

Ogden course mulls fence to fend off vandals

OGDEN, Utah — Fed up with repeated vandalism and children running onto fairways and greens to steal balls and tee makers, city officials here are seriously considering a \$120,000 chain-link fence around the 18-hole Mount Ogden Golf Course.

Officials estimate about \$8,000 in damage is caused yearly by vandalism to the well-manicured public course located in an upscale East Branch neighborhood nestled at the base of Ogden's namesake peak. There were at least 14 incidents of vandalism in 1996. Probably the nastiest incident occurred on Sept. 15, when the cup on the No. 11 green was filled with fecal matter.

Mount Ogden is a popular course. In 1996, it earned \$333,000 from greens fees. An additional \$143,000 was made in contracts with restaurants and golf cart rental companies.

At least one city official is not too excited about the idea of fence surrounding the entire course. He said it would make the course look and feel "like a military compound." He recommended more course marshals.

Utah developer gets go-ahead

DRAPER, Utah — An 18-hole course here on Traverse Mountain will open for public play next summer thanks to a \$9.4 million agreement between South Mountain developers and Chicago-based Crown Golf Properties.

The 18-hole South Mountain golf course is the centerpiece of a 1,700-home development that will be in private hands but open for public play. South Mountain developer Terry Diehl said the golf course remains in the "grow-in" stage but should be ready for play by late summer 1997.

The deal ends controversy over whether Salt Lake County taxpayers would subsidize the upscale course and development, and whether the 253 acres would someday be developed residentially or commercially. The site will remain a golf course or as open space even if Crown decides to sell in the future.

Diehl and partner Dee Christiansen will own 49 percent of a new limited liability company called CGP-South Mountain Golf, L.L.C. Their partner is Crown Golf Properties, which will manage the course and own 51 percent of it. The corporation also manages 23 other golf courses, two of which host PGA Tour events.

S. Carolina golf car crasher settles, sort of; then sues

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — A golfer has filed suit against the Oak Ridge Country Club over a golf cart accident the club thought had been resolved.

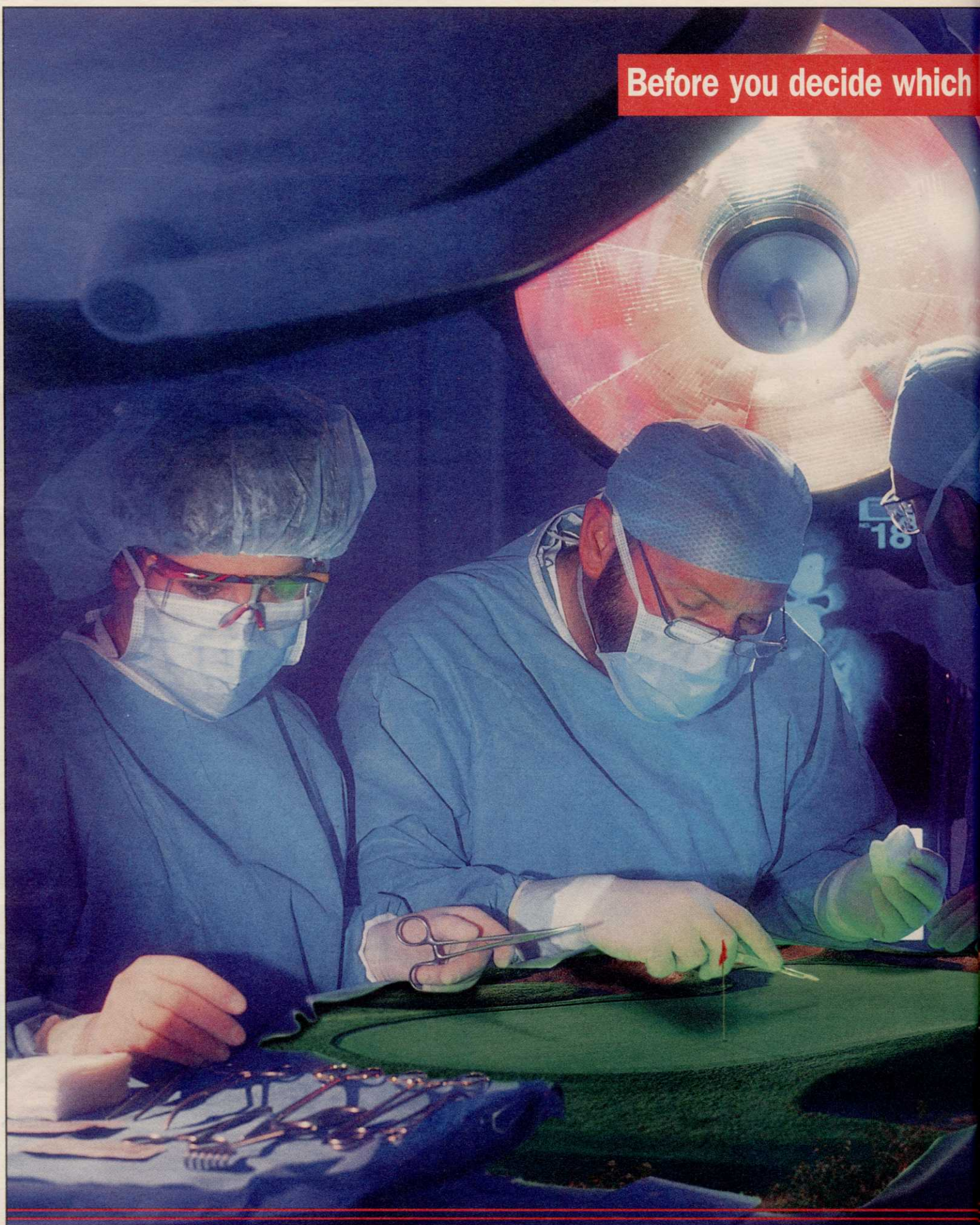
James West, the golfer, had promised to pay the club \$450 for damages to a cart after an accident that occurred while he was driving the rented vehicle. But West recently sued the country club in civil

court, claiming the Oak Ridge Country Club was negligent in not warning golfers of a steep cart path at the 14th hole, where the accident occurred.

Owners of the country club said they have signed waivers showing that West promised to pay for the damages to the cart. They also say West was warned and told to slow the cart down prior to the accident.

West alleges that "the dangerously steep cart path caused the plaintiff's golf cart to accelerate in an unsafe manner." He claims he applied the brakes but was not able to stop the cart and was then "thrown violently about the golf cart and ejected from the golf cart."

West alleges Oak Ridge was negligent because it failed to notify him of the risk at the 14th hole, failed to eliminate risks and failed to properly design and maintain the cart path in a safe manner.



Before you decide which