

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**HILO, Hawaii** — Councilman Brian De Lima has introduced a bill which would require a developer/land owner to pay a tax rate separate from other types of land uses.

The council won't be able to set new rates until next January, since rates are determined six months in advance of a coming budget year.

De Lima said the bill is necessary to generate funds to help monitor pesticides and other concerns associated with golf courses.

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**RHINECLIFF, N.Y.** — In line with the grim housing market, a golf-oriented community here saddled with three years of controversy has been shelved.

C. Edwin Creed, owner of a 535-acre tract south of Route 308, has withdrawn his application for the large housing development. Creed and sons David, Donald and Richard had proposed to build 264 housing units on the farm site with a 27-hole golf course.

Some residents had opposed the plan, saying the atmosphere didn't blend with Rhinebeck's historic heritage.

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**CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colo.** — More than a decade after denial of a plan to build a \$200 million golf project, former Denver developer Steve Tucker has hit Cherry Hills Village with a \$45 million lawsuit.

In 1981, Cherry Hills Village approved the project, then placed restrictions on approval after neighbors objected to the proposed Colorado Biltmore development.

The 116-acre project was to include a 600-room luxury hotel, golf course and 200 condominiums. The Colorado Supreme Court ruled in 1990 that Tucker could proceed with the development under the original terms of approval, but no development has begun.

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**BLACKFOOT, Idaho** — A Montana driver lost control of his semi-truck and plowed through two holes of the Blackfoot golf course causing \$150,000 damage. Hardest hit were the 10th and 11th greens.

Charles Chester Pluid of Belgrade, Mont., and his vehicle came to rest in a course pond. He was cited for inattentive driving.

## High Road leads to satisfaction in Scotland

American designers Jay Morrish and Tom Weiskopf elated with Scottish effort

By Mark Leslie

Developers have taken a bumpy road to finish the The High Road course at Loch Lomond Golf Course, but co-architect Jay Morrish feels it will be awhile before he is involved in another project as extraordinary and with as much emotional attachment for him.

Morrish and partner Tom Weiskopf were put under a microscope when they were selected as the first Americans to design a course in Scotland. (Jack Nicklaus has since designed a course, Gleneagles in Perthshire, scheduled to open in 1993.) Financial troubles put the half-built Loch Lomond project on hold.

Yet, Morrish and Weiskopf withstood the pressures, and in mid-May Weiskopf put his blessings on the project. The course was complete, except for the final green, which had been shaped but not top-soiled.

The Nagolfoco construction crew from Oregon needed one month of good weather to put finishing touches on the course, Weiskopf said. It should open next spring.

"It's the best course we've ever done anywhere," said Morrish, a former designer for both Nicklaus and Tom Fazio. "It's better than anything I've been involved in. It's a combination of the right site, the tradition, no housing, beautiful trees, ideal terrain. It's slightly above sea level and we're on the lake, nestled right up against the foothills of a mountain.

"All the chemistry was right for this golf course."

The project was "inspiring — almost an emotional thing," Morrish said. "It is Scotland and it is the birthplace of golf. Everything is so tradition-oriented over there. Plus the mystique of working in



The 7th hole at Loch Lomond

*'It's the best course we've ever done anywhere.'*

— Jay Morrish

Scotland meant a lot to Tom and me."

Bruce Graham, joint administrator for Cork Gully, the consultant handling the project for the Bank of Scotland, said Loch Lomond Golf Course is unique in the region.

He said that after a second course is built at Loch Lomond: "They'll never be able to build another golf course there. It is an area of scenic beauty, and government planners will not let it be built on further."

He said the second course on the Loch Lomond land will be a "completely different concept — not so demanding, more of a holiday course than The High Road, which is not for high-handicap golfers."

Graham said the original developer, Sterling Investments Ltd., had spent \$7 million on the project by November 1990 when it became insolvent. The Bank of Scotland appointed Cork Gully the administrator and has since spent \$1 million to \$2 million to complete it.

The facility sits on land being leased from Luss Estates Ltd. — the Ivar Colquhoun family — and Graham is trying

to find a buyer.

The project involved renovation of Rosdhu House (Gaelic for Black Point), a marina, hotel and nature preserve. Rosdhu House is wind- and water-tight, Graham said. Its ultimate use will be up to the buyer.

A March 3 letter said the Bank of Scotland was extending proposals to Sept. 30.

Morrish said the original developer envisioned \$50,000 memberships and a destination resort. But residents bought all the memberships.

So food, lodging and other sources needed to pay the bills were not available.

Morrish's favorite hole is The Ruin.

The 18th hole, it is a long par 4 with a lake on the left, a green that has a step, heavy bunkering on the right of the green, and a family graveyard behind the green that dates to the 1100s. A ruin is the backdrop to the green.

"The name is prophetic," Morrish joked. "Seriously, it's too great a piece of property and too good a golf course to disappear. Someone has to buy it."



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