

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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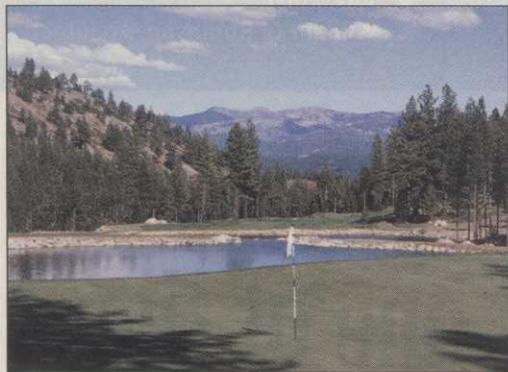
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In one more blow to Golf Trust of America, Diamond Players Club has terminated two course leases.....3

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Preparing your staff to handle medical emergencies should not be an afterthought.....4



#### INTRAWEST TAKES ON COYOTE MOON

Coyote Moon Golf Club, (hole number 16, above) has hired Intrawest Golf to provide management services. The popular daily-fee layout, designed by PGA Tour pro Brad Bell, opened last fall in California's High Sierras. The 18-hole layout winds through piney forests and sweeps over valleys, ravines and lakes. See story on page 15.

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#### PERIODICAL

## E-commerce struggles for golf foothold

By A. OVERBECK

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

In the past year, e-ideas have been scratched and retooled and company strategies have been rethought and rejected. In the process, gobs of money has been raised and spent developing software and Web sites and rolling out lavish marketing and promotional schemes.

Some companies, such as Carl M. Freeman Golf Solutions, never got off the ground. Still other companies, including Golfsat, GreenIndustryOnline.com and Greentrac.com, have

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Workers laying bluegrass sod on the front nine of the Fazio Course at Red Sky

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

By JAY FINEGAN

WOLCOTT, Colo. — One of the most lavish golf development projects in history is unfolding amidst stunning alpine scenery here in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

Vail Resorts, best known for its ski operations, is pouring \$100 million into Red Sky Golf Club, currently under construction in the Vail Valley. The 36-hole complex, featuring signature designs by Tom Fazio and Greg Norman, promises not only eye-popping vistas but two long layouts providing plenty of challenge.

"This place is unbelievable," said director of golf Jeff Hanson, formerly head pro at nearby Beaver Creek Golf Club, also run by Vail Resorts. "I think it's going to be the best club anywhere in the West. From the standpoint of playabil-

ity and aesthetics, it will rival anything in the country. We're targeting for each course to be in the top 100 right away."

The 700-acre property, formerly ranch land, slopes steeply up a mountainside from I-70, Colorado's major east-west artery. The club lies about two hours west of Denver and 20 minutes from Eagle County Regional Airport.

#### HIGH-ALTITUDE GOLF

The Fazio Course, slated to open next summer, stretches an impressive 7,400 yards. Players will make their way through sage-covered hills, dense forests of aspen and juniper, and around a highland lake.

"You'll get two different feels on the Fazio side," said Hanson. "You get a Troon, Scottsdale type of look on the

Continued on page 13



Superintendent Mike Valiant

## 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

Continued on page 14

#### CONSTRUCTION DOWN

FIRST 6 MONTHS  
2000: 245

FIRST 6 MONTHS  
2001: 176

Source: National Golf Foundation

## 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



Lehman (left) and Fought

Continued on page 12

## Golf cart vandals nabbed in Washington

By JAY FINEGAN

BREMERTON, Wash. — Three joyriding teenagers who trashed 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

Continued on page 20

**Cart vandals...**

Continued from page 1

into the club two months earlier and heisted some beer. He said alcohol also was involved in the freakish vandalism in late June. That's when the lads - including two 15-year-olds - crashed a car through the golf course gates late at night and made for the cart barn.

"They didn't have to break into the cart garage. One of the kids that worked for me gave them the combination to the lock," said Alexander. "That fellow no longer works here."

**SMASHING THE BENCHES**

Once inside the barn, the youths fired up the gas-powered E-Z-GO carts and moved out, cruising over greens, bashing into each other like bumper cars, and smashing down four-foot-tall yardage signs on the driving range.

"These new carts are so pliable that they don't smash up the way cars do," said Alexander. "The cart bodies almost bend in half, but the steering columns break if they get hit that hard. We had five or six carts with broken steering columns."

Several carts were left overturned, including one in the parking lot. "The kid hit a rope," Alexander said. "The rope caught his tires, and the cart flipped. It's amazing these kids didn't kill each other."

The youths even smashed carts into a large, solid cedar bench. "They went at the thing full tilt and got it turned over, then drove the cart over the top," he said. "One bench got stuck underneath a cart, so the cart couldn't move. That's why they took out 16 carts. They'd drive one until the thing wouldn't drive anymore and go get another one."

**SEARCH FOR MISSING CARTS**

All told, the youths spent more than two hours vandalizing the course. "They were up here for a long time, smashing the cars together," Alexander said. "Fortunately the

Continued on next page

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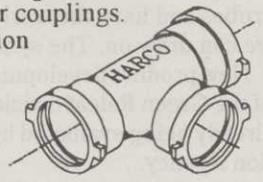
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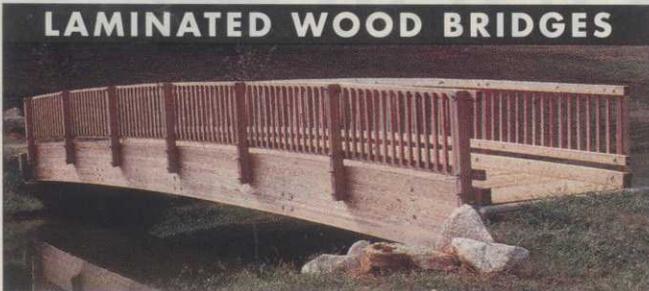
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## ...nabbed

Continued from previous page

ground was pretty firm, so there was no significant damage to the greens."

When it came time to leave, the boys helped themselves to three fresh carts. They toiled down the road in the middle of the night and disappeared.

Alexander spent a few days looking for the three vehicles, searching nearby canyons and forests. He finally went up in an airplane and still found no trace of them.

"They went about five miles, then turned onto a dirt road going up a mountain to a place where they partied. And that's where we found the carts," he said.

### ROUGH RIDERS

The boys left the three carts in rough shape. "The tops were ripped off," Alexander said. "They had stump-jumped them up through a bunch of stumps and Scotch broom. They were a mess."

He said a judge ordered the youths locked up. "They'll be on probation, basically, after they spend some time in jail," Alexander said. "If they live up to probation and pay restitution, they have a chance to get it wiped off their record in a year." ■

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## Extreme golf car

Continued from page 18

"We have not only unearthed a huge, untapped cache of existing and potential new golfers whose first love is extreme sports, but we're also providing a vehicle for these athletes to comfortably cross over in to the golf world," said new business development manager Jon Jones.

According to company spokeswoman Kelly Mooney, 250 of the \$12,000 cars will be made, but OGIO does not expect to enter the golf car retrofitting market as a core business.

The cars, perhaps more suited for an off-road rally, will in fact be used on golf courses.

"The people who have already ordered them say that they will use them on the golf course, but they don't really serve any function beyond being a golf car," said Mooney. "People just want them because they are fun." ■

— Andrew Overbeck

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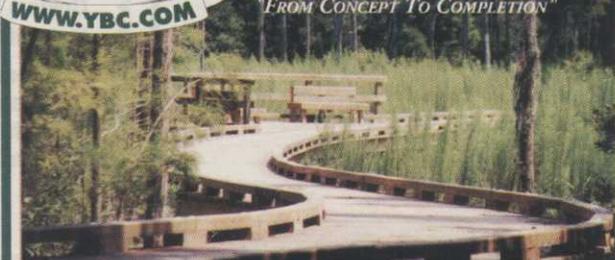
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