Club Car and E-Z-GO enter adaptive golf car market

By ANDREW OVERBECK

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Citing a need to make golf courses more accessible, both Club Car and E-Z-GO have unveiled plans to enter the adaptive golf car market. The market for such adaptive cars is potentially huge according the golf car manufacturers. Of the 50 million disabled people in the United States, four to seven million are potential golfers. Versions of the companies’ adaptive cars were rolled out at both the PGA show in Orlando and GCMA show in Dallas, much to the delight of fellow competitors in the niche business who feel the entry of the “big two” will help to validate the need for the vehicles. “For the past five years, I have been saying that courses need to be purchasing these cars,” said Nick Pile, president of Mobility Solutions in Southington, Ohio. “With Club Car and E-Z-GO getting involved, people will take notice of the needs of handicapped golfers.”

While the other companies in the market are primarily start-ups or spinoffs from larger mobility scooter concerns, both Club Car and E-Z-GO have formed strategic alliances to get an immediate foothold in the market.

Club Car's 1-PASS vehicle will be manufactured by Englewood, Colo.-based SoloRider Industries, which has nearly eight years of experience in the field.

Developer bulldozing new Greg Norman course

By JAY FINEGAN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — In one of the weirdest reversals ever seen in golf development, a brand new Greg Norman-designed layout here, Stonehaven Golf Course, will be bulldozed back to raw earth and rebuilt virtually from scratch under a plan by Tom Fazio.

Indeed, nearly everything about the property is changing—the owner, the developer, even the name. The new course is being called Mirabel Golf Club. Where Stonehaven was a daily-fee facility, Mirabel will encounter more dry lake beds and harsher water restrictions.

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Florida drought approaching crisis

By JOEL JOYNER

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — In its third year of drought, the moisture-starved state of Florida has learned that the worst is yet to come.

Expecting little rainfall before May, as hot and dry weather patterns sweep across the region, golf courses in central Florida will encounter more dry lake beds and harsher water restrictions.

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