

Traffic study pays dividends

EAGLE POINT, Ore. — Developer Gregg Adams dropped \$8,000 on a transportation study and was rewarded when the Oregon Department of Transportation withdrew its opposition to a golf course and condominium project planned here.

The Oregon DOT had claimed the course would cause traffic problems. It

withdrew its objections after reviewing results of the study commissioned by the Medford-based developer.

The way is cleared for Adams to build the 18-hole championship course and single-family residences and condominiums on 230 acres.

Adams said the eight grand was "a small price to pay to satisfy the powers that be."

City seeks outside management; employees cry foul

KENT, Wash. — After watching the bottom line fall below expectations for three years running, the city of Kent has been advised to find an outside director of all golf-related functions at Riverbend Golf Complex.

Riverbend is supposed to be a self-supporting operation. But in its first three years, the par 3 course has received subsidies from the city's general fund. "A lot of citizens feel the city shouldn't be in the golf course business at all," Councilman Jon Johnson told

the *Valley Daily News*. Johnson and colleague Jim Bennett, both members of the council-created Golf Advisory Board, recommended the search for contract course management services.

Parks Director Barney Wilson, who disagrees with the initiative, said Riverbend brought in \$2.9 million in revenues during 1992. Wilson has always disagreed with the city's practice of charging Riverbend \$140,000 annually to help pay back the general obligation bonds sold to purchase the

course in 1985. The operation needs fine-tuning, he said, not outside management. Helen Wickstrom, parks superintendent, noted the city's five-year forecast shows Riverbend beginning to turn a profit by 1994.

But Tony McCarthy, chief administrative officer, pointed out the \$2.9 million forecast doesn't include capital improvement expenditures; doesn't repay the general fund for previous year's transfers; and assumes revenue growth of 3.5 percent annually.

It cleans up the tough spots

NEW 2653 PROFESSIONAL UTILITY MOWER

Every course has them. The spots that are tough to get to. Tough to mow. Spots where the new John Deere 2653 Professional Utility Mower shines.

A unique combination of hydraulic reel drive, exceptional climbing ability, and 26-inch cutting units allows the 2653 to precisely mow where others can't. Powered by a liquid-cooled 18-hp engine, the 2653 has the guts to work through wet, lush, or long grass—plus the ground hugging ability to deliver a quality cut over undulating terrain.

In addition, the 2653 features the same John Deere reel technology used in our 30-inch ESP models featured in our 3365 Turf Mower. You simply don't find cutting units any better than these.

For the name of your nearest distributor, or free literature, call 1-800-544-2122. Or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL 61265.

Hydraulic reel drive and John Deere 26-inch cutting units allow the new 2653 to power through tough conditions as well as precisely follow ground contours.



NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE®

Developer strikes out with Eudora; waits on Lawrence

EUDORA, Kan. — The Eudora City Council has rejected a proposal to build a public golf course east of Lawrence.

The council unanimously refused to back developer Jeff Gazaway's request for the city to help finance a \$4 million, 18-hole course next to Twin Oaks Golf Complex driving range on Kansas Highway 10 at County Road 1057.

Gazaway wanted the city to enter into a lease-purchase agreement, leaving the city half-owner of the 185-acre development. A private investor would have paid for construction of the course, to be reimbursed by user fees over 15 years. Council President Ron Connor said the agreement would have tied the city into an unsure financial obligation because under it, the city would have been responsible for any shortfall.

Meanwhile, the Lawrence City Commission has yet to decide whether it will continue to consider a municipal golf course project. Gazaway has been pushing the idea since 1991.

The 18-hole course would be constructed on a site near the dam at Clinton Lake. Commissioner Bob Schumm said the city could lease the land for \$1 a year, use raw water from the lake or Wakarusa River, and keep costs down by using a compact course design.

Burress opens consulting firm

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Former Cocoa Beach Country Club manager Gene Burress has opened his own public golf consulting business.

In addition to helping develop recently opened Cocoa Beach, Burress managed Cincinnati's seven municipal courses for 17 years, served as a Florida golf superintendent and spent a dozen years operating military golf facilities. Burress has also associated himself with Professional Turf Maintenance Co., a Jupiter firm. He can be reached at 407-253-5522.