

Minn. town may return links to developer

NORTH MANKATO, Minn. — So far, the new North Links municipal golf course has generated far fewer rounds than expected and a lot more civic anger than ever envisioned.

Under pressure from angry taxpayers, the city will walk away from the project unless the developer, First Golf Corp. of Denver, agrees to renegotiate the financial arrangements for the \$4.5 million project.

The golf course, which opened in mid-1993, sustained a \$294,000 loss in 1994.

The city owes First Golf about \$4.5 million, which was scheduled to be paid in twice-yearly installments over 20 years. With 1994 revenues off projections, the municipal course can't meet

its current debt payments.

The city has decided it will not pay the debt by raising taxes in 1995. Under the initial contract, the city is obligated to continue payments to First Golf into 1995 unless it formally defaults by New Year's Day.

City Administrator Bob Ringhofer said the city staff preferred keeping the course for another year in a new agreement with First Golf that would protect taxpayers by requiring First Golf to accept the course's 1995 revenues as the city's payment.

If the course was still struggling at the end of 1995 the city could give up the course to the developers.

Officials oppose course in Calif. park

MONTEREY, Calif. — A proposed \$10.2 million, 18-hole golf course at the county-owned Toro Park looks to be in trouble.

At least three members of the five-person Board of Supervisors have said they would oppose a golf course being built in what is one of the last remaining public open spaces in the county. Supervisors Sam Karas, Simon Sali-

nas and recently-elected Judy Pennycook have said they'd vote against a golf course.

Residents of the Monterey-Salinas Highway corridor told the supervisors that a golf course would use too much water in an area where some residents have dry wells and must truck in their water supply, and that it would add to traffic on the already congested highway.

Two suburban Phoenix tracks open for play

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A city already blessed with some 20 golf courses now has two more.

The new courses - both open to the public until private membership levels are reached - are Talon, at the Grayhawk community, and Club Terravita.

Talon, designed by David Graham and Gary Panks, features a 176-acre garden filled with 40,000 native plants and cactuses with a panoramic view of the McDowell Mountains.

Club Terravita was designed by architect Greg Nash and pro Billy Casper. Terravita will host the pro-amateur Legends Series on March 27-28, 1995.

Vandals destroy three Ill. greens

NORTH BARRINGTON, Ill. - Unknown chemicals were used to destroy grass on three golf greens in early November at the Biltmore Country Club here, according to a Lake County sheriff's report.

Damage was estimated at \$10,000 by the country club. The chemicals, which are being analyzed, were spread in stripes and strips across the greens, according to the report.

Country club directors have offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person responsible.

Ohio track plans 3-year upgrade

TROY, Ohio — It looks certain more than \$500,000 in improvements will be carried out over a three-year period at the city-owned Miami Shores Golf Course.

The suggested improvements were drawn up by architect Ferdinand Garbin. The city's park board has recommended the improvements to the city council and proposed the city set aside funds over a three-year period.

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