K-State opening Colbert Hills as crowning jewel
By MARK LESLIE

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The hot buttons are all being pushed and on April 29, Kansas State University will unveil the piece de resistance: Colbert Hills Golf Course.

Colbert Hills is the crowning jewel on Kansas State's pioneering turfgrass management program, a curriculum that has been tailored to prepare students for club management as well as superintendent positions.

University officials believe it also sets the standard in other areas:
• The 27-hole facility will include a nine-hole par-3 course that will serve as a "living laboratory" for researchers and students.

"Sitting in the Transition Zone, Colbert Hills "has all the cool-season and all the warm-season grasses," said Director of Golf Course Operations and General Manager David Gourlay.
• The nine-hole track will also be the National Academy of the First Tee program, named after Tiger Woods' father Earl, a K-State alumnus.

Colbert Hills is in the final stages of becoming a Silver Signature Audubon Course.

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John Deere set to open new factory
By A. OVERBECK

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — After nearly a decade of double-digit growth and continually outgrowing several manufacturing facilities, John Deere is set to open a new $30-million factory and headquarters here this summer.

The 300,000-square-foot facility will house the manufacturing plant, a major design and engineering component and the sales and marketing team.

"What we hope to achieve in the 21st century is to get out of the box," said Deere's Chief Financial Officer, John Edwards, about the new factory which will be the company's first new factory in 20 years.

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Harding Park faces new life, Tour
By DOUG SAUNDERS

SAN FRANCISCO — The city of San Francisco has tentatively reached an agreement with Arnold Palmer Golf Management to lease the aging Harding Park Golf Course for 35 years.

Under the agreement, Palmer Management will spend $15 million to completely renovate the ignored jewel that is located along the shores of Lake Merced, just a stone's throw from the venerable Olympic Club. The goal is to bring the layout up to tournament standards in order to host the PGA Tour Championsh...

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said turfgrass professor and Department Chairman Dominic Morales. "We are training, in the true sense of the word, the management team that runs a golf course. We are going to the next level of training superintendents. And I think there will be a lot of cross-fertilization."

The new department will begin operation with the fall semester and is accepting applications from high school graduates, transfer students and those involved in the school's two-year turfgrass management program. Students will all be in the Department of Business Administration and Golf Course Management, but will choose a concentration within it, specializing in turfgrass management, club management or club professional training.

"We have built a good reputation as a two-year school and hope to do so on the four-year level," Morales said. "Agronomically, our students learn a lot. It's a highly technical field that is evolving rapidly. We're trying to give the student a good solid foundation to build upon. Once they get to a facility in their three internships, they will get trained in the practical aspects. We will expose them to diversity."

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The program has an advisory board that is a cross-section of the golf world. Morales noted substantial support from industry — the New York State Turfgrass Foundation and the state's half-dozen chapters of golf course superintendents.

Meanwhile, he pointed to Delhi College Golf Course, which was expanded to 18 holes a couple of years ago and serves as a training facility and "laboratory" for students.

The front nine is "a traditional older design, with push-up greens, built in 1963, with unirrigated fairways," Morales said. "The back nine is high-tech, with sand greens, wall-to-wall irrigation and a sophisticated pumping station. It's quite a contrast to learn on."

Morales said interested people should contact the Golf, Plant Sciences, Recreational Services Department at 607-746-4410.