

## Neighbors of Minnesota layout seek environmental report

PAYNESVILLE, Minn. — Poised for a nine-hole expansion, the Koronis Hills Golf Course has run up against a town couple bearing a 33-signature petition asking the golf course first complete an environmental assessment worksheet.

Following years of effort, organizers have completed an architectural plan to expand the course to 18 holes and have raised nearly half of the \$500,000 construction cost. The addition now must wait as a yet-to-be-determined regulatory unit decides whether or not the golf course is required to complete the worksheet.

The owners of a successful insurance busi-

ness, and casual golfers themselves, Linda Liestman and Larry Ellis do not want to stop the course expansion, they just don't want it to occur where it is proposed — directly north of 106 acres they own. The couple is seeking to protect land they have enrolled in wetland preservation and land trust easements, according to the *West Central Tribune*.

Although they would prefer the golf course to expand to the east, Liestman and Ellis are open to compromise, even if it means development on the disputed land. Liestman said one proposal would be to enroll the golf course in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

## Lawsuit holds up financing of proposed Tenn. municipal track

OAKRIDGE, Tenn. — Because to a lawsuit filed by area residents, town officials here received no bids for a \$6.2 million, 12-year capital outlay note to help finance a proposed golf course.

The lawsuit, seeking a permanent injunction against issuing the notes, was filed by a group of residents who feel the partnership between the city and the developers is illegal.

The residents have indicated that the city is trying to lend its credit to the developers — The Cowperwood Co. and Ridge Realty — without specific voter approval.

Because of the lawsuit, town officials had to remove the notes from the market and can't put them back out for bids until the lawsuit is settled, said Fiona Hill, Oak Ridge's acting corporate lawyer.



## Golf participation remains flat, NGF study reports

JUPITER, Fla. — U.S. golf participation remains in a holding pattern that began three years ago shortly after the nation's economy flattened out, according to the National Golf Foundation's 1994 edition of *Golf Participation in the U.S.*

The report puts the total number of golfers for 1993 at 24.5 million players and the estimated total rounds played at 499 million, basically the same as a year earlier.

The figures might have been higher if not for bad weather that plagued many parts of the country — soggy springs in the Northeast and Northwest, extreme summer heat in the Southeast and severe spring flooding in the Upper Mississippi River basin.

The five-year annual growth rate for golfers is 1.3 percent and rounds played 0.6 percent.

California tops all states in number of golfers with 2.8 million.

Minnesota leads the nation in participation rate with 19.4 percent of its 12-and-over population playing golf.

## AGC adds four new courses in West and Midwest regions

SANTAMONICA, Calif.-American Golf Corporation (AGC), has added four new public courses to its growing inventory.

The four new AGC courses consist of The Links at Northfork, in Ramsey, Minn.; Lake Wilderness Golf Course in Maple Valley, Wash.; Summitpointe Golf Club in San Francisco; and the Arrowhead Golf Club in Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Links at Northfork is American Golf's first course in Minnesota.

Lake Wilderness is AGC's second public course in Washington. Summitpointe is scheduled to undergo a \$500,000 renovation.

Arrowhead features three nine-hole, par-36 courses.



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