Golf Trust saga continues
In one more blow to Golf Trust of America, Diamond

Managing on-course liability
Preparing your staff to handle medical emergencies should not be an afterthought.

Armyworms invade Northeast

Architects warn against golf technology

Superintendent Scott orchestrates Fazio design

Cook qualifies as Master Greenkeeper

Mirabel takes shape on old Norman site

Sybron settles in with Novozymes

Flowtronex adds water quality division

OGIO brings out 'battle ready' golf car

E-commerce struggles for golf foothold

While e-commerce may actually revolutionize business-to-business transactions someday, the message now is: Don't believe the hype.

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$100-million Red Sky Golf Club unfolding in the Colorado Rockies

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Development slowdown a healthy trend, experts say

By ANDREW OVERBECK

JUPITER, Fla. — The downturn in golf course development that was predicted by the National Golf Foundation's 2001 facilities report is becoming evident. The foundation recently reported that for the first half of 2001, just 176 courses were completed. The updated prediction for the year is 378 course openings, down from a record 524 in 2000. This will bring total development numbers back to early 1990s levels.

The significant drop in development, however, is not seen as a negative

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Fought-Lehman design team fast out of the gate

By JAY FINEGAN

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The new design team of John Fought-Tom Lehman Golf Course Architecture is off to a strong start, with three projects in Arizona, one in California and another in Minneapolis.

Fought and Lehman first came together in 1997 to design The Gallery, an 18-hole private course north of Tucson that opened to high praise. More recently, they completed a total renovation of The Farms, an exclusive club near San

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Golf cart Vandals nabbed in Washington

By JAY FINEGAN

BREMERTON, Wash. — Three joyriding teenagers who crashed 16 golf cars at Gold Mountain Golf Course here have been arrested and are being prosecuted.

"They're getting hammered pretty good because they did about $10,000 in damage around here," said PGA pro Scott Alexander, director of golf at the 36-hole club. "They ended up driving three carts down the road about five miles and we couldn't find them for a week. That turned out to be grand theft — a felony deal."

According to Alexander, the culprits were the same youths who had broken

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Red Sky
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lower holes, but when you reach the upper holes there's definitely a mountain feel."

Fazio's front nine includes two monster par-5 holes, one measuring 582 yards from the tips, the other stretching to 612 yards. Golfers will get some help from the 9,000-foot altitude, because the ball sails about 10 to 15 percent farther in the thin air. Five sets of tees on all holes will provide additional relief.

"The Fazio Course will be awesome," said Hanson. "The fairways are wide, so you can play the championship tees and get everything you want from a length standpoint."

300 WORKERS ON SITE
Mike Valiant, CGCS, director of golf maintenance, is one busy man as workers race to meet the Sept. 15 deadline to have all greens and tees seeded before the first frost. The greens will sport A-4 bentgrass, and some 80 acres of fairway have been sodded with bluegrass.

"We have about 300 people working out here," said Valiant, gazing around the bustling construction scene on the front nine. "Around 60 are with Landscapes Unlimited, our main contractor, and the rest are subcontractors building roads and doing utility work." But much work remains to be completed before December, when snow will shut down the construction.

Valiant is also riding herd on a massive revegetation effort, budgeted at $1.6 million on the Fazio layout alone. "Last summer we salvaged 23,000 sage plants and another 2,200 juniper and serviceberry," he said. "This year we purchased another 11,000 junipers and 6,000 junipers. The Fazio guys want it to match the existing environment."

RUGGED NORMAN COURSE
High above the Fazio layout, set apart by a huge ridge, lies the site for Greg Norman's gargantuan 7,600-yard track. Construction began this summer, with the opening planned for 2003.

"You'll get a totally different look up there," said Hanson. "It's in a bowl, a big deep valley. The holes crisscross back and forth through these winding aspens and junipers. It has craggy rock outcroppings, rugged gulches and wildflower meadows. It's like a wilderness experience."

A resort guest clubhouse will anchor the Fazio Course, but the super-upscale, 26,000-square-foot private member clubhouse will sit on the Norman site. Designed by Hart/Howerton, it will be constructed of stone and massive logs, ranch-style, like a classic western lodge, meant to blend easily with the surroundings.

Memberships, capped at 425, are selling already for $150,000, with dues set initially at $6,500 a year. "The demand has been unbelievable," Hanson reports, "because this is definitely the best project in the valley."

NORMAN'S PICKUP TRUCK
The price tag here - $100 million - is steep for two courses, but the expenses kept piling up. The 700 acres alone cost $15 million. Costs for construction and the pumping system, which brings water a mile uphill, also ran high.

"The rock blasting here has been unbelievable," Hanson said. "We knew these were the Rocky Mountains, but we didn't think they were that rocky. Huge boulders had to be blown out of the ground. And the architect fees are $1.2 million apiece. These are signature courses, so the site visits are on top of that - they want you to pay for their jet fuel. But Norman actually has a big 3,000-acre ranch in Meeker, a couple of hours west of here, so he drove over in his pickup."

Despite the cost, Vail Resorts stands to turn a tidy profit on its investment. The 87 homesites on the property, most of them 1.2 acres, are going for $755,000. "That's just for the lot, for the dirt," Hanson said. Between the $63.7 million in initiation fees, and $69 million in lot sales - $152 million - the operation should open in the black.

No wonder a third course is under discussion. "This land was owned before by George Joufals," said Hanson. "He's a big rancher from Grand Junction, and he owns thousands of acres as you continue west. He wants to sell us some land for another course, so we're talking to him."

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