Bolton, a resident of Rifle about an hour and a half from this community, awaits a trial that Wills said is scheduled to begin May 25.

He had been directing construction for the developers — David Wilhelm, Jim Light and Jim Chaffin — of the Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course at the Roaring Fork Club. It is a high-profile, environmentally sensitive project that has entailed a cooperative effort with the non-profit Roaring Fork Conservancy, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers and the town of Basalt, 16 miles west of Aspen.

Wilhelm, who developed the well-known Cordillera Valley Club in Edwards, had joined Light and Chaffin in committing high-end dollars to this project, including numerous environmentally progressive measures such as $300,000 to enhance Roaring Fork River.

The District Attorney’s Office alleges that Bolton absconded with $230,000 of the developers’ money.

Bolton reportedly worked for Paragon Construction at the nearby Aspen Glen facility before taking the Roaring Fork job. Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. is the general contractor for the golf course, but has no connections with Bolton.

A succession of three golf course superintendents — Kevin Adams, Scott Todd and David Lauritson — worked with Bolton, but reportedly quickly left for other jobs. Bob Clarkson has since taken the position.

Golfers prefer walking over riding in carts

JUPITER, Fla. — Judging by the number of golf cars roaming the nation’s fairways, it may be hard to believe that the vast majority of today’s golfers will tell you they'd rather walk than ride.

But that’s one of the interesting facts that came out of the latest National Golf Foundation/USA TODAY Golf In America on-line survey. Of the 700 golfers who took the survey, more than 70 percent said they prefer to walk.

Why don’t more golfers walk? Not because the courses they play are mandating the use of golf cars. That idea was put to rest when 85 percent of the respondents said walking is an option at the courses they play most regularly.

It’s also not because golf cars necessarily speed up play. Less than 40 percent of the respondents said they believed this to be so. Most survey respondents commented that the golf car’s ability to speed up play is being negated by drivers who are naturally slow or unthinking. The other problem they cited is the much-maligned cart-paths-only rule.

What’s the going average golf car rental fee? Among those who took this survey, it’s about $15 per person for 18 holes.

COTYOTE CREEK WRAPS UP CONSTRUCTION

FT. LUPTON, Colo. — Big sky, waving wheat and mountain vistas will soon greet guests of Coyote Creek, Ft. Lupton’s new 18-hole course.

With construction on the clubhouse wrapping up, preparations are underway for the course’s grand opening in May. Coyote Creek is located approximately 30 miles north of downtown Denver.

The golf course was designed by Architect Matt Eccles. Approximately 300 trees were added to the site, and water comes into play on many of the holes.

While city owned, Coyote Creek is managed by RBI Golf Management, a Littleton-based company.