

News

Firestone CC has closed North Course

Less tournament play, rapidly increasing costs of operating two 18-hole courses, and a declining membership base have caused the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. to close the Firestone CC North Course near Akron, Ohio, to increase dues and to stay open only during the golf season in 1981 and subsequent years. The 197-acre course closed on October 31 and will be offered for sale. The 18-hole South Course will remain in operation and the World Series of Golf will not be affected by the changes.

Since the early 1950s, Firestone CC membership has been limited to the company's salaried and factory employees working within 50 miles of Akron. Because fewer than one percent of Firestone's worldwide employees are members of the club, the company is telling members that it can no longer continue the employee benefit of the current minimal dues structure. Beginning next April, the dues will be increased to be more competitive with similar country clubs in northern Ohio and social memberships will be eliminated.

New Mexico survey details amount of turf

New Mexico has released a survey which estimates total turfgrass in that state at 359,000 acres. Golf courses come in third place with 4,590 acres. First falls to residential and business with 13,520 acres and second goes to airports with 10,720 acres.

The most common turfgrass was bermuda. Common bermudagrass is grown on 16,770 acres, with hybrid bermuda growing on 2,300. Kentucky bluegrass grows on 6,030 and perennial ryegrass on 370. Bentgrass is grown on 310 acres.

Average man-hour requirements for maintenance were 11,100 per week from May 1 to November 1 and 2,720 from November 1 to May 1 for golf courses. Next highest were schools with 10,390 and 3,190 respectively.

Copies of the bulletin or additional information may be obtained by writing the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION BOX SCORE					
Jan.-Aug. 1980 (same period '79)		REGULATION COURSES	EXECUTIVE COURSES	PAR 3 COURSES	TOTAL
OPENED FOR PLAY	New	36 (35)	1 (4)	3 (5)	73 (62)
	Additions	31 (14)	1 (4)	1 (0)	
UNDER CONSTRUCTION	New	15 (43)	3 (5)	0 (2)	45 (82)
	Additions	23 (31)	4 (0)	0 (1)	
PROSPECTIVE	New	20 (37)	4 (6)	2 (2)	51 (76)
	Additions	21 (26)	4 (2)	0 (3)	

Mexico State University, P.O. Box 3189, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

Polara loses golf ball anti-trust suit

A multi-billion dollar federal anti-trust action brought by Polara Enterprises, Inc., against the Golf Ball Manufacturers Association and the United States Golf Association was dismissed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The Honorable Robert H. Schnacke held as a matter of law, that there was no evidence of any conspiracy existing between the USGA and the GBMA either to unlawfully restrain trade or to attempt to monopolize the manufacture and sale of golf balls resulting from the refusal by USGA to place the "Polara Pro" golf ball on its approved list of golf balls. In addition, Judge Schnacke dismissed all charges against USGA and GBMA alleging a conspiracy to interfere with Polara's prospective economic advantage in the Polara ball.

The Polara golf ball was, according to its inventors, a unique, self-correcting golf ball which reduced hooking or slicing. Approval was denied pending the resolution of a new USGA rule concerning equal aerodynamics characteristics for golf balls.

Taxes, inflation turn 14.5% raise into loss

A worker who received a 14.5 percent pay raise, to keep up with this year's projected inflation rate, will actually be losing money, according to the Tax Foundation, Inc., a private group. The foundation calls it 'taxflation', a combination of inflation and higher tax brackets.

Using, as an example, a married couple with one wage earner and two children, a 1979 salary of \$10,000 with a 14.5 percent raise would amount to \$11,450. With

higher federal income tax and Social Security, take-home pay would be 10,202. Taking the inflation rate into account, purchasing power would amount to only \$8,910. The foundation concluded that inflation would cut the worker's after-tax income by \$1,292. An apparent 14.5 percent raise turns into a net loss of 1.7 percent in purchasing power.

GCSAA show will have 4-1/2 acres of exhibits

More than 8,000 golf course superintendents are expected to attend the world's largest turfgrass

trade show in January. Among activities planned for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 25-30, in Anaheim, California, are four days of educational sessions, a golf course tour, seven seminars and a golf tournament.

The educational program, beginning on the 24 with the preconference seminars, will include presentations from approximately 80 speakers. For more information, contact GCSAA at 1617 St. Andrews Dr., Lawrence, KS 66044, or call 913/841-2240.

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