Focus on Utility Vehicles
How big is big enough? See page 27

GOLF COURSE NEWS
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Kiawah purchase blocked
by PETER BLAIS
CHARLESTON, S.C. —
Believing the potential buyers
could not live up to envi-
ronmental deed restrictions
imposed on the property, a
bankruptcy judge has nulli-
ified the Resolution Trust
Corp.'s sale of the Ocean
Course at Kiawah Island to
the New York Audubon
Society and financial part-
ner Virginia Investment
Trust.
The RTC opted not to
appeal the judge's ruling
and will auction off the prop-
erty again at some as-yet-
unspecified date.
South Carolina District
Court Judge Falcon
Hawkins ruled that the
sensitive environmental
nature of the Ocean Course,
portions of which are lo-
cated within the boundary
of the Coastal Barrier Re-
 sources System covered by
the federal Coastal Barrier
Improvement Act of 1990.
In his six-page order,
Hawkins said VIT told the
court that a deed restric-
tion in the closing docu-
ments was not part of its
original bid agreement and
would make it difficult for
VIT to operate the facility.
Continued on page 41

Course development booming on Indian land
by HAL PHILLIPS
Indian culture and golf would appear, on the sur-
face, to be strange develop-
mental bedfellows. But the
sovereignty status en-
joyed by many Native
American groups — plus
the creation of destination
resorts alongside gaming
institutions — have resulted
in more and more (tee-time)
reservations on the reser-
vation.
• In Riverside, Calif., the
temecula Band of Luiseno
Indians is planning a $15
million complex with ca-
sino, golf course, en-
tertainment and shopping
center. Under a proposal
from the Alex Michaels
Group of Companies, each
of the 500 tribal members
on the Pechanga Reserva-
tion would receive $20,000
over the next seven years.
• In Ledyard, Conn., the
wildly successful Foxwoods
Casino — run by the
O'Brien, director of the
Southeastern Region for the
Course development booming on Indian land
by MARK LESLIE
A nightmare spring of
winter kill has left superin-
tendents in the Southeast
frustrated, but fertilizer pro-
ducers and sod growers
ringing the cash registers.
"There are a couple
things for sure: It's a good
year for sod producers and
fertilizer companies. And a
good year to be a turf con-
sultant," said Patrick
O'Brien, director of the
Southeastern Region for the
U.S. Golf Association Green
Section.
Saying the turf industry
"can't handle anything with
this magnitude of loss," O'Brien said: "[Superinten-
dents] have got to get on
the [waiting] list to get a
sprigging machine and to
buy sod. Sprigging ma-
chines and Bermudagrass
sod in the Southeast are in
Continued on page 47

Winter kill a boon to sod growers
by MARK LESLIE
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Continued on page 41

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON?
Could it be President Bill Clinton has pardoned architect
Pete Dye for his diabolically penal designs? No, the two
recently played a charity event at Crooked Stick in Carmel.
Ind. For the story on Pete's publishing career, see page 32.
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recently played a charity event at Crooked Stick in Carmel.
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Zoysias solve many concerns — water and pest among them

Continued from page 1

ment of Agriculture. "With pesticide and water use, the picture changes, more and more people are looking to grasses like zoysia, that will survive with less input and less pesticides, and have fewer disease problems."

Researchers have apparently overcome previous obstacles that inhibited use of zoysia — mainly, a snail-like growth rate. "In the new zoysiagrasses, we see three crops in two years," said Dr. Matt Engelke of Texas A&M, leading turfgrass breeder. "That’s comparable to Bermudagrass or buffalograss."

Engelke also thinks zoysias have the upper hand versus bluegrasses because they have "a fairly high water requirement and fairly low heat tolerance. In the South, South- west and central U.S., we find that bluegrasses have a lot of disease and insect problems that cause degradation. Zoysiagrasses offer an alternative, not only for the rough areas but throughout the golf course.

For some, the choice may simply be whether to sod, plug, spray or seed their course with zoysia.

Engelke made the blanket statement: "A seeded variety, unless it is apomictic, will never create the uniformity of appearance and performance as a vegetative variety will. A seeded variety has a lot of plants in it. A vegetative variety is a single plant."

Morrison was more hopeful for seeded va-

rieties. "The summer injury appears as fine or dense as Meyer right now," he said. "But, this is first-generation material that will improve over time."

Vegetative types. Morris said, "vary all over the board as far as growth habit and so forth are concerned. Some, especially from Engelke, are very fine-textured and would have a place on tees and greens. Some are winter-tender. But in areas where adapted they probably would do an excellent job.”

He said that using seeded zoysias, "we’ve been able to use other cool-season grasses with them — either to seed them together, or seed zoysias and overseed the other cool-season grass into it and keep the two togethe-

r."

Adding tall fescue, he said, gives the turf stand better density. "Tall fescue also greens up earlier and stays green longer. When you mix zoysia and fescue together, zoysia also greens up earlier because of the shorter stature," he said.

Engelke said, "We see fluffy turfgrass because of the short stature, that will change as water becomes more an issue."

Research is progressing in a timely way in genetic improvements and "increasing the awareness level of the zoysias that will very quickly be available to the consuming public," Engelke said.

"Two years ago, Meyer and Emerald were dominant. Today, more seeded varieties are coming on. Two years from now, more vegetative types will come on, and they will be using 20 to 30 percent of the water required by Meyer, which translates to 50 to 70 percent less water than used by our hybrid Bermudagrass. These also have excellent cold hardiness and have very low fertility requirements."