

Course construction worker drowns after attempt to beat summer heat

NORTH NAPLES, Fla. — A 19-year-old golf course construction worker was killed in late July when his attempts to beat the summer heat resulted in his drowning.

According to Collier County sheriff's deputies, Antonio Lopes-Alva of East Naples was working at the Kensington Golf Course off Pine Ridge Road around 2:30 p.m. on July 28, when co-workers discovered his body floating in a large pond between holes still under construction.

A worker at the site notified authorities, who transported Mr. Alva-Lopes to Naples Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Co-workers indicated Mr. Lopes-Alva had planned to cool off in the water hazard. Authorities have yet to determine whether he fell and injured himself or waded in over his head. Co-workers said they didn't know much about Mr. Lopes-Alva, but authorities indicated his family lives in Guatemala.

Babe course gets major facelift under new management

PORT ARTHUR, Texas — The City Council has voted 5-4 to award Aquila Golf, a golf management firm, the task of operating and refurbishing the 18-hole Babe Didrikson Zaharias Municipal Golf Course here.

[The Port Arthur course, a Leon Howard design, should not be confused with the Ron Garl-designed Babe Zaharias Golf Course in Tampa, Fla.]

George Brown, president of Aquila Golf, said he is excited to begin repairs at Babe Zaharias. "We will begin pulling soil samples in preparation for reestablishing the turf," Brown explained to the *Port Arthur News*.

"We have a team in place that has the experience and the ability to return the course to its fullest potential."

Managed by Johnnie Barlow, Sr. since its opening in 1979, the course will receive a major overhaul, said Brown. He will initiate an overall cleanup program and will start work on the greens before anything else.

The City Council, in part, selected Aquila Golf because of how much money the firm committed up front to renovate the course. The City Council also felt Aquila could withstand any likely operating losses that could occur in the first year or two of the contract.

Jersey City park project draws vocal opposition

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — While dedicating the Blue Comet Auditorium at Liberty State Park, Gov. Jim Florio encountered protests from citizens who are against the Liberty State Park Development Corporation's plans to build an 18-hole golf course in the park.

Activists held signs, as the Interfaith Community Organization — a coalition of local churches — passed out fliers warning of the alleged chromium contamination between the walkway and the park's Interpretive Center.

Golf consultant John LaPointe said his research indicates there are enough golfers in the area to support an 18-hole course. He estimated there are 321,000 in the Northern New Jersey area and more New Yorkers who could be expected to cross the river to play.

Scott Weiner, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, will ultimately decide whether the golf course will be built.

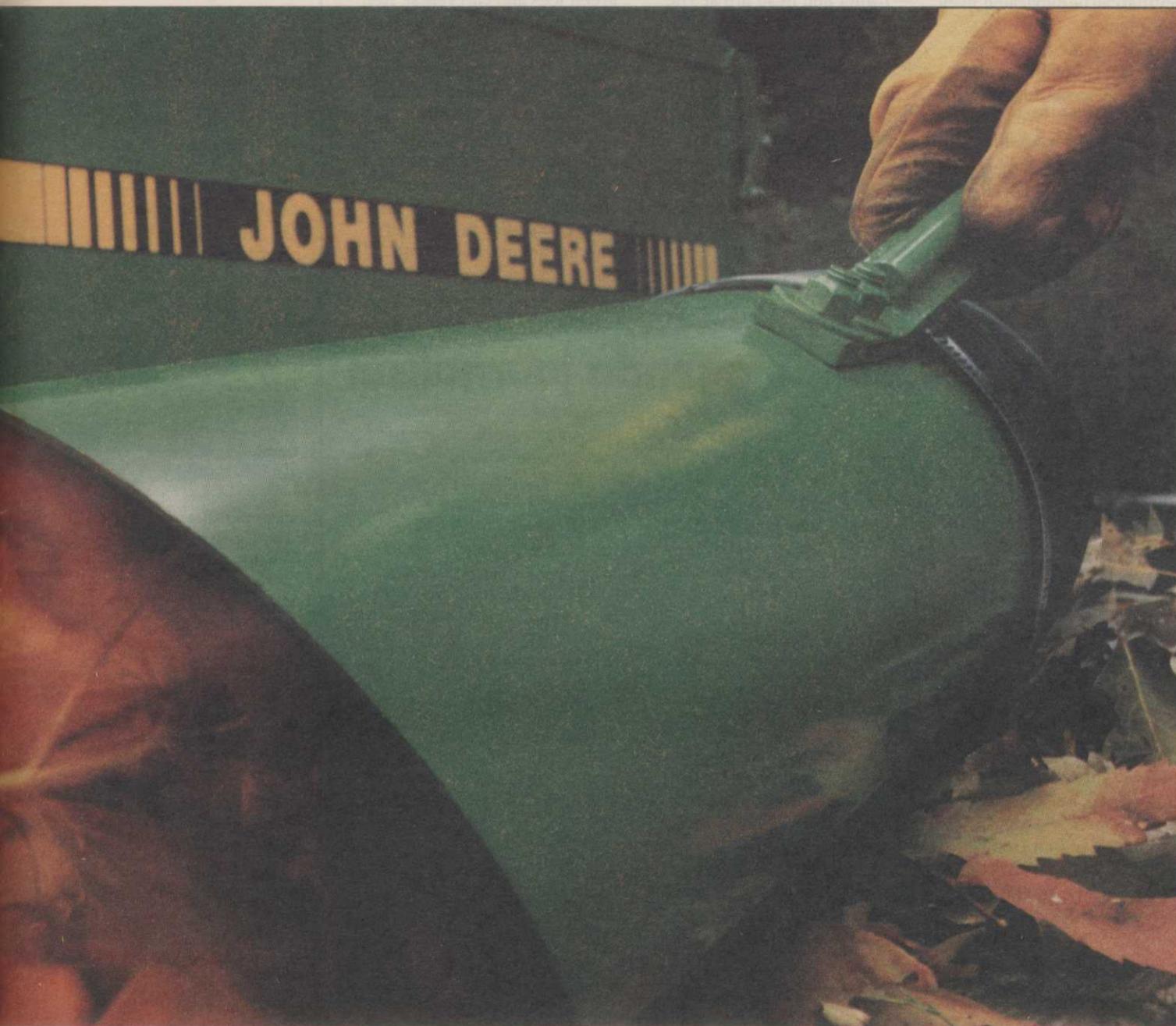
"We understand there are a lot of feelings on all sides of the argument," Weiner explained to the *Jersey Journal*. "I don't know if we'll ever get 100 percent agreement."

Non-profit group named interim course operator

AUGUSTA, Ga. — A non-profit group has signed an agreement with the City of Augusta to become the interim operator of the Augusta Golf Course.

The Augusta Golf Association (AGA) will run the course on a daily basis until a bidder is selected to carry out a proposed \$2.8 million renovation and enlargement of the course that opened in 1928. AGA takes over from Anne Douglas, whose late husband, Lawson Douglas, operated the course from 1946 until his death in 1991.

Red Price will serve as director of golf at the course. He has hired Mark Avery to become the head pro and manager of the Augusta Golf Course.



place to hide

left for trash to hide.

For your nearest distributor or free literature, call 1-800-544-2122, or write John Deere, Dept. 956, Moline, IL, 61265. We know you're going to like what you see.



**NOTHING RUNS
LIKE A DEERE®**

