

Storms pit course against town

TOWN OF GRAND CHUTE, Wis. — Butte des Morts Country Club plans to file a lawsuit against the town, alleging that unabated storm-water runoff has caused extensive damage to the private 18-hole golf course.

The country club's action follows several months of wrangling and communication breakdowns. Last August, the Town Board denied a \$2.45 million damage claim brought by the club and there has been little communication between the two parties since.

"We plan to file suit," country club president Rich Bartosic told the Appleton, Wis. *Post-Crescent*. "We have received absolutely no response whatsoever."

The club maintains that unchecked storm-water flows have repeatedly forced Mud Creek over its banks following stormy weather. The flows have allegedly uprooted mature trees, ruined fairways, damaged bridges and caused severe erosion.

Three homeowners who live around the golf course have also filed claims against the town for property damage.

Meanwhile, the town has retained Omni Associates of Appleton to study the formation of town-wide storm-water management, although it says the hiring had nothing to do with issues at the country club.

The golf boom is on in Wichita

DERBY, Kan. — More golf holes are coming to greater Wichita.

The Derby City Council recently voted to spend \$4.2 million to buy 160 acres of land and build an 18-hole public course on the west side of Rock Road between 71st and 63rd streets. Property owner Lusk Development will sell the land to the city and build 600 homes in and around it. The course is expected to be ready for play by August 1998.

The development — a pet project of Mayor K.O. LaVergne — is the second course approved recently in the Wichita area. The Wichita City Council recently approved a course for west Wichita.

A national survey of metropolitan areas by the National Golf Foundation recently revealed that adding the new Derby and west Wichita courses, plus the Flint Hills National Golf Club now under construction in Andover, would push the greater Wichita area from an average number of golf holes per capita — 378 holes for 500,000 people — to slightly above average.

Omni is expected to complete the first phase of a three-phase study by May, with recommendations on how to form a storm-water utility.

The design of remedies is expected to take additional months. Full-scale implementation of drainage solutions could take years to finish.

Cincinnati may turn its courses over to private management

CINCINNATI — The city Recreation Commission will move operation of its seven municipal golf courses to a managed competition process.

The city owns Dunham in Price Hill, Neumann and Woodland in Green Township, Glenview in Glendale, Avon in Avondale, Reeves in East End and California Golf Course in California.

The city's golf operation has been plagued by reports of an operational deficit and mismanage-

ment, but audit and investigation reports have yet to be released to the commission by the city manager. City officials estimated in November that the golf division had a \$790,000 deficit, due in part to difficult weather. Flooding and unseasonable heat shut down several of the courses for months at a time.

Meanwhile, a consultant has been hired to evaluate the courses and their operation.

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