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RENOVATION COMMUNICATION

In the latest installment of a series tracking the progress of the renovation project at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart, Fla., superintendent Kevin Downing outlines the need to keep members informed about the progress of renovation work (members playing on a soon-to-be-closed green are pictured above). He also discusses the ins and outs of the bidding process. See page 12.

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POINT

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COUNTERPOINT

New Bayer ES head: 'Bar has been raised'

By ANDREW OVERBECK

MONTVALE, N.J. — The field of major agrochemical players narrowed further in late May as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) approved Bayer AG's acquisition of Aventis CropScience from Aventis SA and minority owner Schering AG (GCN July 2002).

The buyout marks the demise of another multinational player and the creation of Bayer Environmental Science.

Josh Weeks, former vice president of Aventis Environmental Science's Chipco Professional Products group, will head the new professional products division of Bayer ES.



Josh Weeks

DIVESTING FIPRONIL

One of the first challenges facing Weeks will be the forced divestiture of two key product lines. As part of the approval, both the FTC and the European Commission are requiring Bayer ES to dispose of its fipronil and acetamiprid product lines.

While acetamiprid is a neonicotinoid class of chemistry that is being developed primarily for the greenhouse industry, the fipronil divestiture will directly impact the golf market. As part of the deal, however, Bayer ES will

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Quarry Hills sets new opening date

By DEREK RICE

QUINCY, Mass. — Reports of the death of the Quarry Hills Golf Course outside of Boston are greatly exaggerated, according to one of the project's developers, Chick Geilich.

"It's interesting how the stories get totally twisted," Geilich said. "We extended our contract with the Big Dig to accept 50 percent more dirt than our original contract and as a result of bringing in this extra dirt, we are a year behind our original projected finishing date."

In recent months, published reports have suggested that the development had stalled because of run-ins with city officials and a lack of



With nine holes completed, Quarry Hills is looking toward an early 2003 opening.

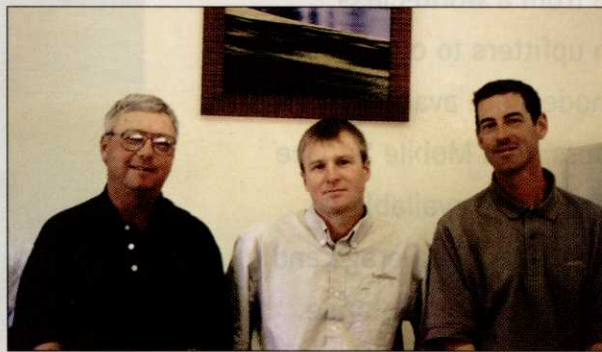
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Lahontan Golf Club pushing organic boundaries

By DOUG SAUNDERS

TRUCKEE, Calif. — While other courses in the High Sierra are considering what synthetic materials to use to jump-start spring turf growth, Lahontan Golf Club here is taking an organic approach. Each spring, head superintendent Kevin Breen's crew diligently spreads 43 tons of chicken crumbles on the 130 acres of fairways to build up the soils before opening day.

Six years of organic efforts at Lahontan, an 18-hole Tom Weiskopf-designed course, have begun



(Left to right) Mike Kosak, Martyn Hoffman and Kevin Breen

to pay off. Each year Breen has been able to cut back on his annual synthetic fertilization to sustain a

healthy stand of turf.

The direction toward an organic maintenance program was put into place

when construction began under the watchful eye of Mike Kosak, the director of agronomy. This enclave of mountain homes and the only private golf club in the Lake Tahoe region has stressed a careful environmental program to blend the development into the natural landscape with as little intrusion as possible.

Kosak has strived to utilize organic farming methods to make this property sustainable for

Continued on page 10

Management companies holding on

By DEREK RICE

SANTA MONICA, Calif. and CHARLESTON, S.C. — Two financially troubled golf course ownership and management companies — National Golf Properties (NGP) and Golf Trust of America (GTA) — received reprieves of sorts in July from their creditors.

NGP, which has continued to push toward a merger with its largest ten-

ant, American Golf Corp., despite pressure from shareholders, has reached an agreement with its lender, Bank One N.A., to extend the forbearance period on NGP's \$300 million credit line until March 31, 2003. As collateral, NGP granted mortgages and deeds of trust on its properties. The company has been in technical default

Continued on page 15

Quarry Hills looks to spring 2003 opening

Continued from page 1

cash. Geilich laughed off those reports. "We have never stopped work and we are proceeding along," he said. "We would prefer to have been finished already, but it didn't work out that way."

The planned 27-hole John Sanford-designed golf course has seen its share of delays in the 11 years since Geilich and his partner, developer Bill O'Connell, first proposed the idea of building a golf course, soccer and baseball fields on the

site of a former landfill. Because Quarry Hills was accepting dirt from Boston's Big Dig highway project, which itself has seen its share of delays and cost overruns, Geilich said delays were inevitable.

"It has been an extremely complex and difficult project," Geilich said. "Obviously, [construction crews] never know when they're digging just how much they're going to get or when it's going to come. So they may say they're going to send 500 trucks and they send 1,000. They just never know.

"It's been very difficult, but we're through with the worst of it and we're on the homestretch now," he added.

In all, more than 13 million tons of dirt have been brought in 900,000 truckloads to the site from the Big Dig project. At press time, nearly all of that had been placed where it was supposed to go, Geilich said.

"All the dirt is on site, and we do have nine holes finished and grassed," he said. "If all goes well, we should be able to open all 18 holes for play by the middle to late spring or early summer next year."

Geilich said the plan is for the work on

the remaining nine holes to be completed by next spring and opened by the end of next summer.

"Hopefully we'll have that done next spring," he said. "Actually, if we have a mild fall as we did last year, we may even get that done this year."

Through all the delays, Geilich said, the grounds staff at Quarry Hills, under the guidance of superintendent Gary Kessener, has done its best to avoid further delays.

"We've lucked out with a wonderful crew. They're doing a super job," he said. ■

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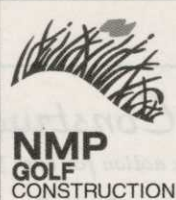
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