

IN BRIEF

ATKINSON, N.H. — The new nine-hole Atkinson Country Club & Resort recently opened for play in southern New Hampshire near the Massachusetts border. Atkinson is a full-sized, nine-hole public layout. The course features two par-3s, both of which measure more than 200 yards from the back tees. The course is owned by Peter Lewis. The superintendent is Jay Wood.

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FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Fort Collins has become one of the few municipalities to ban metal spikes on golf shoes. The city's public courses have permanently banned the metal spiked shoes in hopes of keeping better-quality putting greens and other surroundings. Fort Collins is believed to be the first city in Colorado to ban metal spikes.

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LOGAN, Utah — The city is turning over management of the 18-hole Logan River Golf Course to Links Management of Salt Lake City in hopes of increasing play and making more money. The city has signed a one-year contract with Links Management, which took over operations in early July. Links, which has its offices at Eaglewood Golf Course in North Salt Lake, also manages Entrada Golf Course in St. George. Links is a subsidiary of Forsgren Associates Engineering, which helped design the Logan River course.

Rolling Greens photo/Ken May



Muni project breathes life

The 1st hole at Keith Foster-designed Buffalo Run, a municipal project in Commerce City, Colo.

By MARK LESLIE

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — Foreseeing a renaissance of sorts in their community, Commerce City officials are looking forward to Aug. 9, when Buffalo Run, their municipal golf course and residential development, opens on the north end of town.

Commerce City was stagnating, having had no new development in the past five years. To capitalize, in part, on the new Denver International Airport, and with "a vision for the community," city leaders decided to build the course and create housing, said course architect Keith Foster. "The course is

the hub of the community."

The property contains several buffalo hollows. A windy site whose soil is blow sand, it has a links-like feel to it, he said. "The inspiration for the design was British Isles. It is a wide-open course that captures the wonderful dimensions of scale on this piece of ground. It has an elevation of 5,600 feet above sea level. You can see forever and the course has that feel to it. The bunkering is very dramatic and cut into the ground."

With a goal toward flexibility, Foster — who will speak at the *Golf Course News*-sponsored Public Golf Forum Oct. 27-29, in Chicago — designed five sets

of tees that allow the course to play from 4,800 to 7,500 yards. Ironically, it sports both the second-longest (from the back tees) and fourth-shortest course (from the front tees) in Colorado. The track will boast bentgrass greens, bluegrass-ryegrass tees and fairways, and fescue blends in the roughs. Framing the track, the outer rough consists of native grasses — buffaloes, switch grasses and Indian grasses.

Neibur Golf of Colorado Springs built the course and Bill Zmistowski designed the clubhouse, which "feels like an old homestead," Foster said. A pavilion, cart barn and maintenance facilities are all part of the same compound, like a homestead.

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Meanwhile, Foster is finishing his touches on the private Washington Golf Club outside Kent, Wash.

Nine holes will open for members later this summer and the entire 18 will open next spring, he said.

"I've been involved in a lot of projects," Foster said, "but the site at Washington Golf Club is stunning. Mt. Rainier looks down on it. The tree cover is incredible. The terrain is perfectly suited for golf.

"We're trying to reflect the design philosophy of classic architecture," he said. "The bunker styling is reminiscent of San Francisco Golf Club. It has classic box tees; smaller, subtle green surfaces; very wide and accommodating fairways... We have a client [Scott Sasaki of Alaska] who has created a

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