

## Topeka to renovate rather than build

TOPEKA, Kan. — Officials at two city-owned golf courses seem to have convinced Shawnee County Commission to spend money on improving existing courses, rather than building a new 18-hole layout.

After hearing arguments, none of the commissioners supported construction of a third golf course.

Anne Freeze, acting parks and recreation director, said the costs of developing a new golf course were exorbitant. She recommended a reserve fund of \$700,000 should instead be allocated to make improvements at Forbes and Lake

Shawnee golf courses.

Tom Opat, county golf course superintendent, agreed with Freeze and suggested a new maintenance shop be built at Forbes. Opat also recommended the reserve fund purchase an additional 23 acres south of the clubhouse.

A dilapidated warehouse and parking lot are on the property. A new driving range would replace these structures.

The commission seems fully convinced of the Freeze/Opat plan. All indicated the reserve should be used to improve and maintain the existing courses.

## Virginia Beach Council considers spending \$6.5 million for golf land

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The City Council has considered spending \$6.5 million to buy land and build a golf course in the rural area south of Seaboard Road, just north of Pungo.

The proposed course is linked to an arrangement with private property owners. The council would allow the property owners, Joseph and Jack Burroughs and the Williams Holding Corp., to build 40 homes on one-acre lots. The land owners would sell the

city 167 acres to be used for the new golf course.

Councilman Robert Dean said the project would cost about \$1.5 million for the land and around \$5 million to build the course.

The council deferred action, saying it wanted more specific information on costs.

A golf course would move the city closer to the council's goal of building more courses and boosting the city recreational facilities for residents and tourists.

## New Okla. state park nine nearly ready for play

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, Okla. — Depending on how fast the grass grows, golf professional Paul Chapman anticipates a late summer opening of the new nine holes at Quartz Mountain State Park. The new nine will give the facility 18 holes.

Chapman, who hopes the full course will open by Aug. 30, told the *Lawton Constitution*: "We still have a lot of work to do. The course is going to need a complete growing season before it is ready."

Chapman said all greens seeded with Penncross bentgrass suffered some damage from a windstorm after hydromulching in September 1992.

During summer 1990, state officials held groundbreaking ceremonies, with a target opening date of spring 1992. Park officials attributed the 12-month delay to insufficient funding and equipment.

## N.M. renovation winds down

CLOVIS, N.M. — Golfers playing at the Whispering Winds Golf Course have recently had to dodge construction equipment more than errant balls.

Although delayed temporarily by winter weather, the renovation of four holes and construction of an additional nine has proceeded smoothly this spring. According to Peggy Sandoval, club manager, construction should end by mid-summer and cost \$1.35 million.

Golfscapes of Arlington, Texas, designed the new layout and Edwards Golf, a Louisiana firm, is handling the construction.

## Plans unveiled for Pa. project

GREENSBURG, Pa. — The Penn Township Planning and Zoning Commission recently heard details on Blackthorn Estates, a proposed \$175 million golf/residential development. Project surveyor Tom Easton said the project will be constructed in phases over a seven-year period.

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