Topeka to renovate rather than build

TOPEKA, Kan. — Officials at two city-owned golf courses seem to have convinced Shawnee County Commission to spend money on improving existing courses, rather than building a new 18-hole layout.

After hearing arguments, none of the commissioners supported construction of a third golf course.

Anne Freeze, acting parks and recreation director, said the costs of developing a new golf course were prohibitive. She recommended a reserve fund of $700,000 should instead be allocated to make improvements at Forbes and Lake Shawnee golf courses.

Tom Opat, county golf course superintendent, agreed with Freeze and suggested a new maintenance shop be built at Forbes. Opat also recommended the reserve fund purchase an additional 23 acres south of the clubhouse.

A dilapidated warehouse and parking lot are on the property. A new driving range would replace these structures.

The commission seems fully convinced of the Freeze/Opat plan. All indicated the reserve should be used to improve and maintain the existing courses.

New Okla. state park nine nearly ready for play

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, Okla. — Depending on how fast the grass grows, golf professional Paul Chapman anticipates a late summer opening of the new nine holes at Quartz Mountain State Park. The new nine will give the facility 18 holes.

Chapman, who hopes the full course will open by Aug. 30, told the Lawton Constitution: "We still have a lot of work to do. The course is going to need a complete growing season before it is ready."

Chapman said all greens seeded with Penncross bentgrass suffered some damage from a windstorm after hydromulching in September 1992.

During summer 1993, state officials held groundbreaking ceremonies with a target opening date of spring 1992. Park officials attributed the 12-month delay to insufficient funding and equipment.

N.M. renovation winds down

CLOVIS, N.M. — Golfers playing at the Whispering Winds Golf Course have recently had to dodge construction equipment more than errant balls.

Although delayed temporarily by winter weather, the renovation of four holes and construction of an additional nine has proceeded smoothly this spring, According to Peggy Sandoval, club manager, construction should end by midsummer and cost $1.35 million.

Golfscapes of Arlington, Texas, designed the new layout and Edwards Golf, a Louisiana firm, is handling the construction.

Plans unveiled for Pa. project

GREENSBURG, Pa. — The Penn Township Planning and Zoning Commission recently heard details on Blackthorn Estates, a proposed $175 million golf/residential development. Project surveyor Tom Easton said the project will be constructed in phases over a seven year period.

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