

Iowa supers use flood to improve courses

Duck Creek, Palmer Hills, Davenport CC recover, improve

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Flash floods last June battered, but didn't knock out for good three area golf courses.

All adjusted to the damage, and in some cases improvement was marked.

Duck Creek, a public course in Davenport; Palmer Hills in Bettendorf and Davenport Country Club were hard-hit. Damage at the three courses may have exceeded \$1 million, not including lost revenue.

A year later, however, the courses

are fully operational with noticeable changes.

Davenport underwent an extensive facelift. A new double-row irrigation system sent water into the rough. New bunkers were added, and others moved and mounded to modernize the course.

Superintendent Scott Azinger said: "Golf technology had changed so much in the last 15 to 20 years that some of our traps had been taken out of play."

Azinger also gained a new main-

tenance building.

Duck Creek lost all back nine holes from June 16 until opening day this season. It reopened with a 13th hole rebuilt basically from bare ground. A bridge washed out was moved by a truck back to the course and rebuilt. Drainage tiles were renovated.

Palmer Hills is nearly back to normal after bridge damage and ruined fairways and greens.

Sand bunkers and grass mounds were added on No. 5, and the 18th green was improved.

Domed golf center planners given go-ahead in Michigan

CANTON, Mich. — Canton Township planners have approved zoning to allow a proposed \$3.75-million domed golf center at the northeast corner of Beck Road.

Planners also set a public hearing Aug. 19 for a second proposal for a \$5-million family golf and entertainment center at the northwest corner of Canton Center Road.

GolfDome Investments of Mount Clemens proposes an 18-acre development with three inflated domes housing an indoor driving

range and an 18-hole course. A separate outdoor nine-hole course also is part of the plan.

Doug and Bob Rahaim of Grosse Pointe Shores propose a family-golf entertainment center on 32 acres. This facility would embrace go-carts, batting cages, indoor and outdoor driving range, a 36-hole outdoor miniature golf course, 18-hole indoor miniature golf course, and indoor arcade with a restaurant.

That plan calls for an inflatable dome.

Protests meet plan for \$2B Texas project

Plans for a \$2.5-billion complex of golf courses, hotels and condos on South Padre Island near Port Mansfield, Texas, prompted protests from environmentalists and may have hastened state coastal management plans.

State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro has submitted plan outlines to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

If Texas complies with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, it would receive \$2 million per year in federal funds. Part of this sum would help homeowners relocate when their beach homes are wrecked by storms, and provide protection for 220 miles of eroding shore line.

Environmentalists claimed the South Padre Island project of the American General Corp. of Houston, threatened seven endangered species of birds and turtles, plus the breeding grounds for almost half the seafood harvested in Texas.

Planner takes extra measures to save N.J. lake

MANCHESTER, N.J. — If Manchester permits an 18-hole golf course on its massive Heritage Minerals Inc. lake, something drastic may be needed to keep the lake pure.

Planner Gary Sawhill has a novel and controversial proposal — build a recharge system patterned after Nature's ways.

Sawhill would route all runoff with its attendant fertilizers and pesticides into shallow ponds near the course. The ponds would clean the water naturally with vegetation and algae, then allow it to flow into the lake.

Sawhill said a similar plan is working for a pond in Smithville near a shopping center.

State officials have accepted another pond/marsh plan in a construction program for the Due Process golf course in Colt's Neck, Sawhill added.

Town officials have said the zoning under which the Heritage site falls would allow a golf course to be built.

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