

Renovation slowed by hordes of 'golf poachers'

RICHLAND, Wash. — Sometimes it can be tough to keep golfers off a course, even when it's supposed to be closed until summer 1997.

City officials have been struggling to keep what they describe as "golf poachers" off the public 18-hole Sham-Na-Pum Golf Course, which officially closed March 4 and is set to undergo a complete overhaul. A new course is set to open at the site in summer 1997. Rabid golfers, however, have ignored locked gates and fences since the official closing March 4

and caused an estimated \$5,000 worth of damage to surveying work on the course in preparation for a planned new course and an adjacent development.

The city has since posted "No Trespassing" signs around the course in preparation for the start of construction, scheduled to begin this spring. It is also threatening to enforce the maximum penalty for criminal trespassing on city property, which is one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

City officials said part of the problem started in February

when the closing was announced for remodeling. At the time there was enough snow on the ground to prevent a final, sentimental event to mark Sham-Na-Pum's official end. After the snow disappeared, there was a flurry of free golf activity that city officials allowed for a time.

On March 4, however, construction officials closed a gate to the modest, no-frills course. But since then, golf poachers have torn down gates and fencing and pulled up survey stakes while continuing to play golf.

Guilty plea entered in course case

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — An 18-year-old man pleaded guilty to wounding a vending machine owner during a \$20 robbery last year at the Davy Crockett Golf Course.

Derrick T. Alston pleaded guilty in Criminal Court as he was about to be tried for attempted first-degree murder, aggravated robbery and four counts of aggravated assault. He faces prison time of between 13 and 74 years. Alston, who had no prior criminal

record, was scheduled to be sentenced by the end of April.

Alston shot George Warren with a double-barrel shotgun after he and five other robbers stormed the clubhouse at the Davy Crockett Golf Course in North Memphis on Feb. 15, 1995. Warren was also shot twice with a handgun and struggled with one of the robbers. Warren survived the incident and is still undergoing rehabilitation and faces further surgery.

Kern-designed track christened

HARTSBURG, Mo. — The new Eagle Knoll Golf Course, an upscale, daily-fee, 18-hole layout, opened in early April.

Pat Kelleher, head golf pro at Eagle Knoll, said the course, designed by St. Louis architect Gary Kern, has already been nominated for Golf Digest magazine's "Best New Courses of the Year."

Edward Bode of Jefferson City is the primary investor in Eagle Knoll and will act as manager for the golf course. The course was developed with the average golfer in mind. Greens fees are \$19 on weekdays and \$25 on weekends. Eagle Knoll also allows golfers to walk the course at no extra charge and does not require a caddie.

Eagle Knoll is located between Jefferson City and Columbia near the center of the state.

Graham-Panks open Grandover

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Grandover Golf Club, a Koury Corp. development featuring two 18-hole, daily-fee courses designed by former United States Open champion David Graham and partner, the architect Gary Panks, opened for play in late March.

The entire 7,100-yard East Course and nine holes of the 6,800-yard West course are open for play. The final nine holes on the West course are scheduled for completion next spring.

CORRECTIONS

Because of a typesetting error, there was a mistake in April's Management story entitled, "National Golf Foundation offers customized research service" [page 51]. Details regarding this service can be had by calling the NGF 1-800-733-6006.

Because of a reporting error, there was a piece of misinformation in April's page 1 story entitled "Griffiths, Brauer face off on course costs." Jeff Brauer's firm GolfScapes is located in Arlington, Texas.



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