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Thursday, July 31, 2008

## Heather Ridge closed after apparent suicide

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AURORA | Heather Ridge Country Club was closed Thursday, July 31, after the proprietor was found dead in the clubhouse Wednesday night, July 30, from an apparent suicide.

According to the Arapahoe County Coroner's office former owner Richard Jorgensen, 70, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Police confirmed that officers responded around 6 p.m. Wednesday to a report of a death at the club's address.

A former employee who asked not to be identified said the club struggled to make its payroll and had fallen on hard financial times recently.

Police tape is shown July 31 at Heather Ridge Country Club near East Iliff Avenue and South Xanadu Way in Aurora. The club was closed Thursday after an apparent suicide Wednesday night. Heather A. Longway/ The Aurora Sentinel

The club will remain closed Friday, Aug. 1, according to crime scene cleanup crews.

It was not immediately clear if the club would remain closed indefinitely.

Heather Gardens special district board member Richard Doby said Thursday that the district, which was formed in 2006, still could have the option to buy the golf course, though he

noted that it was too early to speculate on the matter.

Errol Rowland, president of the United Associations of Heather Ridge, a group of homeowner associations in the area, said it was too early to know the fate of the club, and offered his condolences to the family of Jorgensen.

"He was a friend of mine, and it is really a tragic situation," he said. "Anything the homeowners can do for the family, we want to be there for them. We are all still in shock."

Calls to Heather Ridge were not answered nor were calls to the residence of the head golf professional at the country club returned.

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