

The Daily Herald

Grand Opening

## Red Ledges, Nicklaus shine in course grand opening

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Thursday, Friday and Saturday this past weekend marked the grand opening of one of Utah's premiere golf destinations, Red Ledges Golf Course, in Heber City.

### 37 Years in the making

[Tony Burns](#), managing owner of Red Ledges, has purchased 27 separate pieces of land totaling 2,000 acres in an approximately 35 year span spent 35 years preparing for the development of this real estate venture. Burns purchased a 900 acre parcel that included the [Red Ledges rock formation](#), from relative Phyllis Christensen, which was instrumental in closing the deal.

### The Facility

The Red Ledges community currently includes the 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, and in the future will include an executive 9-hole course, a tennis training facility, equestrian trails, bike trails and more.

The golf course will be managed by [Troon Golf](#) General Manager [John Johnson](#) and the head pro of the course is Jon Paupore.

The course offers a diversity of holes in that Nicklaus and his team used much farmland and desert to build the course; lots of contrast in the styles of holes. Nicklaus designed many of the greens using contours on the edges of the green that provide a "bowl effect" to help keep the average golfer's incoming shots on the green, making the difficult course more playable for the average golfer.

### Jack Nicklaus, the man, the gentleman

Throughout Friday's course walkthrough, Jack Nicklaus provided great insight into the game of golf in terms of preparation before a round, preparation before each shot [pre-shot routine], and shared with guests how PGA Tour officials set up courses in terms of pin placements and tee boxes. Most impressive was his sense of humor, his wit and how humble he appeared to be. Throughout the day, many people, walked up and talked to him, asked questions, just to be near Jack Nicklaus...even autograph requests were not a problem. He was a gentleman in every way.

### Summary

The leadership of Red Ledges is first rate, the designer of the course is first rate, and the course itself is first rate. With time and maturity this golf course will become a premiere golf destination in Utah and a "must see" when visiting Heber City.