

On Topic: Koontz McCombs

Koontz McCombs has scored a hole in one. The San Antonio-based firm has secured a top player in the golf and resort industries, Troon, to manage one of the newest additions to its portfolio — the Newport Dunes Palmilla Beach development in Port Aransas, Texas.

Koontz McCombs plans to renovate and expand golf operations at Newport Dunes. Troon, founded in 1990, manages nearly 200 properties in 30 states and 27 countries, including 40 resort destinations. The company will bring extensive golf and resort operations experience to the Port Aransas links property.

“Our goal is to create an extraordinary golf experience at Newport Dunes at Palmilla Beach,” says Bart Koontz, president and CEO of Koontz McCombs. “We think that Troon is the perfect partner to manage the course, as they bring an unparalleled level of expertise and experience in the golf business. We are thrilled to have them on this project.”

The Business Journal reported in late April that Koontz McCombs had acquired Newport Dunes, a development encompassing more than 220 acres of golf course real estate and approximately 500 acres of partially developed property.

“Newport Dunes is one of the most prestigious golf sites in the world,” says San Antonio entrepreneur Red McCombs, founding partner of Koontz McCombs.

John Easterbrook, executive vice president of operations for Troon, says the Port Aransas development is a prize catch for the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based management company.

“Newport Dunes at Palmilla Beach is a first-rate facility that is unlike any property in the country,” Easterbrook explains.

Newport Dunes is an Arnold Palmer Signature Course.

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long history of collaboration with our local military medical facilities.”

Those facilities include the San Antonio Military Health System, the largest military medical complex in the world.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has committed to provide up to \$25 million over five years for the consortium. Those funds will support research at V.A. sites and will be managed by the V.A. Office of Research and Development.

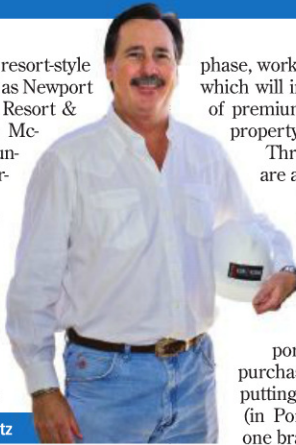
According to National Institute of Mental Health Director Dr. Tom Insel, it is now estimated that the prevalence of PTSD and depression among military personnel has surpassed the 20 percent mark. Since 2009, more soldiers have died from suicide than from combat.

The new consortium will work to identify better treatment methods for service members and veterans who are dealing with PTSD and related conditions. The hope among consortium participants is that increased research will also lead to advancements in PTSD diagnosis and prevention.

“Historically, PTSD has been considered to be a chronic, lifelong disorder that is difficult to treat, particularly in military combat veterans,” Peterson says. “However, results of studies of PTSD in civilian populations demonstrate that a large percentage of patients have been able to be treated to the point of remission or recovery. Although the term ‘cured’ is rarely used in reference to PTSD, we believe it is possible.” ■

The master-planned resort-style community, rebranded as Newport Dunes Palmilla Beach Resort & Golf Club by Koontz McCombs, will include hundreds of acres of surrounding nature area.

The development will also include two residential communities. The first, Village North is slated to be completed within three years. Following the substantial completion of the first



Bart Koontz

phase, work will begin on Village South, which will include more than 100 acres of premium unobstructed beach-front property.

Three hotels and new clubhouse are also planned.

“We had already made significant investments in Port Aransas and this presented itself as a very fortuitous opportunity,” says Koontz about the decision to acquire Newport Dunes. “The advent of this purchase completes our vision of putting all of our diverse properties (in Port Aransas) together under one brand.”

On the Record:

“Certain news reports today have indicated that the PGA Tour has made an offer to acquire the European Tour. Those reports are inaccurate.”

PGA Tour Commissioner **Tim Finchem** in a press statement dismissing media speculation



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