LAYTON JOINS PALMER GOLF DESIGN
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.— Newly graduated landscape architect Thad Layton has joined Palmer Design Company as part of the design staff. While studying at Mississippi State University, Layton interned with the Palmer group and also worked on construction on several courses.

“Over the past three years, Thad has proven himself to be an extremely valuable player on our team,” said Ed Seay, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Palmer Design.

“We look forward to having him around on a full-time basis.” Palmer Design is a complete course planning and design organization with more than 250 active projects and open courses in 30 states and 20 countries.

SCHRICKEL JOINS TRENT JONES II INT’L
PALO ALTO, Calif.—Bettina Schrickel has joined Robert Trent Jones II International as a design associate. Previously, she was a design associate with Santa Rosa-based Fream & Dale Golfplan.

TPC SNOQUALMIE VOTED TOP COURSE IN WASHINGTON STATE
SEATTLE—The Jack Nicklaus-designed TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club has been voted the number-one course in the state by Washington’s golf professionals, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported. The private membership course, open for only a year, is located about 30 minutes east of Seattle. Western Golf Properties, of Scottsdale, Ariz., manages the course, which is focal point of the 1,343-acre Snoqualmie Ridge Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company’s golf community. It offers memberships to community homeowners, non-residents and corporations. The superintendent is Tom Wolff.

New Tom Fazio complex in Virginia spotlights junior golf
By JAY FINEGAN
RICHMOND, Va.—When the Independence Golf Club opens here next summer, junior golfers will have an upscale course designed by award-winning architect Tom Fazio. The 9-hole layout is only part of a major new $17-million golf center taking shape on 250 acres of rolling countryside southwest of the state capital.

The brainchild of the Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) and 15 years in the planning, Independence also will feature an 18-hole, Fazio-designed championship course, complete with four man-made lakes. An elegant, Jeffersonian-style clubhouse, 20,000 square feet, will anchor the complex and house everything from the pro shop and grill to a museum of Virginia golf history and a library. An education center will provide a place for seminars and conferences for superintendents, golf professionals, and club managers.

The so-called Kids’ Course, however, along with other youth-oriented amenities, makes the new facility the first of its kind on the East Coast. “The emphasis on kids has been the focus from day one,” said David Norman, executive director of the VSGA. “We think it’s going to be a really neat atmosphere for them.”

Measuring 1,326 yards, the Kids’ Course is a par-3 layout, with multiple tee boxes on each hole. “It’s going to be free for everyone from toddlers up to the early teens,” Norman said, “but it will look like a championship course. You will definitely have the feel of a regular course, with hazards and all. It has bunkers, but not pot bunkers, and it actually crosses a creek twice, but from the shortest tees you don’t have to shoot across water. The holes range up to 192 yards, but we’ll have some tees down to 60 yards for the kids.”

Keystone’s second 18-hole layout opens in Rockies
By ANDREW OVERBECK
BOSTON — After almost three years of work and more than 500,000 truckloads of dirt, developer Charles Gellich and architect John Sanford are finally ready to start construction on Quarry Hills Golf Course in Quincy. Gellich insists that all of the money they are being paid to take the fill is being eaten up by construction and engineering costs.

“We are working three shifts around the clock and the staff is enormous,” he said. “There isn’t a regulatory body that we haven’t dealt with,” he said. “Between federal, state and local authorities, we have an inspection by somebody every week.”

As a result, Sanford estimated that he has done more than 30 different routing plans for the project.

Brian Ault voted new president of ASGCA
CHICAGO—Course designer Brian Ault of Kensington, Md., was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group’s annual meeting, held recently in Ireland. A member of the ASGCA since 1977, Ault has earned a reputation for developing award-winning residential and resort courses. Among the layouts he has designed or remodeled are the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Avenel, in Potomac, Md.; Eagle Ridge Golf Club, in Lakewood, N.J.; South

Brian Ault voted new president of ASGCA
Continued on page 20

Keystone’s second 18-hole layout opens in Rockies
Continued on page 21

New Tom Fazio complex in Virginia spotlights junior golf
Continued on page 22
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