

## Repeated floods threaten future of Spokane course

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. — The 18-hole Hangman Valley Golf Course faces the noose. Spokane County officials are considering permanently closing the 28-year-old public golf course because of continual flooding problems they say are costing the county too much money. The course has been severely flooded twice in the past 12 months.

One county commissioner told *The Spokesman-Review* of Spokane, "If you've got an infected finger, how many times can

you fix it before the doctor says, 'Let's cut that sucker off?'"

The county spent \$150,000 in February 1996, to repair and improve bridges on the golf course after Latah Creek overflowed its banks. The federal government chipped in another \$145,000 for the work.

Then, on Jan. 1, 1997, Latah Creek flooded the course again and damaged several bridges. One bridge needs about \$120,000 to \$150,000 in repairs, according

to the county's risk manager. In addition, some fairways are covered in mud, which could cost up to \$75,000 to clean up.

The New Year's Day disaster was the fifth flood at the course in its 28 years.

Built in 1969 for \$500,000 on donated land, Hangman Valley sits in a flood plain and officials say the course will just continue to flood over and over again. Closing the course is the most extreme of several options county officials are considering. Others include selling the golf course or raising the greens fees to help pay for the frequent repairs.

## Kapalua resort earns Audubon Heritage status

KAPALUA, MAUI, Hawaii — After meeting specific criteria and developing an environmental plan for future projects, Kapalua became the first resort in the world to be certified as an Audubon Heritage Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International.

For this 1,650-acre master-planned golf resort community located on Maui's northwest coast, attaining this goal marked a turning point and a reaffirmation of Kapalua's commitment to malama ka'aina (care of the land.)

In a cooperative effort with Kapalua's accommodation properties — The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua; Kapalua Bay Hotel; and The Kapalua Villas — its residential communities, golf courses and facilities, all aspects of the resort were evaluated over a period of two years in order to meet sustainable resource management requirements of the Audubon International. The result is Kapalua's Heritage status.

Having attained this certification, Kapalua has become a flagship for Audubon International's new resort program. "Kapalua provides a resort model that we hope other properties will try to emulate through action," said Ron Dodson, president and CEO of Audubon International.

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## Pinehurst No. 2

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achieve that goal in the 1990s."

In addition, the slopes of the greens at No. 2 have been regrassed with 419 Bermuda to allow closer mowing than the old common Bermuda. Now, according to Jones, a mishit approach shot that skirts the collars will be more likely to release off the green into chipping areas as Ross had envisioned.

The perimeters of the greens at No. 2 have undergone subtle changes also. After analyzing earlier diagrams of No. 2's greens, Pinehurst officials discovered many of the green's outer edges had crept inward over the years due to mowing patterns. The new greens have been returned to those earlier borders. To help avoid perimeter shrinking in coming years, wire was buried at each border that can easily be found with a metal detector.

In a nod to the distances the modern golfball travels, Pinehurst officials also added length to the tees at the par-3 6th and par-3 9th holes, and a new professional tee was added at the par-4 12th.



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