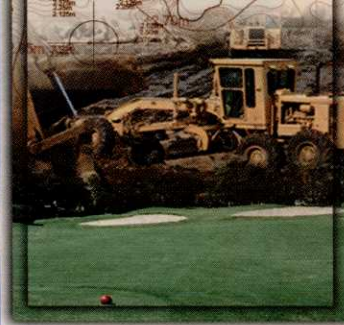


# DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION



## BRIEFS

### WET WEATHER DELAYS LAKE JACKSON OPENING

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — In the wake of an abnormally wet summer last year, which featured two tropical storms, the city of Lake Jackson has been forced to postpone the opening of The Wilderness Club. Grassing on the Jeffrey Brauer-designed layout was originally scheduled to begin this month, with an eye toward an October opening. As a result of the setbacks, grassing should begin this fall, with the opening pushed back to spring or summer 2004.

### SUGARLOAF TO UNDERTAKE FINAL RENOVATION PHASE

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Sugarloaf/USA will begin the final phase of its three-year, \$800,000 capital improvement project this spring. This year's work includes installing a computerized irrigation system and expanding the ongoing water and drainage management program. Sugarloaf will also pave the car paths, rebuild all the bunkers and connect a second source of water for course irrigation. Future improvements at the course will include building a new clubhouse and pro shop. In addition, boosted by a PGA For the Good of the Game Grant, Sugarloaf will host hundreds of children for golf camps, intensive instruction and after-school programs.

### CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY AT FARMLINKS' FIRST TEE FACILITY

SYLACAUGA, Ala. — Pursell Technologies Inc. (PTI) has broken ground on a First Tee facility that will complement its Pursell Farms project and serve as a demonstration area for the company, as well as for other First Tee suppliers. The Hurdzan-Fry design, which is being built by Landscapes Unlimited LLC, will occupy 3,000 acres near the entrance to PTI's Pursell Farms. It will initially include a driving range and three holes, but will eventually be expanded to nine holes.

## Oakland's Metro opens after eight years of obstacles

By DOUG SAUNDERS

OAKLAND, Calif. — The newest public golf course in the northern California region, Oakland's Metropolitan Golf Links, opened to players April 16. This Johnny Miller-designed venue brings a challenging layout to a wide-open 125-acre site near San Francisco Bay that sits under the landing patterns for Oakland Airport. The course is a first-rate replacement for the former Lew Galbraith Golf Course that closed back in 1994.

"Johnny Miller and I have designed a course that all players will enjoy as well as a superior practice facility that should draw families from the community," explained co-designer Fred Bliss. "We feel that in time Metropolitan Golf Links will be considered one of the best public venues anywhere."

While it took nearly three years to complete the 7,045-yard course, that hardly begins to explain how this course came about as a critical part of solving an extremely complex issue for the city of Oakland.

The old Lew Galbraith Golf Course provided the first golf experience for thousands in the Bay Area during its 30 years of existence. But the course was built over a landfill that was mandated by the EPA to be closed down properly in 1992. This closure process called for capping the old



Oakland's reconstruction of the old Lew Galbraith Golf Course is complete and the course reopened in April.

landfill with a one-foot thick clay cap.

The city took the initiative to tackle two problems at once. Along with the need to deal with the old landfill, the Port of Oakland was preparing to dredge the

Oakland estuary in order to bring larger ships into the bustling port. While the city was in need of capping material, the port was in need of a place to dump dredge material. The Galbraith site be-

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## ASL, developer overcome Cape Cod regulations

By DEREK RICE

MASHPEE, Mass. — When ASL Construction and Willowbend Golf Development collaborated on adding a third nine holes to Willowbend Golf Club here, they had to overcome a number of strict environmental and historical regulations, said ASL's Jim Despres.

"That area is heavily regulated and rightly so," Despres said. "It's a small parcel of land. It's incredible with the traffic in the summertime. It's a very intense place."

To meet the stringent demands, ASL used rubber lining in some fairways and on all tees and greens surrounds.

"The lining was used because there were historical preservation areas on the property. The areas that received the lining were not disturbed with any machinery or traffic," he said. "The lining went

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## Doak giving 'a leg up' with internships

By DEREK RICE

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The response to golf course architect Tom Doak's search for interns to learn about golf course design first-hand has been greater than even he anticipated.

"We've waded through about 60 applications," Doak said. "We got a bigger response than we expected."

Doak and his staff at Renaissance Golf Design pored through the applications and chose two interns in early April.

"It was really hard to sort through them," Doak said. "Now I know what college admissions officers feel like. You just get a lot of good applications and it's hard to try to pick among them."

The two interns Doak and his



The positive reception to Tom Doak's Pacific Dunes in Bandon, Ore., has led to 'at least two jobs' for Renaissance Golf, Doak said.

staff selected were George Waters, 24, who is a master's candidate at the University of Guelph in Ontario, and Philippe Binette, 21, a junior at the University of

Montreal. Doak said the two would probably begin working with the company in early May.

While Doak has had interns

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## Winterstone GC to play around excavation

By DEREK RICE

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — With above-ground construction completed on the 18-hole Winterstone Golf Course here and an opening scheduled for this month, there are still four years of below-ground construction

to contend with, said Rick Boylan, president of Mid-America Golf and Landscape Inc.

The course's developer, Rocca Processing, is mining 4.5 million square feet of underground warehouse space, which will be linked to nearby Carefree Indus-

trial Park via a tunnel under Interstate 291.

The blasting below the course began while construction above ground was still in progress, Boylan said.

"That's been going on for two years," Boylan said.

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## Course to open with blasting beneath

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"Sometimes it made you want to look up and see if there was a thunder cloud coming and sometimes you felt like you'd better run for cover."

Boylan said communication was key during the construction phase.

"There was always a coordination meeting. They'd know where we were working if there were some areas like underneath lakes where they were going to be blasting," Boylan said. "We had to make sure the lakes were sealed so they could never leak down underneath the ground when they're all done."

Aside from some of the basics, Boylan was tight-lipped on his company's process of sealing the lake beds.

"I can't give my secrets away," he said. "We just put PVC liner down on the bottom of it. It was a little bit more involved than that, but there's a 40mm liner under all the lakes."

In early April, Mid-America was finishing up some last-minute work in preparation for

the opening, which Boylan said will be about 30 days ahead of schedule.

"The owner has retained us to do the site work for the parking lot and irrigation and landscaping around there—just to help get the 11th-hour stuff done," he said.

Boylan said rather than perform blasting during off-hours, Winterstone has built the excavation below the course into its marketing plan.

"I really think this is one of the first of its kind in the country—an actual operating mine underneath the ground," he said. "Every day at 3 o'clock, you can hear charges go off. That's actually going to be the motto of the golf course: 'Come feel the thunder at Winterstone.'"

Boylan said the Craig Schreiner-designed course will still be unique once the mining is complete, as well.

"For the Kansas City area, it has an Ozark feel. We've got some rolling terrain with a lot of 50- to 100-foot elevation changes, where most of the Kansas City courses are flat," he said. ■

## ASL, Willowbend practice environmental, historical protection

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down and then a layer of sand covered that lining so the undisturbed ground will exist in perpetuity.

"For environmental reasons, all of the tees and greensides were lined with rubber liners and also had to have perimeter drainage. This was for nitrate reclamation," Despres added.

Permitting for the property took longer than construction, Despres said.

"It was very difficult. In fact, the permitting process was about three to four years," Despres said.

Despres said Willowbend Golf, owned by Reebok founder Paul Fireman, worked hard to address the concerns of all involved parties throughout the process.

"Willowbend really did a great job of addressing environmental issues and also addressing the historical community for preserv-

ing old lands," Despres said. "It was right out on the water on Cape Cod, and as you know that was a very historical area for settlement of not only Native Americans, but early American settlers as well."

"Willowbend agreed to a lot of things to make this happen. I think also the local government wanted to preserve the area as open space rather than open it up for residential development," he added. ■



In building nine new holes at Willowbend Golf Club in Mashpee, Mass., ASL had to line fairways and tees and greens surrounds with rubber to protect the site's environmental and historical lands.

IN A PERFECT WORLD  
THERE'D BE NO  
BROWN  
PATCH.