

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUCK LAKE, Miss. — An 18-hole golf course will accompany first-phase construction of a \$700 million casino resort here in north Tunica County, about 18 miles south of Memphis, Tenn. With its favorable ruling on behalf of BL Development Co. — a firm jointly owned by Grand Casinos and Gaming Corp. of America — the Mississippi Gaming Commission has cleared the way for 3,300 slot machines, 150 table games and two hotels totaling 900 rooms.

•••

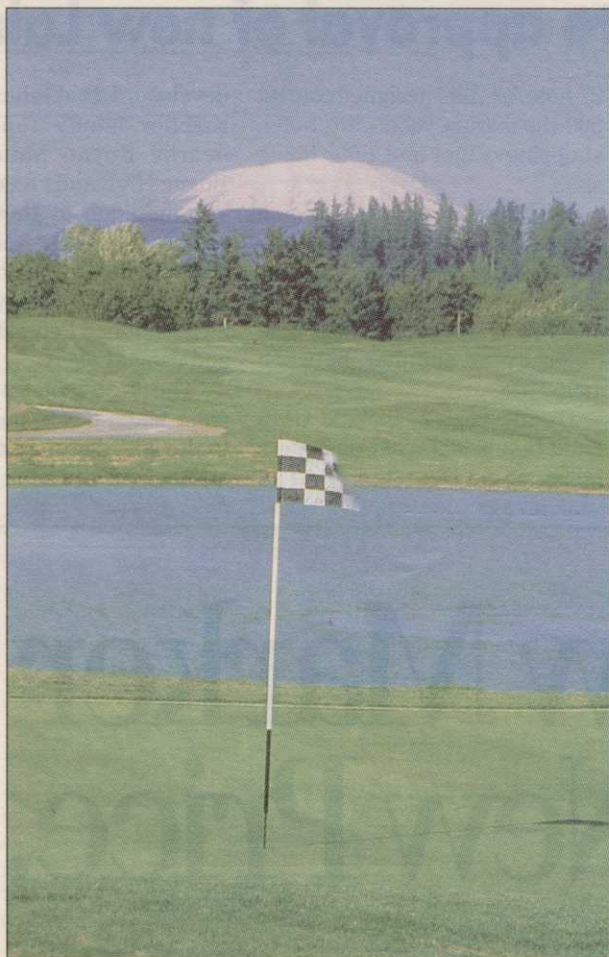
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — Preliminary drawings for an 18-hole municipal course here should be ready by mid-August. Architect Keith Foster is developing the plans for the city. A referendum is scheduled for November when voters decide whether to approve a bond issue to finance the course. If the bond issue is approved, construction of the regulation-length layout could begin next spring. The Renizon Corp., an Englewood, Colo.-based golf-advisory firm, is assisting the city with the project.

•••

PIERRE, S.D. — Construction is underway on the Dunes Golf Complex near Fort Pierre. The facility includes a nine-hole executive course, driving range, clubhouse and housing development along the Missouri River. The range should open in the spring and the course by early summer. Developer Tipp Hamilton designed the course.

•••

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Developer Robert Rubin plans to build two 18-hole golf courses and an unspecified number of homes on 521 acres overlooking Peconic Bay. Rees Jones will design the two layouts, one public and one private. Construction could begin as early as next spring. The site is home to an automobile racetrack. Rubin bought the property at an auction two years ago. He had planned to continue it as a racetrack, but ran into significant opposition.

**EXPLOSIVE BACKDROP?**

Mount St. Helens, the dormant volcano that blew its top in 1986, provides the backdrop for Washington state's newest golf facility, Tri-Mountain Golf Course, named for its clear-day vistas of mounts St. Helens, Hood and Adams. This William G. Robinson design, located in the southern Washington town of Ridgefield, opened for play July 1.

TEEN FELLE BY ON-COURSE TEMPER TANTRUM

GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y. — A teenager who slammed his golf club against a bench in frustration over a bad shot was killed when the three-wood's sharp, broken shaft snapped back and pierced his heart. Jeremy Brenno, 16, was playing golf with friends at Kingsboro Golf Club here on Saturday, July 9, when he struck the bench near the sixth tee. The broken club shaft struck him in the chest and the youth was pronounced dead at an area hospital three hours later, according to the Fulton County Sheriff's office.

Georgia flood waters ravage area courses

Macon, Albany regions the hardest hit

By PETER BLAIS

ALBANY, Ga. — Golf courses along the Flint and Ocmulgee rivers suffered damage ranging from extensive to minor from the 500-year flood that ravaged southern Georgia in early July.

Those bordering the Flint, particularly near Albany in southwestern Georgia, were hit particularly hard, with several courses still underwater a week after the worst of the flooding occurred.

Water lapped at the roof and the tops of at least two flagsticks at Radium Country Club, according to Darren Garner, assistant pro at Double Gate Country Club, located on higher ground 20 miles from Radium. Calls to the Radium course and course officials had not been returned by press time.

An employee at the city recreation department said the staff had been unable to evaluate damage at Turner Field Municipal Golf Course because high water made it impossible to reach the facility.

Calls to the American Legion Golf Course and various Legion posts were not answered. Garner reported that large parts of that facility were also underwater.

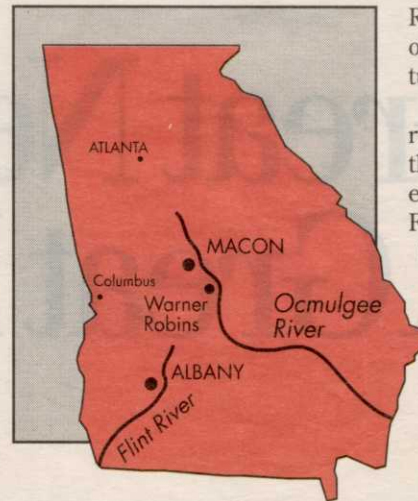
Courses along the Ocmulgee in the central part of the state fared better and should bounce back with little permanent turf damage, according to United States Golf Association Green Section agronomist Pat O'Brien.

"The big problem is cleaning the mud left on the turf when the creeks rise," said Pat O'Brien, director of the USGA's Southeast region. "Most courses will hose the mud off and be back in business. And that bermudagrass will grow back, especially when we start getting some of those 90-degree days in a month or so."

Six of the 27 holes at The Landing's Golf Club in Warner Robins were underwater for several days. Waist-high water covered holes 3 through 7 on the new Creek 9 while the entire 4th hole on the Tressel 9 suffered a similar fate.

"It looked like the Ocmulgee River out there," said maintenance worker Jeff Shaw, comparing the flooded fairways to the river that

Continued on page 34



Second-class postage paid at Yarmouth, Maine, and additional mailing office. *Golf Course News* (ISSN 1054-0644) is published monthly by United Publications, Inc., 38 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Phone number is 207-846-0600.

The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material or prices quoted in the newspaper. Contributors are responsible for proper release of proprietary classified information. Copyright 1994 by United Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole and in part, without the written permission from the publisher is expressly prohibited.

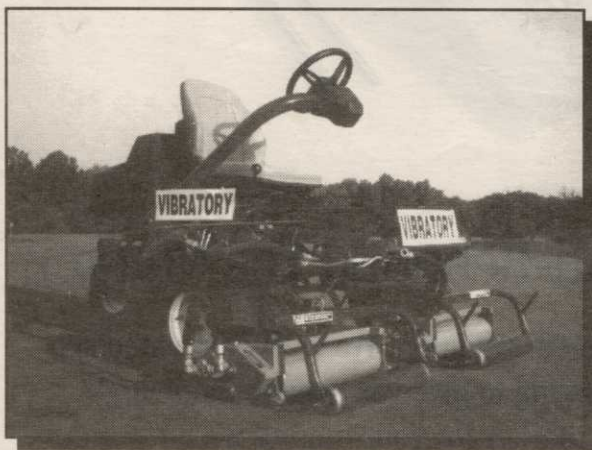
Reprints and permission to reprint may be obtained from Managing Editor, *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Back issues, when available, cost \$5 each within the past 12 months, \$10 each prior to the past 12 months. Back issue orders must be paid in advance either by check or charged to American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

Golf Course News is distributed in the U.S. without charge to qualified personnel of golf course facilities and to golf course builders, developers and architects. Subscriptions to Canadian golf facilities cost \$25 annually; other paid subscriptions to the U.S. and Canada cost \$45. All foreign subscriptions cost \$125 annually to cover air delivery. All payments must be made in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. **For subscriber services, please call 215-788-7112.** Send address changes to *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 3047, Langhorne, Pa. 19047-3047.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

TRUE-SURFACE®

VIBRATORY GREENS ROLLING SYSTEM



- Patented Vibrating Action
- Twice as fast as "sidewinders"
- Lightweight 55 lbs.
- Used PGA 1992 - Senior Skins 1994
- "Quick Attach" System Installs in Minutes
- Fits Toro, Jacobsen, Lesco & Bunton

TURFLINE, INC.

(800) 443-8506

Fax: (314) 441-8180

(Selected Distributorships Available)

CIRCLE #103

AS I



GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION NATIONWIDE

(407) 732-0105
(407) 364-5507 FAX

P.O. BOX 3446
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33424

CIRCLE #102

Phillips commentary

Continued from page 8

an EIS. In fact, never has a course been subject to the lesser scrutiny of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, or EAW.

The state DNR felt left out, its feelings hurt.

In turn, the county feels singled out, over-scrutinized and insulted.

Herein lies the dispute. It has nothing to do with the potentially endangered barren strawberry, which may or may not be present on the site. It has everything to do with government weenies protecting their turf, to the chagrin of

architect Jeff Brauer and Minnesota taxpayers, who must foot the bill for adjudication.

In this case, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board ruled the DNR did not have jurisdiction over the St. Louis County approval process. Case closed?

Nope... Sometimes, when weenies have their hackles up, one adjudication is not enough.

Only a few days after the DNR lost its argument, a citizens group — armed with many of the trumped-up arguments no longer useful to DNR — sued the state in an effort to stop the golf project. In fact, according to Minnesota's

deputy attorney general, several DNR employees have joined the citizens group.

Apparently, these particular weenies don't know when to quit.

It's easy to get discouraged when a conscientious, quality project like Giants Ridge can be stymied by a bunch of hyper-sensitive DNR engineers who — had their turf not been infringed upon — might instead be fumbling around their St. Paul offices, obsessing over their new pocket protectors or the office shortage of four-color pens.

Developers may see the Giants Ridge debacle and swear off golf

forever, muttering that malls and condos are decidedly less troublesome. While the temptation to extrapolate from the Giants Ridge situation to other Minnesota golf proposals is substantial, don't do it.

More often than not — even in Minnesota — golf projects get the go-ahead. Need proof? Just look at the 670 golf projects currently under construction nationwide.

[Consider the financing example, which is sort of parallel: For two years in the early 90s, a good many developers were scared off by the reported paucity of financing. Well, *somebody* was securing financing because 358

courses opened in 1993 — and those somebodies are making a killing!]

Submitted for your approval: If a third party had approached the Minnesota DNR early in the process and briefed the weenies on plans for Giants Ridge, would the course be under construction today? Dollars to donuts, it would.

Sometimes stroking a particular politician or agency isn't enough. Sometimes you, the developer, must bring together feuding weenies from separate agencies who can't decide just who has ultimate authority.

One petulant pol, a single aggravated agency chairman can put the kibosh on the best conceived plans. Remember that politics and, more specifically, politicians can be truly annoying, but they're here to stay.

There's a myth that politicians are elected to solve our problems. More often than not, we must solve theirs.

Georgia flooding

Continued from page 3

runs through Warner Robins.

"A lot of silt and debris washed up on the course from the creeks. But we only closed for a day. We'll be cleaning up for a while."

Courses closer to Macon fared better. A 10-yard-wide creek swelled to 50 yards during the heaviest downpours, according to Richard Trenaman, assistant pro at Barrington Hall Golf Course. Holes 6, 9, 10 and 18 flooded, forcing the course to close for three days. The 18th closed for a week. Several traps washed out and are in need of repair.

"Otherwise, the only major damage was a downed tree on the 9th hole," Trenaman said. "It was in a strategic location about 150 yards out, making it difficult to get to the green in two. Otherwise, we were pretty fortunate."

Thirteen inches of rain fell on Riverside Country Club in Macon over a three-day period, according to head mechanic Rob Copley.

Sitting astride but high above the Ocmulgee allowed the course to escape damage from the flood-swollen river. But rising water levels in the creeks meandering through the course turned a low plateau area on the 11th hole into a sandbar while washing out one side of a 30-foot bridge.

At Houston Lake CC 30 miles south of Macon, an earthen dam holding back a 200-acre lake gave way, draining the course's main water supply.

"It was also the course's main feature," O'Brien said. "It was fresh water, so the course wasn't damaged. But it's going to cost them a lot to repair it. And they're going to be without water for awhile."

Superintendent Scott Palmer said no one has estimated the cost of replacing the dam or whether it will be possible to obtain the building permits to rebuild it. Meanwhile, he plans to dig a well for water.

"We got something like 12 inches of rain in 16 hours. We were lucky it wasn't worse," he said.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

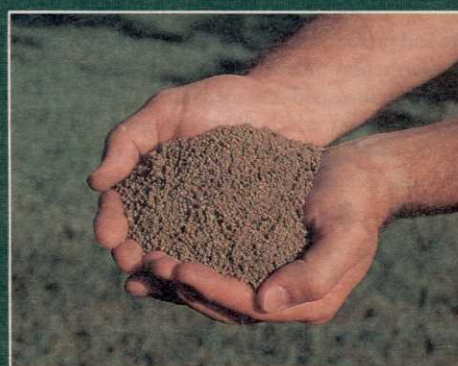
NATURE SAFE®

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR TURF MANAGEMENT

- An excellent stress guard product for use on a wide range of soil types, pH and weather conditions
- A slow-release organic fertilizer with 85% Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) which promotes excellent turf density and color
- Ideal for sand based greens or where color and density have been a problem
- A microorganism enhanced fertilizer that assists in disease suppression
- Non-burning fertilizer for year-round use
- Beneficial in applications after aerification or prior to seeding and sodding to promote turf growth and recovery



Also available in 10-2-8, 10-3-3, and 7-1-14



Nature Safe®

Natural & Organic Fertilizers

A DIVISION OF
GRIFFIN INDUSTRIES, INC.
COLD SPRING, KY 41076

FOR A DISTRIBUTOR NEAR YOU
CALL (800)252-4727