

Washington course owner seeks waiver for hillside goat/mower

LEAVENWORTH, Wash. — The owner of a new putting course here hopes that four-legged animals can do a landscaping job that motorized, four-wheeled machinery can't.

Rob Johnson is asking the Leavenworth City Council to amend a city ordinance prohibiting farm animals within city limits so he can use two or three goats to maintain a steep hillside at his new Enzian Falls putting course.

Johnson would like to plant grass on the hillside, now covered in weeds, which slopes from a sidewalk along a highway down to the edge of the putting area. The inclined area, which is less than an acre, is too steep for a conventional mower. Johnson said he got the idea of using goats after traveling in Europe and seeing them munching

across steep hillsides. He said he would put bells on the goats and they would be a tourist attraction.

Leavenworth City Administrator Mike Cecka said the idea has not generated any opposition from neighbors and that a revised ordinance will be created.

Hawaiian town grants course valuable water rights

WAILUKU, Hawaii — The Maui County Council has passed several bills allowing the Lanai Co. to use underground drinking water to grow new grass on the greens here at Koele golf course.

The council previously barred the use of drinking water for the golf course. Company officials said, however, they needed the additional water for a limited time to cultivate the new grass. The company is normally restricted to using treated sewage water, surface water and brackish water

to irrigate the golf course.

The council imposed a number of conditions in the bills, including using up to 27,000 gallons of drinking water a day, and allowing the reseeding of no more than four fairways a year.

The council also allowed the company to use drinking water for the golf course in emergencies. In return, the company agreed to develop a plan within two years for additional storage of water at Koele.

SF Mayor Brown supports future golf development

SAN FRANCISCO — Apparently, outspoken Mayor Willie Brown isn't just interested in the ups and downs of the local professional football team. Brown, who made headlines last fall for negative comments about San Francisco 49ers quarterback Elvis Grbac, has now gone on the record pushing for more golfing facilities in the City by the Bay.

Brown's golfing plank includes the following ideas:

- Finding a suitable site for a 24-hour, inner-city driving range along the lines of New York's Golf Club at Chelsea Piers, where New Yorkers can tee it up from 6 a.m. to midnight and whack away at a 200-yard-long riverside range with netting at the far end.

- Breaking a 15-year deadlock to get a new public 18-hole golf course built on the Crystal Springs watershed.

- Restoring the city's municipal golf course clubhouses to the point where they "rival anything the expensive country clubs have to offer."

- Creating a San Francisco Golf Commission and having revenue from city-owned courses go back into the golf operation rather than into the general fund.

City public golf activists, such as longtime backers of a new San Mateo County course and members of the Harding Park Men's Club — both close ties to the city's parks and recreation department — are reportedly ecstatic over Brown's latest pronouncements.

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