**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — *Golf Course News* Publisher Charles von Brecht has announced that Mary Anderson has joined the newspaper in a sales assistant role. She will work directly with Simone Marschiller until the middle of August, when Marschiller will leave *Golf Course News* to enter Stetson Law School. Anderson has a bachelor of arts in mass communications, with a minor in business, from the University of South Florida.

**WARREN, Mich.** — Officials and townspeople here have questions for Mayor Ronald Bonkowski about his plan for the city to purchase more than 300 vacant acres (valued at $12 million) from General Motors Corp. for an $80 million golf and residential complex. The town will hold future meetings to hear the plan's feasibility and financing.

**MIDLOTHIAN, Va.** — The directors of Forecast Golf Marketing and Financial Systems, Inc. have elected James Murphy to the position of president. Replacing Scott Marlowe, who has left the company to pursue other interests, for the last three years Murphy served as the firm's vice president and director of marketing. Forecast has also moved its corporate offices to 1403 Huguenot Road, #103, Midlothian, VA, 23113. Forecast's phone (804-378-4907) and fax (804-378-4907) numbers have not changed.

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**No pipedream: The ultimate practice facility is here**

By MARK LESLIE

CINCINNATI, Ohio — The ultimate golf facility is in the ground. So says course architect Mike Hurdzan, whose latest venture into executive golf course design opened June 7 as part of Meadow Links and Golf Academy in Hamilton County's Winton Woods Park here.

"This is the ideal learning center," said the Columbus-based Hurdzan. "We have another one in construction in Vancouver [British Columbia] and one in its first phase in Grand Rapids, Mich."

"This is the model of what we would be building," he laughed, "if I were made king." Hurdzan names five requisites for his perfect learning center:

1) A full-sized 18-hole golf course that plays to par 71 or 72 and measures from 5,000 to 7,200 yards.

2) "But that only appeals to golfers. If we get smart — and we must — we have to allow for the entry-level experience. How are we going to do that?" Hurdzan asked. Ski areas have bunny slopes, he said. "But where are the bunny slopes in golf? We don't have one, so we throw people out into a regulation course. It's like trying to learn to surf at the Pipeline."

3) Accompany the 18-hole course with "the ideal entry-level golf situation — a driving range," he said. There the golfer learns the mechanics of hitting the ball and putting.

4) A short-game center, where golfers learn to play 20 yards out from the green — "over bunkers, out of bunkers, through undulating so they can learn to read breaks."

5) The executive golf course. "This is sort of what the intermediate slope is in skiing," Hurdzan said. "You're not intimidated by the length. That's what most beginning golfers lack the most — length." Marty Kavanaugh, head professional and director of golf for the Hamilton County Park District’s seven golf facilities, is excited about Meadow Links and Golf Academy. He hopes to follow the June 7 opening of the course by opening the practice facility in July.

He said the newest is similar but more extensive than his Little Miami Golf Center, which registers more golfers than even the 70,000-rounds-a-year Mill Course. Kavanaugh said the featured nine-hole "mid-length" (not "executive") Meadow Links course is combined with a state-of-the-art driving range including 50 tees, 40 of which are heated and covered; a five-minute walk to the driving range allows you to hit a dozen balls and have them retrieved, he added.

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Continued on page 35
Troubled Fairways Group enters partnership with KSL

For more on KSL and the Landmark auction, see pages 1 & 36

Ocean Course off the block

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Wondering why the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island was not part of the July 14 Landmark proceedings in Dallas? Well, there is an explanation:

Two weeks prior to the Dallas auction, Resolution Trust Corp. officials informed the bankruptcy court that the Ocean Course portion of Kiawah Island Resort would be withdrawn from the July 14 auction of Landmark properties.

The RTC had originally planned to include the Ocean Course in the auction, but environmental groups expressed an interest in the property, which has been identified as “environmentally significant” in accordance with provisions of the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act.

These environmental groups have been granted an exclusive 90-day bidding period and an additional 90 days to negotiate a sale for properties offered under the act. The clock on this specially-arranged bidding period started ticking June 29 — the day the decision to remove Kiawah was issued.

If a sale to one of these environmental groups cannot be arranged, the property will be available to investors at a later date.

Practice Facility

Continued from page 3

- acre bentgrass practice area; and a structure with audio-visual rooms and auditorium that seats 100 for classes during inclement weather.

“There will be minority, senior and ladies programs,” he added. “We have 25 stations with a shelter and a short-game area behind the driving range. With KSL’s financial backing, we believe we will have up to $100 million to enable us to capitalize on the many opportunities to expand our operations through select acquisitions of quality golf facilities,” Staples said. “With KSL’s financial backing, we believe we will have up to $100 million to enable us to capitalize on the many opportunities to expand our operations through select acquisitions of quality golf facilities,” Staples said.

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