NEWS IN BRIEF

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa — The City Council approved a "tax increment financing district" that will permit Hubbell Realty Co. to be repaid for investing in road improvements near the Copper Creek Golf Community its development. The project includes 900 housing units and a golf course in the northern part of town.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Warrick County officials are weighing the merits of the county's first public golf course. A group of partners known as BR&S Inc., which hopes to build the facility, has huddled with the Redevelopment Commission, and also is working with the landowners, Lake Group Inc. The course would be surrounded by housing.

WAYCROSS, Ga. — The Laura S. Walker State Park Golf Course should be ready for play by the end of 1996. To be constructed across Georgia Highway 177 from Laura Walker Lake, the $4 million project should be in place before the 1996 Olympic games, officials say. The 350-acre facility will include a clubhouse, maintenance building, 238 parking spaces and a safety buffer around the entire course.

PABLO ROBLES, Calif. — Area impact of a proposed golf course near the Municipal Airport is under study. The project proposed by Coastal Golf Co. includes a 14-hole course, driving range, clubhouse, coffee shop and cart barn.

CLEVELAND — Oakwood Club, an 89-year-old private country club in the eastern suburbs, plans to pull up its golf roots, perhaps meaning the end for its Arthur Hills/Tom Bandoni design. Club officials are negotiating to build a new club & course in Geauga County. Diversified Realty Corp. has offered to buy the site so that if it can get the land rezoned for shopping centers and multi-family housing.

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By MARK LESLIE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Perhaps the most thorough study in the world has found that unhealthy amounts of chemicals are rarely found in runoff water from golf courses.

In a study unveiled at the 8th International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry here, two Japanese scientists reported results of a government-sponsored, three-year study that encompassed 246,000 analyses of water in and around golf courses.

"I've never seen anyone do such an incredible scope of work. It was a massive project," said Stuart Cohen, president of Environmental & Turf Services, Inc., in Wheaton, Md.

Of the 246,000 analyses, scientists found pesticides in 10,536. Just 31 samples exceeded the Health Advisory Level (HAL), according to Dr. Osamu Yamada and Masaaki Minoura, manager and technical specialist in analytical chemistry, respectively, of Tahara Agricultural Center in Aichi Prefecture for Cyanimid (Japan) Ltd.

Funded by the government, the Environmental Study Group (ESG) in Water Inlet Around Golf Courses in Japan involved several official institutes including Japan's Environment Agency. K. Oiba and S. Yashbiota co-authored the study with Yamada and Minoura.

Golf Course News was unable to contact the Japanese scientists for comment.

In 1992, the last year of the study, scientists tested 110,701 water samples. Continued on page 12

By MARK LESLIE

Weed takes TPC formula to Japan

PONTE VEDRA, Fla. — The PGA Tour's Tournament Players Club (TPC) division has made an exclusive nine-year arrangement with Tokyo Dome Corp. to develop International TCs in Japan.

Saying the first of the projects, International TPC at Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture, is being completed and is expected to open next May, PGA Tour chief designer Bobby Weed added: "We have a number of other courses in planning stages, and probably will build five to seven before the end of the contract."

Tokyo Dome Corp., based in Tokyo, is a blue-chip corporation that develops resorts and amusement facilities.

While the Mito project will be private, others will be open to the public. "The International TPCs will go a long way in providing an avenue to play golf there," said Weed, adding that the 14 TPCs built in the U.S. are open to the public, though designed as "stadium" courses with PGA tournaments, and their spectators, in mind.

Besides the Mito facility, the developers are awaiting final approvals for the public-access International TPC at Ichihara in Chiba Prefecture. Several others are planned, including "a potentially wonderful" course in Osaka, Weed said.

Weed said International TPC is working with Toyo Green, a Japanese agronomic consultant for residential and development contractors.

"We've convinced them to incorporate some of our design ideas to improve the agronomics of the golf courses here," he said. "To get better golfers, they must incorporate more updated technology and better-designed courses. Some of the older courses they're playing on can't compare to the newer ones Americans are designing. It's very difficult to develop a strategic and well-designed golf course when you're playing to two greens on every hole. They just don't have the land to do that today."

"And with better agronomic practices and sensitive design, we can create a better golf course with a single green and provide them a better challenge. That will improve them as golfers."

Golf Course News, 300 W. Main St., ONTE VEDRA, Fla. 32067, Phone 904-386-0600.

Exhaustive water study indicates chemical runoff to be negligible

By MARK LESLIE

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