

GOLF COURSE NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

A UNITED PUBLICATION

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7

JULY 2002 • \$7.00

www.golfcoursenews.com

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Photo: Freddy Bird

MOVIN' ON UP

Ever since the century-old Monterey pine that stood near the 18th green at Pebble Beach Golf Links succumbed to lightning and disease last fall, the plan was to replace it. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the course found one – a 67-foot cypress tree – right on the property. See story on page 3.

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COUNTERPOINT

Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

Turf Seed forging ahead with naturally Roundup resistant turf

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HUBBARD, Ore. — While it continues to work on transgenic Roundup ready turfgrass, Pure Seed Testing, Turf Seed's research corporation, is also pressing forward with its decade-long effort to develop naturally Roundup resistant turfgrass.

"Ten years ago I asked the marketing guys what they would like to see in the future and they said herbicide resistant grasses," said Pure Seed Testing president Crystal Rose-Fricker. "I decided to start work on Roundup because it was the most accepted herbicide and most usable to kill grassy weeds like Poa annua."

Rose-Fricker has already developed Aurora Gold hard fescue, and Pure Gold and Tomahawk RT tall fescues that tolerate higher than usual rates of Roundup. All three

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Crystal Rose-Fricker in the field

Textron continues refocusing efforts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — With its manufacturing and engineering facilities mostly consolidated to its Charlotte, N.C., and Ipswich, England, facilities, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products is pushing forward with other initiatives to retool the company.

These ongoing efforts involve condensing product platforms, rolling out a new walk-behind greens mower line and opening a new testing facility that will include a par-3 golf hole. Over the long-term, the company also plans to convert to a build-to-order company instead of a build-to-stock company giving its dealers and distributors more control over inventory and costs.

"Charlotte is the center for turf engineering globally," said Michael Vickers, Textron's new vice president of engineering for turf products. "When we moved here from Racine [Wis.] we assembled a new team of engineers because there were very few people who wanted to transfer down here."

"We ended up with a team that is extremely diverse from both an experience and a industry point of view," he continued. "We have engineers from aircraft, automobile, agricultural and construction."

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Michael Vickers

AGC defamation suits proceed in Illinois

By DEREK RICE

GENEVA, Ill. — In late May, Santa Monica, Calif.-based American Golf Corp. (AGC) and disgruntled Eagle Brook Country Club member Tom Doyle finally had their day in court to address lawsuits filed by each side alleging defamation.

AGC alleges that Doyle's Web site that criticizes Eagle Brook is defamatory. Doyle

alleges that he and his wife were defamed when their names were posted at the club as deadbeats. He also claims breach of contract and fraud on the part of AGC-operated Eagle Brook.

At the May 23 hearing, Judge Patrick Dixon set a late-June court date for a preliminary hearing on the suits. At this hearing, both sides will be forced to play all their cards, which is essentially what Doyle said he has been seeking from the beginning.

At issue is the status of maintenance issues at the club, as well as Eagle Brook's insistence that members join a resigning members list and wait for a set number of members to join before existing

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Oneidas building on casino, golf successes

By DEREK RICE

ONEIDA, N.Y. — The Oneida Indian Nation has broken ground for construction of the first of two new golf courses to complement its Shenandoah Golf Club at Turning Stone Casino.

"What the nation is looking to do is to shift Turning Stone from a casino that has a golf course to a golf destination that happens to have a casino," said Mark Emery, a spokesman for the Oneida Nation.

The decision to build the two new courses was based on the increased demand for golf in the

area surrounding the casino, Emery said.



The Oneida Indian Nation in New York is building two new golf courses at Turning Point Casino to complement Shenandoah Golf Club, the 12th hole of which is pictured above.

"Golf is very popular here, and people have been thrilled with the

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Oneida Nation

Continued from page 1

Shenandoah course," he said. "This will give the resort a new look and a lot more to offer."

The Oneida Nation has spared no expense in designing the two courses by hiring two of the biggest names in golf course design. Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Tom Fazio have designed the two new 18-hole courses and will oversee the projects. The Jones course is under construction with a June 2003 opening scheduled, and the Fazio course is slated to open in June 2004.

Joe Baidy, director of golf courses and grounds will work with Landscapes Unlimited, which also developed the Shenandoah course, on the construction of the two new courses. Baidy said getting the Jones course opened by next June is going to take a lot of hard work.

"It is going to be intensive and it's on the fast track," he said. "All parties concerned are working together real well and things are moving."

The Jones course will begin and end near the existing practice facility at Shenandoah. For Jones, the opportunity to work on a course in the upstate New York area is special.

"My father and mother attended college in the Finger Lakes region, and the Robert Trent Jones course at Cornell University, designed by and named for my father, established a legacy that I will endeavor to follow in this new project," Jones said.

The Fazio course will be located about two miles from Shenandoah. Fazio said he sees that course as being an incredible place when it is completed.

"Since the golf course site is very special in character and beauty, I envision the finished course to be a 'must see' golf course for golf enthusiasts," he said.

In addition to the two 7,300-plus-yard courses, the resort is working on a 70,000-square-foot expansion of the casino, and recently completed a new 24,000-square-foot clubhouse at Shenandoah. Emery said these are not the only projects planned at the resort.

"The casino expansion is underway, and there will probably be additional developments down the road," he said.

Baidy said all of the current and future projects are part of the nation's overall plan to create the best destination resort the possible.

"We constantly strive to reach the next plateau, and this will carry up through the other two courses," he said. "These projects have been discussed for some time, and I think this was the opportune time to do them." ■

LandBank

Continued from previous page

where it was just the conservation community, but we wanted to do it where it's part of the golf course, and we can integrate them together."

The land on which the course will be built is well-suited for golf, Smyers said.

"We will be able to use the

natural slopes to settle the strategy and have a minimal number of bunkers," Smyers said.

Johnson said the testament to the land's suitability for golf is the relatively small amount of earth that will need to be moved for the project.

"We're only moving 150,000 cubic yards of dirt. That's basically your tees, bunkers and green settings, and not much

more," he said. "We're also doing a little sloping around the brooks to protect them and that's all."

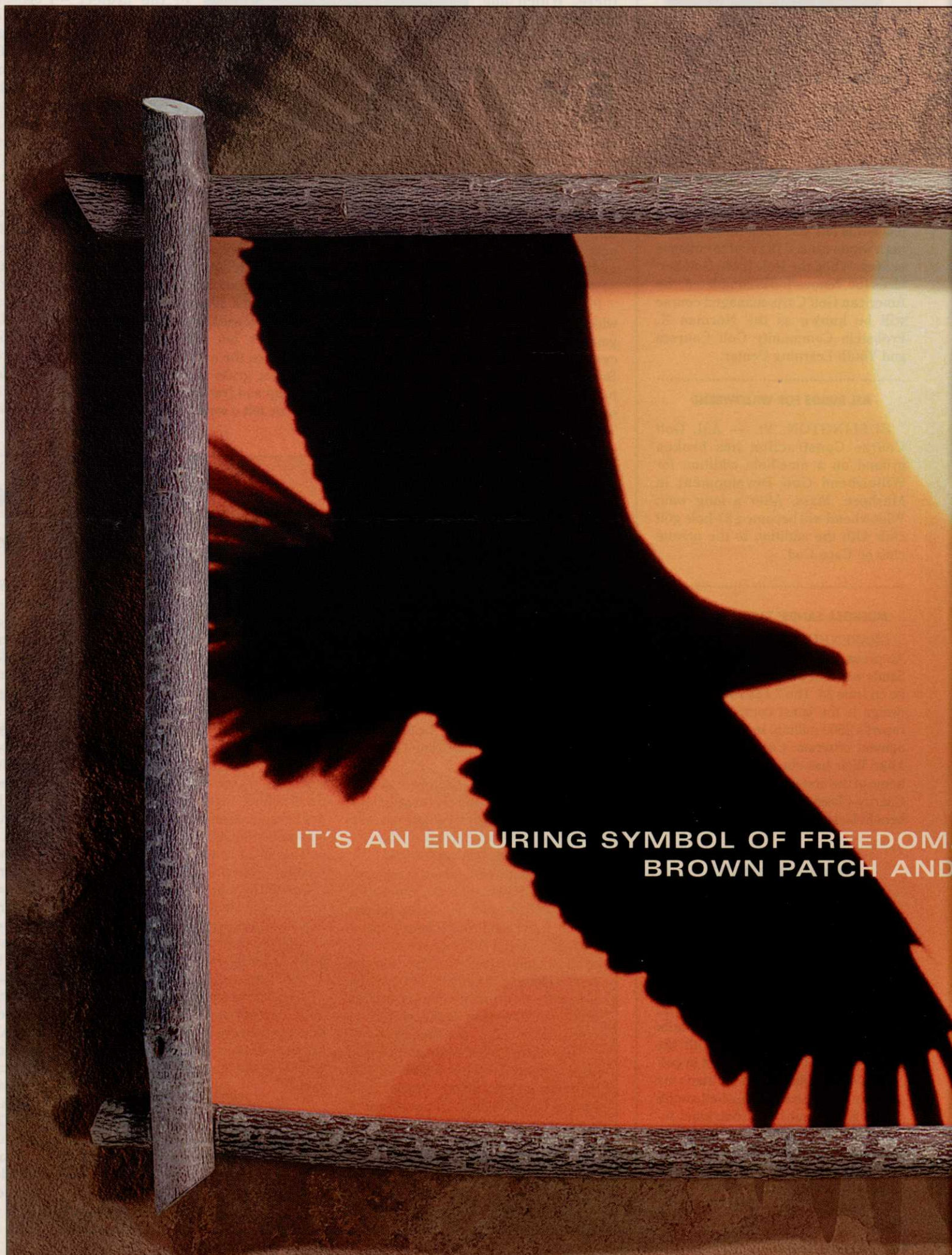
Grooming and shaping is being handled by Jim Croom Sr. and Jim Croom Jr. of Hi-Tech Golf, based in Tampa, Fla. Working with builders who understand the concept LandBank and Smyers are trying to achieve was key, Johnson said.

"You've got to work with like-minded people, and they're on

the front edge of the new concepts, and they're interested in seeing construction done properly," he said. "It's good for their name as well."

While that may be the case, Johnson said, it doesn't make their job any easier.

"It's definitely more difficult for them," he said. "But this is our opportunity to do what's right." ■



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