

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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INSIDE

USGA adds funding

Researchers rejoiced when informed that the USGA had doled out \$4.5 million 4

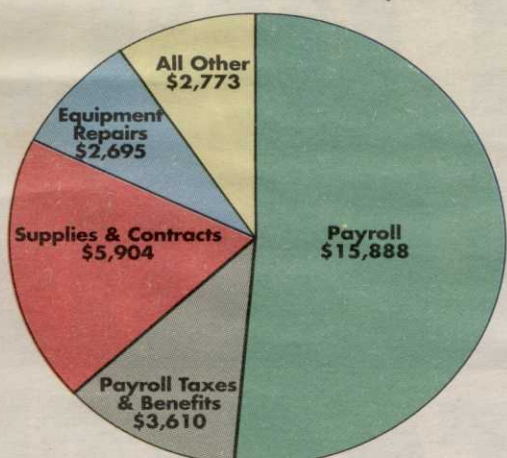
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Ross now & forever

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Maintenance breakdown per hole



Based on a 1991 survey of private country clubs in the United States. The average maintenance cost per hole is \$30,870. Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

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Michigan Homestead gets go-ahead

By Peter Blais

GLEN ARBOR, Mich. — The four-year battle apparently isn't over for the Homestead Resort's golf course project.

The national office of the Environmental Protection Agency May 8 approved the controversial northern Michigan course, including the filling in of 3 1/2 acres of wetlands.

EPA Director William Reilly's decision upheld the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's 1990 approval

Despite EPA approval, controversial project not out of the woods yet

and the wishes of Republican Gov. John Engler. But it conflicted with the recommendations of the regional EPA office and four other government agencies.

Three days later, project opponents — including Friends of the Crystal River, Sierra Club, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation

and Trout Unlimited — filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court seeking to overturn the EPA ruling. A decision whether to issue a permit to the resort course near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore isn't due until June 8.

"It's still a hot topic around here," said John Tune, editor of the Record Eagle in nearby Traverse City.

Homestead developer Bob Kuras is unsure when he will start construction,

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Erosion control blankets fast proving their worth

By Mark Leslie

Erosion control has become a byword in the construction industry, transforming erosion control blankets from a secondary to a major tool of the trade.

"We used to only use them (blankets) from an engineering standpoint when you really had a problem," said Ron Boyd, president of Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. in Williamsburg, Va. "Now you've got more regulations — such as laws on cutting, d tilling on steep slopes — so that their use is sometimes mandatory."

Ken Starrett, vice president of marketing for American Excelsior Co. of Arlington,

"People see the quick growth and ask what kind of fertilizer we use. We don't use any."

— Ken Starrett

Texas, said over the last few years strong laws regulated by the Soil Conservation Service, Corps of Farming Engineers and highway departments have been adopted by communities.

"The number increases

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Equal access: A tall order

By Hal Phillips

Equal access and fair hiring practices for the disabled used to be goals; now they're the law of the land.

With regard to accessibility for handicapped citizens, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect in February, 1992. Come July 26 of this year, golf clubs with more than 24 employees will be subject to the ADA's employment provisions.

While tax-paying clubs with 15 to 24 employees needn't comply for another two years, golfing establishments nationwide — tax-paying or not, public or private — should study the ADA provisions. The law will

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Emerald Dunes: Voted best new public course.

The envelopes please...

Architects, builders vote on the nation's top new courses

By Mark Leslie

Diamonds. Emeralds. Golf course architect Tom Fazio must be into gems. Two of his Florida jewels — Black Diamond in Lecanto and Emerald Dunes in West Palm Beach — have been selected by course architects and builders as the best private and public golf courses, respectively, to open in the last five years.

Fazio, who designed three of the top six private courses and two of the best seven public layouts, attributed the achievement to excellent sites and developers.

"It's the people involved that make a project happen," he said. "I've got a story for every course I've done. There's a

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