

## BRIEFS

**SOMERVILLE, N.J.** — Somerset County parks officials have said the county should build a fifth 18-hole public course in the next few years. The county's four courses are heavily used and golf has become a steady revenue source, providing \$5.6 of the park commission's \$10.3 million operating budget for 1998. The target area for the new course would be in Branchburg or neighboring Hillsborough.

**CALIMESA, Calif.** — The Southern California PGA is pursuing a plan to build two 18-hole daily-fee courses and new headquarters for itself in Oak Valley, a 6,700-acre master-planned community. The Southern California PGA wants the two 18-hole layouts along with a teaching center and practice range as well as business offices for the local PGA section.

**RICHMOND, Va.** — Golf course architect Lester George of Colonial Golf Design, Inc. of Richmond has been chosen to oversee renovations on two of the three 18-hole golf courses at the private Country Club of Virginia. Bunker and tee renovations are complete on the Tuckahoe Creek Course, a Joe Lee-Rocky Roquemore original design. George will now create a master plan for renovations to the 18-hole Westhampton Course.

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## Florida course general manager shot by former pro

**MOUNT DORA, Fla.** — The general manager of the Mount Dora Country Club was shot and killed last month by an 85-year-old former golf pro, who then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

Apparently upset over charges he abused the course, former pro Ernie Tardiff reportedly entered the pro shop shortly after 7 a.m. Jan. 7 and argued with general man-

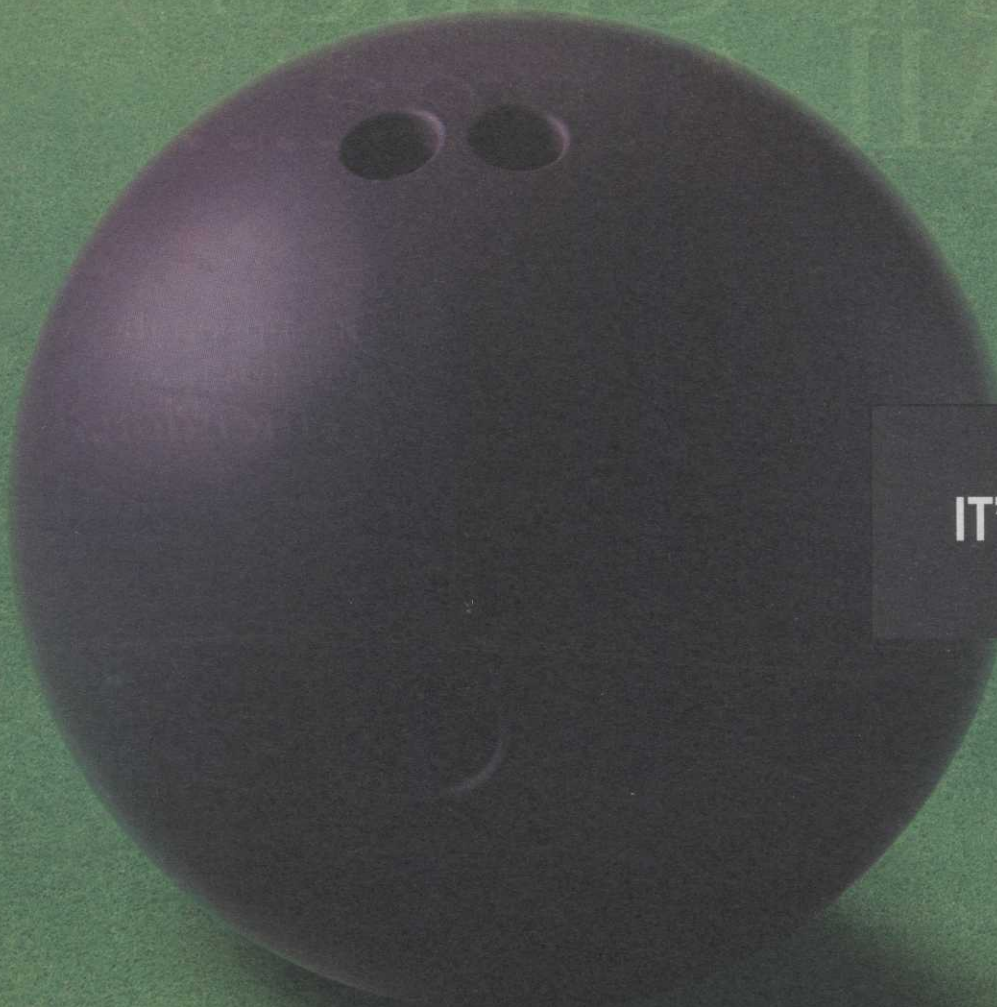
ager Douglas Victor Passen, 58.

Tardiff shot Passen in the stomach and side with a .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol. Tardiff called 911 and asked police to come to the club. He then phoned his wife, told her to pick up his golf cart, and then fired a single bullet into to his own head.

Tardiff died at the scene. Passen, who survived surgery for removal of a kidney

and his spleen at Orlando Regional Medical Center, died several days later.

The club's administration replaced Tardiff as a teaching pro in the mid-1980s. He continued to play at the club, but refused to follow certain rules. He would reportedly play without first obtaining a tee time, drove his cart over greens and engaged in dangerous play. The board of directors had written letters to Tardiff citing specific incidents. Police found the most recent letter in Tardiff's pocket following the shooting.



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