

Turf research tax in hands of Ariz. Legislature

By MARK LESLIE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Legislation that would assess 10 cents per round played at golf courses in the state to fund turf-related research and activities is in the hands of the Arizona state Legislature.

House Bill 2471, which would form the Arizona Turfgrass Commodity Council, was to go to the House floor at the end of February.

If passed into law, it will go into effect July 1 and the first collections from golf courses will take place in October, according to Mark Clark, president of the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Clark reported "real cohesiveness" in the golf industry in support of the bill. It is endorsed by the Arizona Women's Golf Association, Junior Golf Association of Arizona, Arizona Golf Association, Southwest Section of PGA, Arizona/Nevada Club Managers Association and Cactus & Pine.

The Commodity Council, if approved, will allow the industry to self-finance appropriate programs beneficial to the green industry.

The council would be funded by assessments on golf course facilities based on the number of rounds played. Moneys would fund, among other things, research of low water-use grasses, thus promoting water conservation; research on the effects of various chemicals used on turfgrass; and research on the environmental implications resulting from golf course use of treated wastewater.

The council would be composed of 15 members appointed by the governor. They would represent the six participating organizations, city parks, public schools and other interests.

Similar commodities groups have been successfully formed for agricultural products — to promote research and marketing for their industries. This would be the first in the country for golf.

More information is available from Turfgrass Research and Communications, Inc. at 602-821-8145.

Indiana theme park to include course

PLAINFIELD, Ind. — A \$120 million theme park proposal embracing 120 acres for a golf course and land set aside for future development has been unveiled by officials of GRP Development Corp. of Bloomfield. They hope to open in the spring of 1997 a 425-acre complex at Ind. 39 and I-70 near Plainfield. Plans also call for a 65-acre theme park with 30 acres of commercial development, plus 65 acres of parking.

Nevada complex to include 36 holes

SPARKS, Nev. — Two 18-hole golf courses will be the centerpiece of a proposed 1,500-acre project in Spanish Springs financed by Squaw Valley residents Mr. and Mrs. David Loeb.

Mr. Loeb, chairman of Countrywide Credit Industries, envisions the golf course cost as up to \$8 million, combined, with a clubhouse tab of \$2 million.

The first course, targeted

for completion in 18 months, probably will be public.

The project will embrace 1,800 homes and a 200-room resort.

Pyramid Engineering of Sparks and San Francisco-based golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. and EDAA Land Planners are working on the project.

The development wants to use recycled water for the golf courses.

Third course slated for Sun City

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A new executive golf course and an additional 1,700 homes are the latest projects planned by the Del Webb Corp. for its Sun City Las Vegas complex.

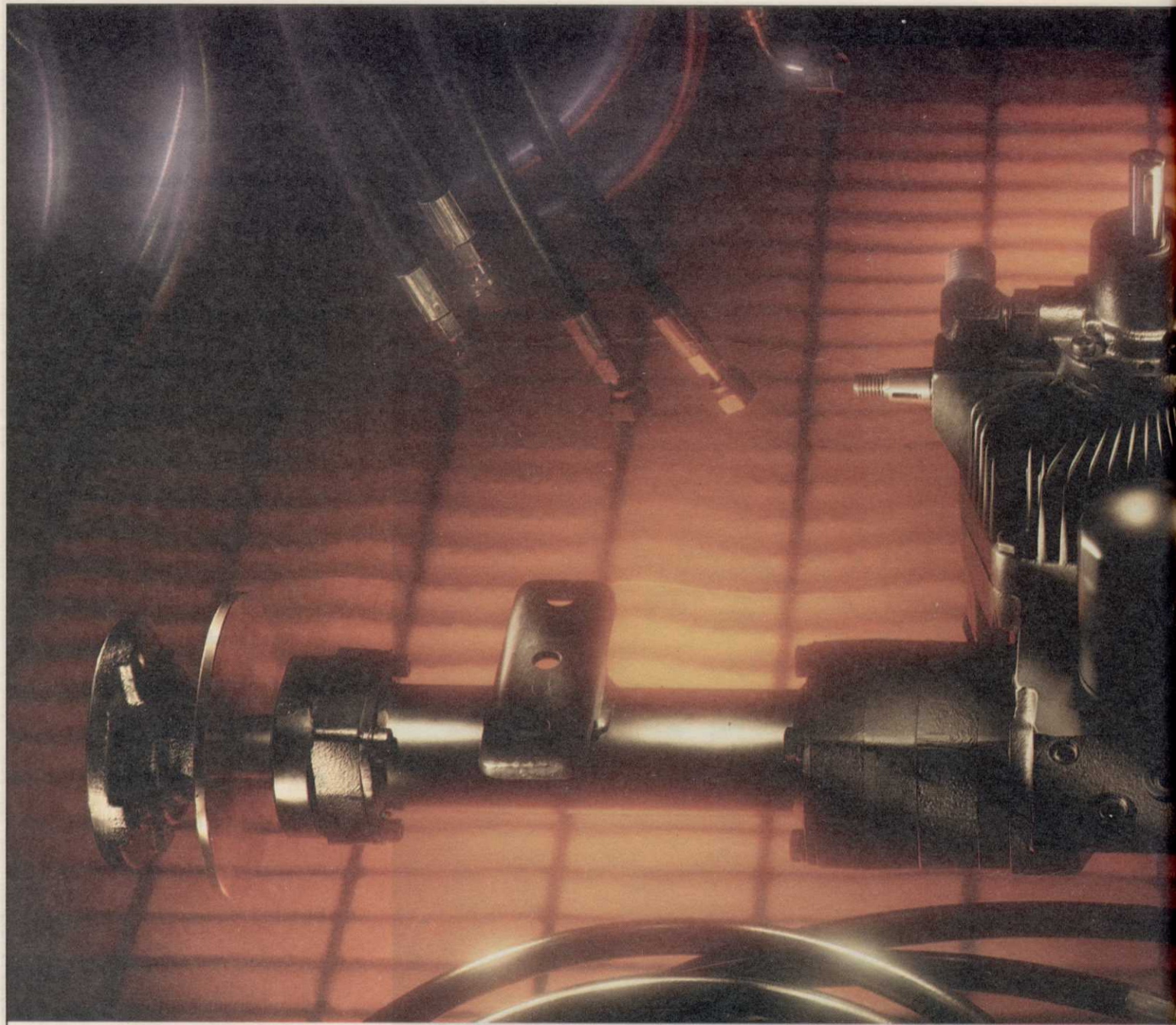
This will boost the retirement community to three golf courses and four recreation centers.

Del Webb is purchasing 582 acres from Howard Hughes Properties, developer of Summerlin in northwest Las Vegas, which includes Sun City.

Del Webb is not neglecting de-

velopment on both coasts. The Roseville (Calif.) City Council approved a Sun City community which would embrace a 27-hole course, 65-acre nature preserve, 3,500 homes, and a 55,000-square foot recreation complex.

The Beaufort, S.C., City Council approved Webb's zoning application and development agreement for an adult community near Hilton Head. The site would include 8,000 homes, three golf courses and other recreational amenities.



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