

## BRIEFS

**PALM SPRINGS, Calif.** — Cimarron Golf Resort has opened for play. The 36-hole complex consists of executive-length and regulation-length 18-hole layouts. John Fought designed the courses, which are owned and operated by O.B. Sports.

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**MARIN COUNTY, Calif.** — StoneTree Golf Club is on schedule to open in June. Located in the northern part of the county near the Sonoma and Napa valleys, the 18-hole, daily-fee facility was designed by the team of Sandy Tatum, Johnny Miller, Jim Summers and Fred Bliss. Western Golf Properties will operate the facility.

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**NAPLES, Fla.** — The Naples Grande Golf Club has opened for play. The private, 18-hole Rees Jones design was developed by Boca Resorts Inc., owners of The Registry Resort and Edgewater Beach Hotel. Boca Resorts Inc. also operates Grande Oaks Golf Club in Fort Lauderdale and the Boca Hotel and Resort in Boca Raton.

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**BRADENTON, Fla.** — Waterlefe Golf & River Club has opened for play. Ted McAnlis designed the 18-hole course.

## Grip-it-and-rip-it fun on the way at PTI's FarmLinks

By ANDREW OVERBECK

**SYLACAUGA, Ala.** — Many fertilizer companies build one or two "model" golf holes to use in research and development and to showcase wares to superintendents and end users. While Pursell Technologies, Inc. (PTI) intends to use its facility as a testing site, the company is upping the ante by constructing FarmLinks, an 18-hole course that will include a First Tee component.

"We will use the course to showcase our fertilizer technology, entertain guests and offer area golfers and corporations an opportunity to experience the game of golf in a truly pastoral setting," said David Pursell, chief executive officer of PTI.

Hurdzan/Fry Design Group had full reign over 2,700 acres of the Pursell family's land which is nestled into the southern foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. It has taken Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry and associate David Welchel more than nine months and several visits to route the course over a 200-acre area.

"It is awesome land. Even if you just had a portion of it, you would go, 'Oh wow!' When they say, 'Take what you need and we'll make everything else work,' that is pretty rare," said Hurdzan. "It speaks to the fact that the Pursells have been around golf and they understand what it takes to make a great golf course."

As a result of the design freedom, there will be minimal earth-moving and land-clearing. A central lake will provide the fill and Hurdzan expects to clear only 20 to 25 acres as opposed to the usual 90 acres.

"One of the things we want to do is enhance what is already there," he said. "We want to show that golf courses can be great diverse recreation and habitat areas. Our intent is to make the land better."



*Pursell Technologies CEO, David Pursell tees it up on what will become the 18th tee.*

While his list of special holes at FarmLinks is constantly evolving, Hurdzan already has a few favorites.

"The 9th hole is going to be tremendous. It sits down below the clubhouse with a creek that winds through the fairway," he said. The 18th hole makes the short list as well, and was, according to Hurdzan, "almost just sitting there."

Holes four, five and six wind up into the hills on the property, featuring tremendous views of the surrounding mountains and river valley. The par-3, 5th hole was added to the design after

**Continued on page 9**

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