Salt Lake County buys out developer

DRAPER, Utah — Salt Lake County is buying the 18-hole course from the developers of the upscale South Mountain development at Traverse Mountain for nearly $8 million. The course was seeded in late summer, according to Terry Diehl, a partner in the South Mountain project. It could be ready for play by late summer 1997 or early 1998.

Under the agreement, the county was scheduled to pay South Mountain developers $1 million for the 235-acre course and would officially take charge of the facility at that time. The county will own and operate the course, which will eventually be surrounded by luxury homes in what will be one of the more posh developments in the area. The county operates four courses, the newest being Riverbend in Riverton, which was built for $6 million.

Wetlands concerns halt Tenn. state park project

JACKSON, Tenn. — Federal regulators recently ordered a state contractor to halt any work that disturbs wetlands at the Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course under construction in Chickasaw State Park.

The Corps of Engineers issued a cease-and-desist order after a visit to the park near Henderson, Tenn., in August revealed that construction crews had damaged up to eight acres of wetland areas without getting a federal Clean Water Act permit. Swamps had been filled or drained through mechanized land-clearing, ditching and other activities, according to the order, which was sent to Golf Services Group in Houston, the developer of a highly-publicized $20 million project in Tennessee featuring four Nicklaus-designed courses at state parks. The order stipulated that unauthorized wetland work could lead to civil or criminal penalties.

Chickasaw, 75 miles east of Memphis, is one of the four Nicklaus courses in the project. Work on the 18 holes at Chickasaw began last fall and is scheduled to be finished next September. The wetlands damage originally was found by water-quality officials with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the same agency that oversees the park system. State officials said as many as eight acres of wetlands had been illegally filled or drained during the work. All work was halted in wetlands and construction crews have been moved to higher areas.

Bystander still suffers effects of course shooting

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A vending machine operator, who was shot several times during a February 1995 holdup in the clubhouse of the city-owned Davy Crockett Golf Course in Frayser, is recuperating from five surgeries undergone this summer.

George Warren, 42, was shot twice with a handgun and again with a sawed-off shotgun during a $20 holdup by six young men. The six men were captured hours later and all gave statements admitting their involvement. All of the attackers plead guilty in court and received sentences ranging from eight to 42 years, depending on their role in the crime and whether they used a weapon. At least one of them could be up for parole in less than a year. One of the attackers was killed in a drive-by shooting near his home in October 1995 while out on bond.

Warren was shot in the thigh, shoulder and abdomen. According to the The Commercial Appeal of Memphis, he has gone through more than 300 pints of blood and must use a walker. “It’s been a long, drawn-out situation,” he told The Appeal. “It’s been a struggle but I’m gradually doing better. The prosecutors did a good job, but some of them [defendants] will be out of prison before I’m on my feet.”

Changing the Course.

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