay said, adding that Palmer:

- "has supported our expanded concepts in business and design";
- is always eager and excited with a new twist; and
- loves to solve design and

construction obstacles.

Quoting Palmer in his new autobiography as saying, "Golf is my foundation," Seay said, "Golf is founded on integrity."

Seay went on to say about Palmer, "Actions are doctrine, and his actions are the foundation of honesty and integrity in his life."

While "accomplishments come from individuals who are

outstanding achievers of unusual capabilities," Seay said, Palmer relishes the mantle of proud parent, grandparent and gentleman.

And he quoted from Bob Hope: "Arnie's Army doesn't just consist of his golf supporters, but includes the countless individuals who recognize that his character, stability and just plain niceness will be emulated by generations to come."

## ASGCA issues

Continued from previous page

the scenes to center stage," speaking of environmental stewardship, explaining the financial viability of maintaining the cost side of the game, and "explaining to people what the beauty of golf is all about: the landscaping, the tournament conditions."

While the GCSAA pursues these aims, golf course builders have determined to put money and labor behind its Sticks for Kids Program, the premise of which is to get golf clubs into the hands of people who wouldn't normally get them.

"The GCBA has donated more than \$125,000 to date," said Kubly. "We have 10 programs across the United States, in cities where we have builder members."

Also, he said, his colleagues have agreed to build the first 100 courses in that program at cost or a deeply discounted price. This contribution is estimated to amount to \$10 million to \$15 million, Kubly said.

To give developers and would-be developers an idea of the cost of building golf courses, GCBA has updated its regional construction cost databases and is making them available on CD-ROM and sending them to all USGA Green Section members and First Tee participants, Kubly added.



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## Chisholm Trail

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unbroken sod with wild grasses as tall as a horse. The golf and the terrain are perfect."

"I always had the ambition to have my own golf course," said the 75-year-old Thayer, a semi-retired optometrist and 10-handicapper who has played the game since he was 23. "When I found this perfect piece of ground, that did it."

Occupying 140 of the property's 320 acres, the 18 golf holes simply "were there," said Bruce Dixon, a course de-

signer with Grant Golf in Winnipeg, Manitoba, who was a graduate student in landscape architecture specializing in course design at Kansas State University when planning began in spring 1997. "We didn't have to move too much earth."

"It had some topographic changes," Dixon added. "We found good green sites, then worked backwards to the tees, came up with a dozen layouts and went from there."

The layout includes four double tees: for holes 2 and 11; 1 and 10; 13 and 15; and 7 and 9.

Dixon said he and Thayer, a design aficionado who tinkered with most all the holes once Dixon had taken the job in Canada, "tried to aspire to Sand Hills and Prairie Dunes. The course has the same strengths as Sand Hills. And with 320 acres we had to ability to choose where to put the features."

Prairie Dunes, Thayer said, "was an inspiration. I knew we had land like that around here if I could ever find the right piece. I moved here in 1991 and started looking, and found this property three years ago."

The property has good soils as well as natural drainage and surface runoff, he said.

Indeed, the "soils" are 70-percent sand, a major reason Chisholm Trail could be built for less than \$1 million — despite a double-row irrigation system — and fulfill another of Thayer's dreams: "I wanted to build an affordable course for the people of Dickinson County."

Affordable? How does \$13 weekday and \$15 weekend green fees sound? Annual membership is \$400, plus \$100 for each additional family member.

And while Chisholm Trail plays from 4,746 to 6,568 yards, "Don't let the yardage mislead you," Thayer said. "You'd better bring your 'straight' game."

Only 34 acres of the property were touched once construction started in July 1997, Thayer said, including digging two irrigation ponds.

The greens were seeded with L-93 bentgrass and the fairways with an 80-20 bluegrass-ryegrass mix. The first rough is fine-leaf fescue and the second native bluestem grass that grows 6 feet high.

Thayer hired the husband-wife superintendent team of John and Mary Haun, who had been operating Palo Duro Creek in Canyon City, Texas, and the municipal course in Hereford, Texas, respectively. But the Hauns wanted to return to their native Kansas.

Mary Haun, who grew up 3 miles from where Chisholm Trail now sits, said: "I thought, growing up, that we needed an 18-hole golf course."

Little did she know that later in life she would be working on one.

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## LaFoy elected

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ton, Country Club of Birmingham in Birmingham, Ala., and Glenmore Country Club in Charlottesville, Va.

As ASGCA president, LaFoy will focus on informing golf course developers, golfers and the public about golf course architecture. He will work to highlight the professionalism, talent and code of ethics that distinguish the members of the society. He also will promote the continued development of affordable and accessible golf facilities.

Raised in Greenville, LaFoy received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Clemson University in 1968 and began to work for Cobb. After a three-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, he became a full partner in the business. LaFoy assumed much of the design responsibilities when illness slowed Cobb in the early 1980s and he took over the design business after Cobb's death in 1986.

LaFoy is joined on the ASGCA Executive Committee by Vice President Brian Ault of Kensington, Md., Treasurer Damian Pascuzzo of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Secretary Jay Morrish of Flower Mound, Texas. Bob Lohmann of Marengo, Ill., is immediate past president.