

Sandpipers Treasure Coast acquires Sandtrap Services

FT. PIERCE, Fla. — Sandpipers of the Treasure Coast Inc. has announced acquisition of Bob Ritten's Sandtrap Services.

"The acquisition of Sandtrap Services gives Sandpipers the unique opportunity to offer unparalleled golf course bunker revitalization service utilizing its proprietary pneumatic process," said John Hett, Sandpipers' president.

Sandpipers uses a pneumatic process to pump sand into sand traps without the damaging effects of heavy equipment, heavy worker traffic and a slow work process. The proprietary process of Sandpipers allows the company to apply precise amounts of sand to golf course bunkers without damage to the

course, without interruption of play and an entire course reportedly can be revitalized in approximately nine days.

"Through the combined efforts of Sandpipers and Sandtrap Services, we offer a complete line of sand services," said John Hett. "Services include a 1-inch dusting of bunkers to complete sand removal and refills, bunker prep work, drain repairs and replacement. We perform all work on new or existing courses in a fraction of the time of conventional measures.

"Due to the efficient application method and our non-intrusive techniques, new and rebuilt golf courses can wait until after the 'grow-in' period before placing bunker sand."

Palmer to design San Antonio track

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Arnold Palmer is designing an 18-hole public golf course at the 1,645-acre La Cantera development in Northwest San Antonio, according to officials with La Cantera Development Co., a subsidiary of USAA.

"We are very pleased to announce that Arnold Palmer's company, Palmer Course Design Co., is the designer of our new golf course," said General Robert T. Herres, chairman and chief executive officer of USAA. "His excellent reputation in the industry, along with his experience in developing high-quality golf courses, is a great match for La Cantera."

"The topography of La Cantera exhibits its interesting characteristics that will make it both beautiful and unique," said Palmer. "Our plans are to transform a challenging tract of land into a spectacular championship golf course. Its natural beauty will be displayed through existing rock croppings, dry creeks, hills, and an abundance of incredible views of San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country."

According to Herres, the course will heighten La Cantera's mix of projects and attractions, which includes Six Flags' Fiesta Texas theme park, the soon-to-open Westin La Cantera Resort, the Mira Vista luxury apartments, and the proposed Security Service Federal Credit Union headquarters.

The 250-acre, par-71 course measures approximately 7,000 yards and will include a clubhouse, driving range and 2.5-acre irrigation pond — and is projected to create approximately 60 new jobs.

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Chi Chi unveils first Puerto Rican effort

DORADO, Puerto Rico — PGA Senior Tour star Chi Chi Rodriguez, Willowbend Golf Course Design and Empresas Sadurni have opened Dorado Del Mar Golf Course here. The 18-hole, 6,937-yard course is located along the Atlantic Ocean and surrounded by native palm trees. It is a Chi Chi Rodriguez signature golf course, his first in Puerto Rico.

Architectural planning and construction management for the course was led by Bruce A. Besse, Robert St. Thomas and Greg Sherwood of Willowbend Golf Course Design, an affiliate of Willowbend Development Corp., of Massachusetts. Empresas Sadurni, the owner of the project, served as master developer.

Willowbend, which specializes in golf and resort development and operations, is the majority owner of the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort and Casino in Rio Grande.

Dorado Del Mar is Willowbend's 3rd golf project in the Caribbean.

Rodriguez is a native of Rio Piedras and has redesigned two other Puerto Rican courses — Rio Mar Country Club in Fajardo and Dorado Beach in Dorado. He has also laid out courses in Japan, Florida and Nevada.