Course project softens blow of plant closure

RICHLAND, Wash. — Jobs at the new Horn Rapids Golf Course and Industrial Park may diversify the economy in this atomic town that is expecting to lose its primary employer upon completion of the Hanford nuclear reservation cleanup.

The new golf course and community — located across the street from each other — will attract people who work in the TRI-City area and live in companies like Boeing Co., Microsoft Corp., and Honeywell Inc. to replace the possible loss of 16,500 high-paying jobs from Hanford.

The golf course should play a large role in the city's economic future because city officials envision people who live around the course working at an industrial park across the street.

The Horn Rapid development is the first effort to decrease Richland's dependence on the U.S. Department of Energy and Hanford. It plans to launch other developments near Battelle-Northwest.

Richland also owns 5,000 to 6,000 acres, thousand acre tracts and single lots, that they plan to use in the future development of the area, said Bill King, deputy city manager for community development.

Booming Arkansas village eyes sixth course

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, Ark. — The Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association (HSVPOA) Board of Directors has approved an amended offer for the future development of the village’s sixth golf course.

The board, by a five-to-one vote, accepted developer Cooper Communities Inc.'s offer of 450 acres of land on which to build the course, architectural services worth $184,000, and a four-year, interest-free, loan of $1.3 million to meet construction costs.

In return the HSVPOA is to provide water and sewer services to certain Hot Springs Village subdivisions.

The amended version was completed Tuesday in last-minute negotiations.

"People asked 'Why the hurry?' But the fact is that there is no hurry now," board member Ed Hearn told The Sentinel-Record. "We've secured the financing, but we're under no obligation to build the new golf course now or ever."

The association negotiating committee — Keith Brown, Hearn and Keith Endquist — had been hindered by dissent among the villagers because of cost.

Those in favor cited the growing demand for golf and decreased availability of tee times, as the retirement-based boomtown continues to grow by an estimated 1,000 residents a year.

Former vice president of HSVPOA Sam Harris told The Sentinel-Record he personally hoped the board would delay the action on the new course.

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