GLORSO LEAVES DYE, FORMS FIRM
DENVER, Colo. Dean Glorso International Golf Course Design has been formed, with headquarters here. Glorso, formerly senior director of design at Dye Designs International, has worked with Pete and Perry Dye to design and build golf courses around the world.

While at Dye Designs, Glorso directed and coordinated golf course designs in the United States, as well as Spain, Japan, Thailand and Australia. An Illinois native, Glorso built his first bunker in 1968 in DaNang, Vietnam, while serving with the first Marine Airwing. He studied land surveying and civil engineering at Metro State College here and is a registered professional land surveyor in four states.

GRI BREAKS GROUND IN JAPAN
DALLAS — Golf Resources Inc., a golf course consulting company headed by PGA tour pro D.A. Weibring, recently broke ground on the Petzet Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

This 27-hole country club resort complex is just outside Sapporo. Course completion is scheduled late in this year.

Meanwhile, GRI recently was named the management firm for Crestwick Country Club in Bloomingom, Ill. Bloomingom is the home of Illinois State University, which Weibring attended in the early 1970s.

GRI provides agronomic consulting services to more than 20 golf courses throughout the world.

MARRIOTT’S LEE COURSE GROWS IN MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — Carved out of 180 acres of southwestern Florida cypress, palm and pine trees, the new golf course at Marriott’s Marco Island Resort and Golf Club is scheduled for completion next fall.

The 6,925-yard par-72 course was designed by Joe Lee. The club will include the 18-hole championship course, 14-acre practice facility and a John Jacobs practical golf school.

The practice area will have chipping and putting greens, sand traps and a fairway bunker.

SOUTH SEAS REBUILDS COURSE
CAPTIVA ISLAND, Fla. — The South Seas Plantation Resort & Yacht Harbor has rebuilt its golf course at a cost of $1.5 million.

The course was designed by Bates/Heard Golf Design. Partner Jerry Heard, a former PGA Tour professional and coordinator of golf courses, is president of PGA Tour professional, is the golf designer for South Seas.

The rebuilt course was constructed on the property’s existing course area. Among improvements to the nine-hole, par-36 layout were reshaped greens, new men’s and women’s tees, replanted fairways and roughs, and an upgraded drainage system.

McAnlis wins raves of distinction at Venice G&CC

Golf course designer Ted McAnlis of North Palm Beach, Fla., has opened Venice (Fla.) Golf and Country Club this winter and has two other 18-hole courses under construction in the state.

Venice G&CC, the cornerstone of a golfing community that will include 500 homes, has received high marks since opening Jan. 12.

Amenities of the course include a new clubhouse with full-service golf shop, a driving range and a golf school. The course is open seven days a week and is operated by the PGA Tour.

Golfers are encouraged to become members of the club, which offers a variety of membership plans. Non-members are welcome to play on weekdays, but must make reservations in advance.

The course is open seven days a week, but reservations are required for weekdays and weekends. Daily greens fees are $20 for members and $25 for non-members.

McAnlis said that his goal was to design a golf course that would be both challenging and fun for golfers of all skill levels. The course features a mix of water hazards, sand bunkers and undulating terrain, providing a challenging and enjoyable experience for players of all abilities.

The course was designed with the input of local golfers and has received high marks for its quality and fair play. McAnlis said that he was pleased with the results and is looking forward to seeing the course grow and improve over time.
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PGA Tour's involvement with public golf.

Angelo Palermo, vice president of golf course development for the National Golf Foundation, said 60 percent of golfers are public course players.

"We're trying to promote golf, and the access to golf, through high-quality facilities that would feature a quality conditioned course with a reasonable design that's well maintained every day," Dee said. "The PGA Tour creates an image and an awareness of golf throughout the season. Our public facilities promote the game through clinics and various events at the club that are accessible to everyone."

"We think in the '90s, if golf reaches its potential and continues to grow, it makes sense for the PGA Tour to be involved in that growth," Dee added. "It's certainly a revenue source and a potential profit center for the PGA Tour."

Dee said the PGA Tour will design, build and manage facilities on a long-term basis, but won't put up its own money. It built the 18-hole, 6,620-yard par-71 facility in Jacksonville, Fla., in some cases it might buy and renovate a facility like Miami's, formerly The Country Club of Miami. The PGA Tour renovated the 6,343-yard par-70 East course and the 7,017-yard par-72 West course last year. A 4,240-yard par-62 executive course opened in January. "We prefer to start from scratch," Dee said. "You have more control over what's there. The Miami facility had fallen on hard times and needed some sprucing up and modernization. We may find a facility like that too many times in the marketplace."

"We're looking for money from a developer or municipality. We're looking for land and development capital. We provide the golf expertise," Dee said. "The PGA Tour will staff the facility, train the staff, and provide equipment in the pro shop. The courses will also benefit from the PGA Tour's contracts with merchandise, food, beverage, and golf course equipment manufacturers, he said.

"We bring a significant amount of buying leverage to the table as a multi-course operator," Dee said. "When we start a club from scratch, it's not like we haven't done it before." The PGA Tour's involvement in public golf will be separate from the development of its TPC courses, Dee said. The public facilities will also be different from the TPCs, both on and off the course.

The courses won't have the stadium golf features of TPC courses, and will be less severe and dramatic.

They will have limited bunkers and other features to be as easily maintained as possible. That will enable greens-fee structures to remain low, Dee said.

"We're looking for a traditional design," Dee said. "We are looking to move as little dirt as possible to keep costs down."

Cost considerations are also entering into the design of the clubhouses, especially compared to TPC buildings.

Dee said the public-course clubhouses will be 4,000 to 5,000 square feet, as opposed to the 25,000-square-foot TPC giants.

No locker rooms or evening dining room service will be included.

Sandwiches and hot dogs will be available instead, and there will be a full bar. Dee said costs of building the public facilities will be $36 million, while TPC courses cost $11 million to $15 million. Both figures are exclusive of land costs.

Dee said the PGA Tour's public and TPC courses could enter the same market. Yet they won't compete because they're different types of facilities.

"In a major market, a TPC course and a PGA Tour public facility could co-exist quite nicely," Dee said.

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Malphrus works long hours to meet deadline

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — Facing a summer deadline, Malphrus Construction Co. has been working 10 hours a day, six days a week building roads and utilities for Colleton River Plantation.

The Hilton Head Island-based Malphrus firm is completing the 2 1/2-mile-long main entrance road leading from Highway 278 through the South Carolina Nature Preserve to the clubhouse site.

In this case of high speed, the aim is high return, more quickly. When the roads and utilities are complete, buyers will be able to start building their homes in Phase 1 of the build-in plan. More than 40 Phase 1 home sites, ranging in price from $107,000 to $300,000, were sold, pushing Colleton River over its goal to more than $85 million in sales revenues.