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## Adobe Creek golf course shuttered

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THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

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Petaluma's Adobe Creek Golf Club closed its doors Wednesday after the bankrupt business came under control of a court-appointed receiver.

It's unclear when the golf course will reopen.

"Nobody wants to see it closed for an extended period," said Kenton Johnson, an executive with Robb Evans & Associates, the Los Angeles firm appointed last week to manage the property.



KENT PORTER/PRESS DEMOCRAT  
Joe Ross of Sonoma golfs at Petaluma's Adobe Creek Golf Club last February.

The 18-hole private course filed for protection in U.S. Bankruptcy Court last March after the economic downturn made golf an unaffordable luxury for many players.

The 20-year-old course on Frates Road in east Petaluma had defaulted on a \$6 million loan that investor JG Orbis Corp. used to develop it.

Other Sonoma County golf courses are struggling in the recession, slashing fees and running aggressive promotions to attract golfers.

The Adobe Creek course, which features a clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant, was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

The golf club's lender, East West Bancorp, is expected to put the property up for sale after it completes the foreclosure process.

"Unfortunately, in the near term the golf course had to be shut down until the income stream and other issues can be resolved," Johnson said. "Hopefully the course can reopen fairly soon."

The decision to close the golf course was made by the court-appointed receiver, Adobe Creek manager Spencer Curran said. Golfers are being told the club is closed until further notice.

"We are hoping it is for the short term," he said.

Members of the golf club can file claims in bankruptcy court, he said. Golf club memberships expire at the end of December, Johnson said.

Adobe Creek isn't the first Sonoma County golf course to face foreclosure. Earlier this year, a lender began foreclosure on the nine-hole Los Arroyos Golf Course in Sonoma Valley after the owner defaulted on a \$5.8 million loan.

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