

DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



BRIEFS

ALBANESE PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL

PLYMOUTH, Mich. — Raymond Hearn Golf Designs Inc. has changed its name to Raymond Hearn/Paul Albanese Golf Course Designs Inc. to reflect the promotion of Paul Albanese to principal. Albanese has been a senior designer with the firm since it was founded in 1996. Prior to joining Hearn's firm, Albanese served as associate designer at Matthews & Associates in Lansing. Hearn said the name change is a "formal expression of our shared approach to design and our passion for golf course architecture."

HARVEY, RBA GROUP JOIN FORCES

MORRISTOWN, N.J. — A. John Harvey, ASGCA, has joined forces with the RBA Group's Golf Services division. Harvey has been practicing golf course architecture for 14 years and formerly worked for Robert Trent Jones Sr., then with Roger Rulewich. With the RBA Group, a consulting firm practicing engineering, architecture, planning and environmental consulting, Harvey will help broaden the capabilities the firm can offer in the realm of architecture. Harvey has collaborated with RBA on several golf course projects in the past, most recently Berkshire Valley Golf Course in Morris County, N.J.

RULEWICH TO EXPAND RTJ GOLF TRAIL

BERNARDSTON, Mass. — Golf course architect Roger Rulewich has been hired by Retirement Systems of Alabama to design two courses, Shannon Valley in Hoover, Ala., and Hunter Pointe in Mussel Shoals, as an expansion to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. These will be the first two courses in the trail that Rulewich, who worked on the other courses with Jones, will design alone.

WEITZ GOLF COMPLETES JUPITER HILLS CLUBHOUSE

TEQUESTA, Fla. — Weitz Golf International has completed construction on the 40,000-square-foot clubhouse at Jupiter Hills Club. The project was completed in just 12 months and came in under budget.

Davis, Stadler open 'heathland' course in Colorado

By ANDREW OVERBECK

GRANBY, Colo. — Tripp Davis and PGA Tour professional Craig Stadler have teamed to bring what they call "Scottish, heathland-style golf" to the mountains of Colorado. Their course at Grand Elk Ranch & Club opened Aug. 30 and is the centerpiece of the \$420 million, 437-acre resort community located 85 miles north of Denver.

For a mountain course, Grand Elk is unique. It sits in the Fraser River valley at 8,000 feet in elevation but the land is relatively flat.

"The entire back nine is down in a river valley, so it is low-profile," said architect Tripp Davis. "The front nine has some elevation change and has a little more movement. There

are not a lot of trees and there is a lot of scrub out there. It reminds me of the heathland courses outside London."

Although the land was relatively flat, construction of the layout was anything but easy. Niebur Golf, which is a partner in the project, built the course.

"When we came on in April 2001, nine holes had already been rough shaped by a previous developer," said Davis. "So it was kind of a design-and-build project. We had to deal with numerous wetland issues as they

came along. But this was as quick as I have seen a course built, especially considering the environmental issues that we had to deal with. We had to restore

25 acres of wetlands."

Stadler, who visited the course numerous times and met regularly with Davis to discuss the design,

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The 17th hole at the recently opened Grand Elk Ranch & Club in Granby, Colo.

Photo: Andrew Overbeck

Renovated Ocean Course aims to be more walkable

By DEREK RICE

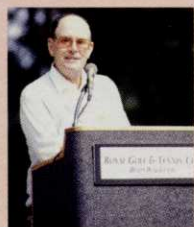
KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. — When the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Resorts reopened in mid-September after a three-month, \$2.5 million renovation, the resort hoped the project would result in an increase in the number of walking players on the course.

To that end, Kiawah is offering players the option to use walking caddies on the course.

One of the driving forces behind the decision to offer caddie services was architect Pete Dye, who oversaw the renovation at the club. Much of the renovation, which began in June, was aimed at making the course more walker-friendly.

"Without a doubt, the only way to fully experience the natural beauty and grandeur of the Ocean Course is to walk it," Dye said.

Part of that natural beauty lies in the fact that 10 of the links-style course's holes are



Architect Pete Dye was a proponent of making the Ocean Course more walkable.

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Transforming brownfields into green links

By THOMAS FRALICK

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Contaminated industrial properties or hazardous waste sites often sit idle and abandoned for years in urban and suburban areas around the country. The restoration of these sites, called brownfields, to an environmentally acceptable state must conform to rigid federal and state standards. While such projects can prove costly and time-consuming, they offer tremendous opportunities.

In addition to environmental restoration, there are also economic benefits derived from the conversion of a brownfield. For example, these properties are less costly to acquire if one is seeking an area to be developed into a recreational facility such as a golf course, and brownfield properties often include large parcels of land that are difficult to come by in urban settings. In addition, most states provide monetary incentives and in some instances even grants for brownfield projects.

As a consequence, there has been a recent trend to convert these properties into recreational facilities, particularly golf courses. The development of brownfields into golf complexes offers many advantages, including substantial environmental and economic benefits. Cleanup criteria are less stringent for recreational areas than for residen-



An artist's rendering of the Ault, Clark-designed Hyatt Hills complex detailed in the story below.

tial use. Zoning issues are also eased. If the property is in an urban setting, the creation of green spaces is usually well-received by planning boards. Finally, turning an idle piece of industrial property into a golf facility adds commercial as well as recreational value to a community.

BROWNFIELDS VS. GREENFIELDS

The main difference between a

normal parcel of land (sometimes called a greenfield) and a brownfield is the presence of regulated substances in the soil or groundwater. These substances are generally

chemicals that were used in an industrial process or the waste products that remained and were determined to be harmful to human health or the environment.

Therefore, before the property can be restored, the nature of the substances and the degree of contamination must be determined and any risks mitigated. The approach

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Hazardous waste to water hazards

CLARK, N.J. — The Hyatt Hills golf complex recently opened on the 87-acre site of a former General Motors bearing plant that had been in operation since 1938.

URS Corp., retained by General Motors, began decommissioning the facility in 1987 for conversion to a golf course and

recreational facility. The first step was the preparation of a site investigation work plan to determine the extent of contamination for the above-ground portion of three buildings totaling more than 1.2 million square feet.

The investigations uncovered

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