

## IN BRIEF

**LIGONIER, Pa.** — The picturesque, exclusive and acclaimed Rolling Rock Club will celebrate its expansion to a full 18-hole layout with opening ceremonies in early May. Architect Brian Silva designed the new nine. A change of administrative guard is also underway. John Goettlicher, head golf professional at the club the past 14 years, retired earlier this year. He will be replaced by Charles "Chip" Swanson, a longtime assistant at the Fox Chapel Club in Pittsburgh.

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**SIMSBURY, Conn.** — The Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. of Orlando, Fla., has signed a 10-year agreement to manage the Tower Ridge Country Club here. Palmer plans to upgrade the 18-hole course and improve services at the 350-member private facility. Kyle Kinney was named Tower Ridge's new general manager. The agreement is the second recent venture by Palmer's group in Connecticut. In December, Palmer purchased the Oronoque Country Club in Stratford for \$4.5 million.

**SMITH FOLLOWS TOUGH ACT WITH WUSKOWHAN**

*Teaching-pro-turned-course-designer Rick Smith has followed up his acclaimed Signature course at the Treetops Sylvan Resort with the Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland, Mich., on the shores of Lake Michigan. Built on sandy, heavily wooded land adjacent to the Pigeon River, Wuskowhan is a private course layout around 84 acres of undisturbed wetlands.*

## Pinehurst reopens No. 2 after extensive greens restoration

By J. BARRY MOTHES

**PINEHURST, N.C.** — Pinehurst No. 2, the crown jewel of the Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, reopened here on March 1, following a 9-month hiatus for greens restoration.

The putting surfaces on the Donald Ross-designed layout have new greens mix and drain tile, new grass and expanded putting surfaces. Green shapes were restored to their earlier, larger perimeters. The refurbishing effort was designed to improve playing conditions for Pinehurst guests and in preparation for the 1999 U.S. Open, the first to be held here.

Pinehurst officials worked with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and golf course architect Rees Jones, who has helped restore many of the country's older, classic courses.

"Pinehurst No. 2 is sacred ground in golf," said Jones, who grew up playing on a Donald Ross course. "This is where Donald Ross lived and worked. It is his ultimate design because it is his

most hands-on creation. Ross kept nurturing No. 2 and tweaking it throughout his life. Therefore, his design intent had to be preserved. That was our mission."

Contours on the putting surface and slopes of each green were documented on a 3-foot-by-3-foot grid, accurate to 1/8 of an inch. The greens were cored out, which removed old mix and drain tile. Bottom contours were graded to mirror the top contours, insuring consistency throughout each layer of the green. Steel and concrete markers were installed underground adjacent to each green as permanent reference points for the future.

The new greens on No. 2 have been seeded with Penn G-2, a dense and heat-resistant strain of bentgrass used on the new Pinehurst No. 8 greens. "They're firm and fast but very fair," said Brad Kocher, Pinehurst's director of course maintenance. "Donald Ross designed the greens on No. 2 to be firm and fast and we feel this is the best means to

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## Repeated floods threaten future of Spokane course

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. — The 18-hole Hangman Valley Golf Course faces the noose. Spokane County officials are considering permanently closing the 28-year-old public golf course because of continual flooding problems they say are costing the county too much money. The course has been severely flooded twice in the past 12 months.

One county commissioner told *The Spokesman-Review* of Spokane, "If you've got an infected finger, how many times can

you fix it before the doctor says, 'Let's cut that sucker off?'"

The county spent \$150,000 in February 1996, to repair and improve bridges on the golf course after Latah Creek overflowed its banks. The federal government chipped in another \$145,000 for the work.

Then, on Jan. 1, 1997, Latah Creek flooded the course again and damaged several bridges. One bridge needs about \$120,000 to \$150,000 in repairs, according

to the county's risk manager. In addition, some fairways are covered in mud, which could cost up to \$75,000 to clean up.

The New Year's Day disaster was the fifth flood at the course in its 28 years.

Built in 1969 for \$500,000 on donated land, Hangman Valley sits in a flood plain and officials say the course will just continue to flood over and over again. Closing the course is the most extreme of several options county officials are considering. Others include selling the golf course or raising the greens fees to help pay for the frequent repairs.

## Kapalua resort earns Audubon Heritage status

KAPALUA, MAUI, Hawaii — After meeting specific criteria and developing an environmental plan for future projects, Kapalua became the first resort in the world to be certified as an Audubon Heritage Cooperative Sanctuary by Audubon International.

For this 1,650-acre master-planned golf resort community located on Maui's northwest coast, attaining this goal marked a turning point and a reaffirmation of Kapalua's commitment to malama ka'aina (care of the land.)

In a cooperative effort with Kapalua's accommodation properties — The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua; Kapalua Bay Hotel; and The Kapalua Villas — its residential communities, golf courses and facilities, all aspects of the resort were evaluated over a period of two years in order to meet sustainable resource management requirements of the Audubon International. The result is Kapalua's Heritage status.

Having attained this certification, Kapalua has become a flagship for Audubon International's new resort program. "Kapalua provides a resort model that we hope other properties will try to emulate through action," said Ron Dodson, president and CEO of Audubon International.

For information on Audubon International programs, call 518-767-9051.

## Pinehurst No. 2

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achieve that goal in the 1990s."

In addition, the slopes of the greens at No. 2 have been regrassed with 419 Bermuda to allow closer mowing than the old common Bermuda. Now, according to Jones, a mishit approach shot that skirts the collars will be more likely to release off the green into chipping areas as Ross had envisioned.

The perimeters of the greens at No. 2 have undergone subtle changes also. After analyzing earlier diagrams of No. 2's greens, Pinehurst officials discovered many of the green's outer edges had crept inward over the years due to mowing patterns. The new greens have been returned to those earlier borders. To help avoid perimeter shrinking in coming years, wire was buried at each border that can easily be found with a metal detector.

In a nod to the distances the modern golfball travels, Pinehurst officials also added length to the tees at the par-3 6th and par-3 9th holes, and a new professional tee was added at the par-4 12th.

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