PALMER ANNOUNCES NEW DESIGN
NORTH OF DES MOINES
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Arnold Palmer's latest project for the Palmer Course Design Company is called Big Creek located just north of Des Moines in Polk City, Iowa. The 18-hole golf course is to be developed and constructed by the Enebak Construction Co. based in Northfield, Minn. The company has previously worked with the Palmer design firm in Minnesota at the Twin Cities Club of the Twin Cities in Blaine, and at the Deacon's Lodge Golf Course in Breezy Point.

DORADO HILLS, Calif. — The American Society of Golf Course Architects has taken a stand this year, issuing position papers on golf club and ball technology and affordable golf. Golf Course News recently caught up with ASGCA president Damian Pascuzzo to discuss how these two interrelated issues are impacting the game of golf.

Golf Course News: Why has the ASGCA tackled these weighty issues this year?

Pascuzzo: When I became president I sat down with my next two successors, Jay Morrish and Clyde Bechtol, and Randy Russell. The routing for the 18-hole course, scheduled to open in 2003, was staked out in August to compliment the master-planned community located at the foot of Peavine Mountain. Plans call for 2,076 acres with more than half of the property set aside for open space.

RENO, Nev. — The canyons, creeks and rocky outcroppings of the Sierra Nevada foothills will be the future site for the Somerset Golf Club. The design team includes U.S. Open champion Tom Kite and architects Roy Bechtol and Randy Russell. The routing for the 18-hole course, scheduled to open in 2003, was staked out in August to compliment the master-planned community located at the foot of Peavine Mountain. Plans call for approximately 2,200 residences on 2,076 acres with more than half of the property set aside for open space.

MILLER TO BUILD TWO IN UTAH
HURRICANE, Utah — SUN Realty and Johnny Miller are teaming up here in southern Utah to build the first of two Miller-designed courses at Outlaw Ridge Resort and Golf Community. The community will be designed as a destination resort with a hotel, spa, tennis center and a Johnny Miller Golf Academy. One of the Miller courses will be a private layout and the other will be a high-end daily-fee track. The project is located 40 minutes from Zion National Park and 90 minutes from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Construction on Outlaw Ridge is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2002.

FREMEN OPEN FIRST NJ COURSE
CAPE MAY COUNTY, N.J. — Frem & Dale Golfplan has finished its first golf course in New Jersey. The Shoregate Golf Club at Ocean View will join south Jersey's golf market next summer. The layout, which was built for less than $5 million, is just three miles from the ocean and features undulating fairways and challenging bunker placements.

Public golf boom continues despite construction slow down

BY DOUG SAUNDERS

Although golf course construction slowed in 2001, the trend towards public golf remained constant. According to the National Golf Foundation 72.5 percent of all facilities opened last year were daily-fee courses.

The continued popularity in the game, in the severe lack of quality public courses in many major population regions accounts for this steady figure. Large states such as California, Florida and Texas lead the way with new openings, and the trend towards public courses shows in the statistics. In Texas, all but three of the 37 courses opening in 2001 were public facilities, in Florida, 32 of 40 openings were public, and in California, 19 of 26 new openings were geared towards public play.

This trend has given golfers who aren't members of private clubs the enjoyment of playing on courses just as good as the ones behind the hedges and gates. It has also forced a distinct shift in the trends among golf course architects.

"Fifteen years ago 90 percent of the golf courses that I designed were for private golf clubs and today 70 percent are for affordable golf," Pascuzzo said. "We don't want to see a stratification of the game because one of the cool things about golf is the level playing field. We don't care if something is done to limit the clubs or the balls. Our point is that something needs to be done. We are bearing the brunt of this and we need to get people talking about this issue.

GCN: How does technology impact affordability?

Pascuzzo: Cost is the other part of the equation. We have had flat participation rates for the last four years and in the
AYRSHIRE, Scotland — This summer, renovation work was completed at the Troon Golf-managed Arran Course at the Westin Turnberry Resort. The new layout, now called the Kintyre Course, was designed by Donald Steel and incorporates portions of the old Arran course as well as a new stretch of land on Bains Hill. The upgrade was undertaken to bring the course up to the standards of Turnberry’s more famous Ailsa Course which has hosted three British Opens.

While the Kintyre Course has less of a links feel than the predominantly seaside Ailsa Course, it offers a stern test of golf. The fairways are less forgiving as is the thicker gorse that swallows up errant tee shots. The new track features 11 completely new holes, including the eighth and ninth holes that criss cross each other.

In addition to the new layout, the resort has also added a Colin Montgomery Learning Center and the nine hole Arran Academy Course.

— Andrew Overbeck