WEITZ BUYS FAIRWAY CONSTRUCTION
NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. — Weitz Golf International here has purchased Fairway Construction, located in Temecula, Calif. No organizational changes will occur, and the current staff in the Temecula office will continue to service all existing clients. Weitz Golf International is a wholly owned division of The Weitz Co., Inc., a construction company established in 1855.

ERMISCH SETS UP DESIGN SHOP
SHAWNEE, Kan. — Chuck Ermisch Golf Design has opened an office here. Ermisch is a 1992 graduate of Kansas State University, with a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture. He has worked on various golf course projects and has been employed by Don Sechrest of Kansas City, where he was chief designer. For more information, contact Ermisch at 913-438-8422.

GOLFPLAN HIRES RAMSY
SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Golfplan, Fream and Dale, has hired Kevin Ramsy as senior golf course architect. Ramsy was previously with Miller and Fredd Brown in Texas and Yong Pyong Golf Club in Korea. Ramsy brings 11 years of golf course design experience to Golfplan.

COURSE TO MEMORIALIZE BING CROSBY
RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — Starwood Development, an affiliate of Starwood Financial, Inc., has reached an agreement with the family of Bing Crosby to name the company’s property in northern San Diego County The Crosby Estate at Rancho Santa Fe. The Crosby Estate will encompass 722 acres and feature 501 houses and homesites. The Crosby Estate will include The Crosby National Golf Club, an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Masters champion Fred Couples and Brian Curley.

Snead opens design firm
STUART, Fla. — Sam Snead has formed Sam Snead Course Design, heralding the entry of the Hall of Famer into the gold development arena. Snead won 185 tournaments, including seven major championships on the regular Tour and 11 majors on the Senior Tour. He competed on 10 Ryder Cup teams, including four as a playing captain.

Citing a desire to be more active in golf course design endeavors, Snead said: “I hear from players all the time about how difficult a course is and how they will never go back there again. The classic-styled courses that I love don’t have those problems. Most of the courses being built today do. I’m just an old mountain boy from the hills of Virginia and I’ve probably played more golf than anyone alive. I know what it takes to design golf courses that are challenging for the low-handicappers as well as fun and enjoyable for the high-handicappers, for the guy who pays the freight.”

Sam Snead Course Design will provide golf course architectural services for Sam Snead Signature course designs, redesigns, and renovations. Additionally, extensive consulting services will be available through Sam Snead Golf Management and Sam Snead Golf Academies.

Coruzzi has a comprehensive career in the business of golf, including golf real-
While Samoset Resort Golf Club opened for the season in mid-April, golfers will play temporary 4th and 5th holes until the new ones are ready on June 1. Meanwhile, during the winter, Booth and Grenert oversaw a major transformation to the 14th hole. The 14th flows downhill to an oceanfront green bracketed by bunkers — a green complex that was recreated in 1998-99. It was a par-4 350-yarder, but the tees were pushed back 200 yards into a grove of woods, creating a tee shot over wetlands and onto a landing area near the old teeboxes. The result: a 550-yard par 5.

That move was necessary to bring the course back to a par 70, since the former 5th hole was a par 4 and the new one is a par 3.

Samoset's facelifts began six years ago when the resort was owned by SRI, then continued when Ocean Properties Ltd. of Portsmouth, N.H., bought the resort in January 1999 and began sinking $1 million into the golf course.

Winter 1994: Construction began along the front entrance to the property, which was flat and unexciting. With golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish consulting, Grenert made substantial changes to the overall playability, flow and rotation of the golf course and the main entrance.

Winter 1995: The 12th and 16th holes were targeted, as well as the fairway of the 4th hole. Grenert added a gold tee to the 12th hole. Crews dug ponds and used the earth hauled out to build fairway bunkers, mounding and movement around the course. A lot of bunker work was done around the first and second landing areas of the 12th hole.

Spring 1998: Grenert's crew redid all the bunkers on the 14th hole and all the tees on the 15th. "The old tees were set up way to the right, off-center. You couldn't draw the ball, so we pushed earth to move the tees and center everything," he said. "We also created two shorter tees. That work we actually started in March."

Spring 1999: John Miller of Miller Construction in Massachusetts did major bunker work and reshaping on the 13th hole, "which made a dramatic change to an already great par-3 that plays 225 yards from the tips," Grenert said.

Another finish crew has also been brought in on various projects for fine-tuning and sodding, which Grenert has supplemented with his crew.

Despite all the work, Grenert promised, "This is just the tip of the iceberg." Other changes have been mandated that will ultimately also improve the layout.

"We have sodded as much as we can," he said, "to have it all ready this spring. In the meantime, we're trying to convert the greens to L-93 bentgrass." Most of the work has been contracted out, although Grenert used his crew members when needed, including the irrigation system and the lasering of the tees, since Ocean Properties has its own construction company.

And, Grenert added: "Brad [Booth] is instrumental. He is the architect for the future. He does great work. He works with you, listens to your ideas, and he comes up with a final product."