

NEWS IN BRIEF

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — One-year results from a yard compost study conducted by O. M. Scott & Sons finds no detectable levels of pesticides, herbicides, PCBs or dioxins in the final compost. Scott is testing yard compost from several counties in central Ohio.

TAYLOR, Texas — Construction of an 18-hole golf course on 300 mostly vacant acres in Taylor's southwest section may benefit the site's contaminated soils. Soil samples at the site have indicated higher than normal concentrations of copper, lead and zinc. The architectural firm of Arthur Hill & Associates, Toledo, Ohio, has been among consultants working on the estimated \$9 million project.

METHYL BROMIDE, the world's most widely-used pesticide, recently was declared an ozone depleter by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, a group of nations that signed a treaty to protect the ozone layer. The group agreed that by 1995, production and use would be frozen at 1991 levels.

BERWICK TOWNSHIP, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Resources is the last hurdle for a planned \$1 million, 18-hole golf course here. Property owner Michael Bross said tentative course plans were submitted to Berwick Township six months ago. Bross' area is one of three in the township under a building moratorium imposed last December by DER because of malfunctioning septic systems.

DAVIS, Calif. — Davis has been planning for three years to expand the 18-hole Davis Municipal GC. City officials now are poised to act, but officials in Yolo County, site of the targeted 150 acres south of the course, are concerned about agricultural buffers, conservation easements and the project's possible growth-inducing aspects.

Feast replaces famine in once-arid California



The first hole at Aliso Creek Golf Course, a nine-hole track in South Laguna Beach, Calif. The creek overflowed its banks during the heavy rains of January and was closed for two weeks.

Torrential rains present a different sort of water problem west of Rockies

By DOUG SAUNDERS

The fickleness of Mother Nature has never been more evident than during the past two months in California. The state had been through six years of persistent drought resulting in exorbitant water rates, cutbacks in mandatory water-use, and demand for creative irrigation plans on the part of golf course superintendents.

Even in early November the prognosis for improvement was not good, as long range forecasts called for below normal precipitation for another wet season.

But all that changed in December and January, as the heavens opened in unprecedented fashion. The Los Angeles area picked up more than 13 inches of rain in January and close to 9 inches in one five-day period. In Northern California, heavy rains pelted the coast and, more important, more than 40 feet of snow fell during a 50-day period in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

By the end of January the snowpack, which is critical for spring runoff that fills the state's reservoirs, stood at an average of 10 feet at the 8,000-foot level. The snows put the pack at 178 percent of normal with two months of winter weather to go.

The unusual weather impacted many courses throughout the state. At La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, superintendent Harold Vaubel had his hands full keeping the course playable for the Infinity Tournament of Champions the first week of January. San Marcos Creek grew into a 300-foot-wide lake in front of the 18th green. After the tourney it really started raining.

"We had 17 inches last month alone," Vaubel said. "I lost 15 of 30 bridges on the course including five major ones."

Vaubel's maintenance shed was swamped with 43 inches of water, destroy-

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True Temper Sports president named chairman of NGF

ORLANDO, Fla. — Ed Van Dyke, president of True Temper Sports, has been elected chairman of the National Golf Foundation's board of directors. He succeeds Chuck Yash, president of Taylor Made Golf.

The election of officers took place at February's NGF Board meeting at the Clarion Hotel. Also elected were: Vice Chairman Ed Abrain, vice president/general manager, Golf Division, Wilson Sporting Goods Co.; Secretary Patrick O'Grady, senior vice president/general manager, Golf Division, Etonic, Inc.; Treasurer Peter Bonanni, publisher, *GOLF* Magazine and President & CEO Joseph F. Beditz, NGF.

Bloch elected to second term as USGA president

FARHILLS, N.J. — Stuart F. Bloch of Wheeling, W. Va., has been elected to his second one-year term as the 52nd President of the United States Golf Association.

The election of USGA officers took place during the 99th Annual Meeting of the USGA held Feb. 6, 1993, in Nashville, Tenn. Other officers elected were: Reg Murphy, Baltimore, Md., vice-president; M.J. Mastalir Jr., Denver, Colo., vice-president; Judy Bell, Colorado Springs, Colo., secretary; F. Morgan Taylor Jr., Hobe Sound, Fla., treasurer; Leroy C. Richie, Birmingham, Mich., general counsel.

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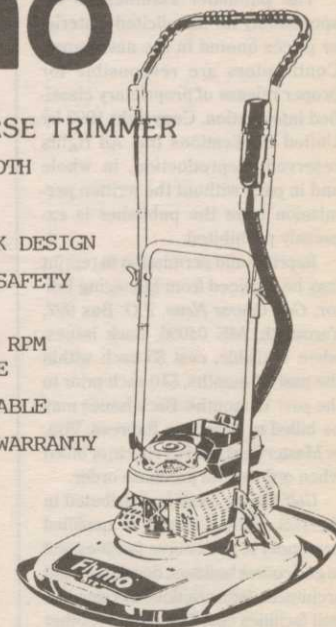
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