

From: Tom Ciesynski (Wingfield Springs Preservation Group)

RE: Reno Gazette Journal Article

I had previously worked on an Op Ed piece with Mike Daniel to rebut an older RGJ article, some of which was repeated in their recent article on our Community Meeting. The RGJ never published the Op Ed and I was thinking we should put it on our website, if you all agree. Here is the piece:

Wingfield Springs Homeowners Deserve a Voice in Red Hawk Proposal

On January 27, 2026, the *Reno Gazette Journal* published an article titled “**Red Hawk seeking to build hundreds of homes at golf course.**” The article presented the proposal almost entirely from the perspective of the golf course owner, with little to no input from the Wingfield Springs homeowners who would be most directly affected.

To date, Red Hawk ownership has not met with the Wingfield Springs community to discuss its plans or seek input on potential solutions. That lack of engagement is deeply concerning and undermines public trust.

The article suggests the golf industry has struggled since 2008. While that may have been true, golf participation has rebounded significantly, with roughly 47 million people now playing on or off course—a 45 percent increase since 2016. The industry contributed \$101.7 billion to the U.S. economy in 2022. Red Hawk has stated it is losing money, yet no financial data or independent analysis has been shared to substantiate that claim.

The article also references a developer-funded traffic study concluding the project would have no impact for 20 years. Residents who regularly travel Vista Boulevard, Sparks Boulevard, or Pyramid Highway know congestion is already a daily issue. The applicant acknowledges that future road mitigation will be needed, but no funding has been earmarked to do so. A project of this scale warrants independent analysis of traffic, water, sewer, schools, public safety, wetlands, and wildlife.

While trail expansion is highlighted, the proposal would also fill five existing lakes and eliminate natural habitat—impacts that deserve fuller study and public discussion.

Finally, the article cites \$18.5 million in added city revenue, but the fiscal study included in the application shows a net gain of approximately \$5.9 million over 20 years, about \$295,000 annually—hardly a solution to regional budget challenges. Additionally, this estimate does not factor in lost property taxes resulting from decreased property values to existing Wingfield Springs homeowners, making the estimate overstated and more likely a net loss to the city.

Lasting solutions require transparency, dialogue, and collaboration. Wingfield Springs homeowners deserve a seat at the table.

Thanks,

Tom