

Murder trial halts course hearing

COVINGTON, Ky. — Murder must out — get out of the courtroom, that is, before final arguments on proposed Devou Park golf course expansion can be heard.

Much legal maneuvering had taken place since mid-July over the \$1 million-plus addition. Contractor Hendrix and Dail Inc. was poised to start moving dirt and seeding July 15, and the city hoped to have the new nine holes ready for play in the spring.

Enter a murder trial. Golf

course debate between expansion proponents and opponents was ruled out of bounds until murder matters were settled.

Mary Ann Stewart, assistant Covington city attorney, said the city stands to lose some \$85,000 in greens fees if the golf course is not built this fall. Cost to the contractor — and possibly the city's obligations to the contractor — could run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, she added.

Sorry, but murder has priority over tee times.

Independence course in limbo

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — It remains a waiting game for a public golf course near Salisbury Road and Missouri 291. Independence's first municipal course, in the works since the 1970s, still is in links limbo. The City Council has tabled a plan by the Golf Group of Independence to pay for the course through certificates of participation sold to investors.

Some council members balked at the idea tax money might have to be used to pay for the course. Added Mayor Bill Carpenter: "I don't envision the city going into debt, especially when we can't afford police cars and fire trucks and things like that, for a golf course."

Tired of municipal losses, South Bend privatizes

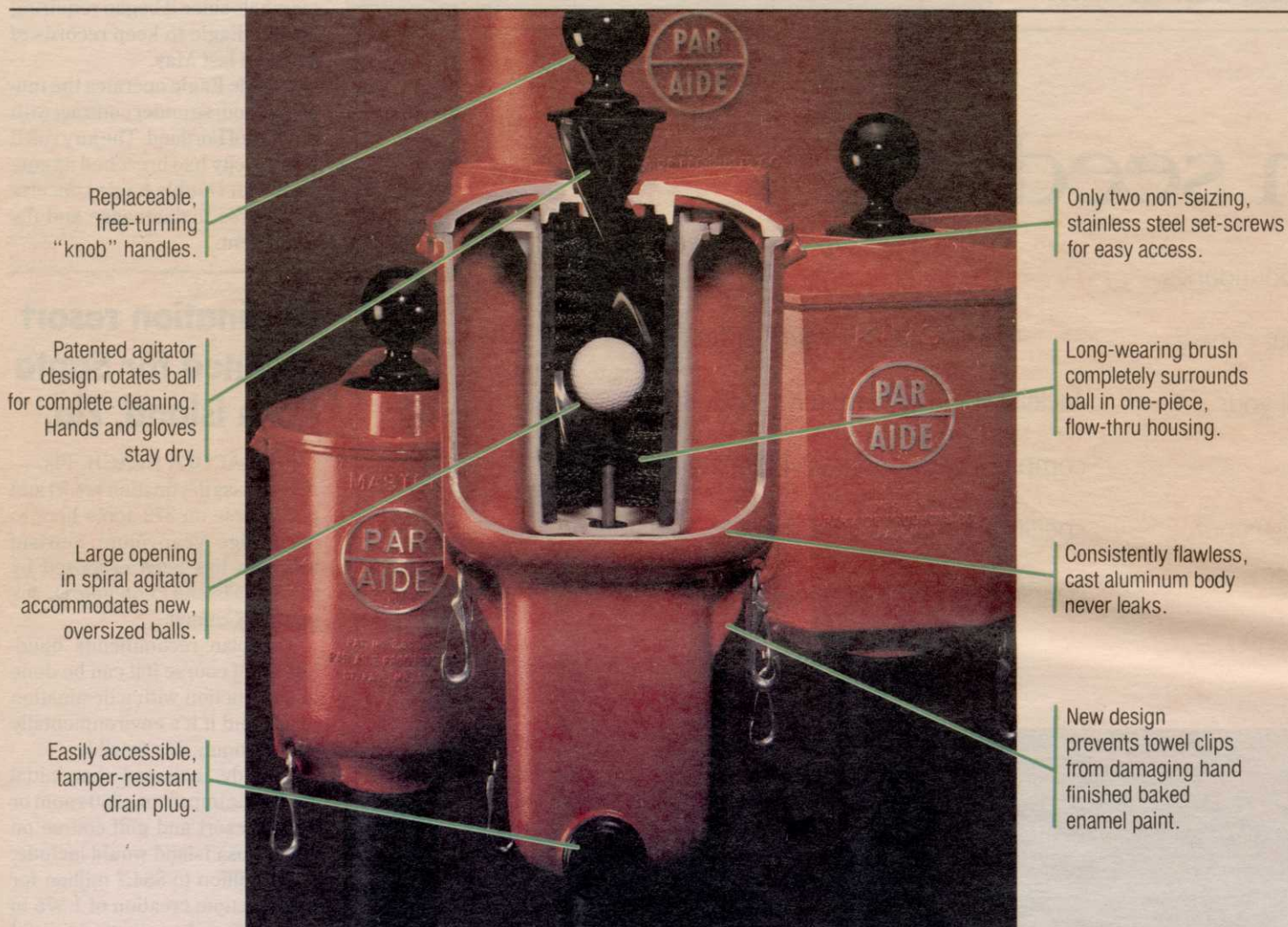
SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Privatization is the buzzword swirling around the new city-owned Blackhorn Golf Course here.

Tired of operating its four municipal golf courses, the City of South Bend has turned over golf course management — and financial risk — from its Park Department to a for-profit entity.

Blackhorn will be managed by North American Golf Inc. of Chicago.

In addition, city-owned golf courses — Elbel, Erskine and Studebaker — may be leased individually for \$100,000 a year, each.

The city lost \$120,000 a year for the three golf courses last year.



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Unions oppose private operation of city courses

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada — This city is out of bounds in seeking private operators to run its three golf courses.

So say civic unions and some golfers.

Edmonton is seeking private operators for the operation and maintenance of Victoria, Riverside and Rundle courses.

Union spokesman Les Steel said cities such as Winnipeg and Thunder Bay rejected golf course privatizing, and said that Edmonton should instead look at ways of promoting use of its courses.

Tiburon GC to be Nebraska's first 27-hole complex

TIBURON, Neb. — Tiburon Golf Club is on its way to becoming Nebraska's first full-length 27-hole golf complex.

The new nine will be par 36 and between 3,500 and 3,600 yards. The current 18 holes measures 7,005 yards and is a par 72.

The new nine was part of the original plans in the 1970s. Ken Allen and four partners took over the project in the late 1980s. The 27 holes may be worked into three 18s with some course juggling.

Water concerns stall Nicklaus bid in upstate NY

MONROE, N.Y. — The proposed Mansion Ridge project, featuring a 6,800-yard golf course to be designed by Jack Nicklaus, isn't out of the woods yet.

Jeff Rosenfeld, Monroe Town Planning Board chairman, said developers must address concerns about the project's impact on the environment, such as how it would affect the area water supply.

"Surrounding homeowners have expressed concern about the potential high water consumption," Rosenfeld said.

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