No carts allowed

New private Nicklaus course in Sonoma County is restricted to walkers only

FarmLinks breaks ground

Pursell Technologies Inc. teams with Toro Co. and other industry partners on new course project

U.S. GOLFER AVERAGES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ANNUAL ROUNDS PER PERSON</th>
<th>AVERAGE AGE</th>
<th>INCOME (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)</th>
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COURSE MAINTENANCE

Houston courses recovering from June flood
Pegg plots superintendents' revenge day
Tools of the Trade at Bettler's Stonebridge

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

O'Meara makes design debut in Ontario
Ocean Trails on the comeback trail
Fazio's Oaks Course opens in Massachusetts

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Course valuations can reveal surprises
Heritage takes White Columns private
Coxad Country Club's creative financing

SUPPLIER BUSINESS

Ewing buys seven locations from Simpson
Aventis CropScience sale imminent
PTI unveils polymer-coated acetate

Bank of America suing Golf Trust for $170 million

By JAY FINEGAN

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America, acting for itself and a group of lenders, has brought suit against the beleaguered Golf Trust of America. The bank is seeking full and immediate repayment of approximately $170 million, plus late charges and attorneys' fees.

The 1,500-page lawsuit was filed here May 22 at the North Carolina Superior Court of Mecklenburg County. On that same day, GTA's shareholders approved the company's plan to liquidate its holdings. Under the plan, the company would sell off all of its courses for as much as $425 million and pay off creditors and stockholders over the next two years.

Defibrillator, head pro save golfer's life

By JAY FINEGAN

MANCHESTER CENTER, Vt. — Utilizing a Survivallink FirstSave defibrillator, PGA head professional Bob Stearns helped save the life of a golfer at Manchester Country Club.

Stearns used the automated external defibrillator (or AED) to resuscitate Ted Rugg, a guest playing June 8 on the Manchester course. Immediately after learning that Rugg had collapsed near the 18th green, Stearns grabbed the AED from the wall outside the golf shop and rushed to the victim's side.

Assistant pro Fred Auletta performed...
St. Andrew’s Bay set to open
Continued from page 1

AIMING FOR THE SPIRES

The 503-acre complex, called St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, sprawls along more than two miles of coastline. It lies close enough to the medieval town of St. Andrews that all the Links Trust courses are visible.

“We use St. Andrews, the town, as a backdrop on four holes on the Torrance Course,” Griffiths said. “We have used the various spires literally as targets. There’s a hotel on our project, and players over on the Old Course could use it as an aiming point on 13 or 14.”

Most Americans would call the Torrance Course a links-style layout, Griffiths observed, but depending on what the wind is doing. The wind can be quite fierce.

It’s no easy task to pick out a signature hole on the Torrance Course, Griffiths said. His personal favorite, however, is the 14th, which plays to the sea. A shot that rolls off the back of the green will plunge down the cliff and into the drink.

“We’ve set it up so that, as you stand on the tee, you’re tempted to go left, but too far left is out of bounds,” he explained. “There are a couple of bunkers on the right-hand side that look intimidating. But you really want to play over those bunkers to get the best shot at the green,” he noted, “because you get more roll towards to green. The strategy is, don’t always play what appears to be the easiest way. For that little bit of risk, there’s a significant reward.”

STUNNING CLUBHOUSE VISTAS

A 209-room hotel, to be built and managed by the Panoz organization, will feature first-class restaurants and conference facilities. The clubhouse, slated to open next summer, will sit astride Kingask Hill, offering commanding views in all directions.

“The clubhouse will occupy a very dramatic site — absolutely incredible,” Griffiths said. “It sits out on a point, and your view is either the sea, the golf course or St. Andrews, or all three.”

With the clubhouse pre-wired to host international golf tournaments, we may be hearing a lot more about St. Andrews Bay in the future.

The eighth and 12th greens at the Torrance Course since it’s not down in the dunes it’s technically not a links track. From a grassing standpoint, however, it looks like one.

“We have nearly 75 acres of native grasses on the course,” Griffiths said. “We’ve gone to extensive lengths to do something that’s very environmentally sensitive. We will incorporate into those native areas what the Scots call woody scrub, and a substantial portion of that will be gorse. We’re trying to revegetate the site with indigenous grasses that were there hundreds of years ago, before the property became a farm.”

All told, on both courses, 146 acres are being revegetated with native grassland species.

THE RISKY 14TH

The Torrance layout runs along cliffs that rise 80 to 150 feet above the water, affording breathtaking views. “From every hole on the first 18, you can see St. Andrews Bay or the North Sea,” Griffiths said. “It’s really spectacular.”

To keep balls in play, given the strong winds, the architect created generous fairways. “You actually have quite a bit of room on the Old Course, too,” Griffiths said. “A few of our fairways are paired side by side, but the majority are fairly wide, giving you plenty of opportunity left or right,

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Maybe It’s Time to Look into an Aeration System

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