

NEWS IN BRIEF

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — The new nine at Hillcrest Municipal Golf Course should be playable late this summer. A week's work in the spring should complete the irrigation system. Grass will be seeded then. Rain last summer delayed the \$500,000 project about four weeks. Work is progressing on the \$49,000 steel building that will be used for the new clubhouse after golf course expansion is complete.

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SCHAUMBURG, Ill. — Renovation of the second nine holes at 27-hole Schaumburg Golf Club is complete and the refurbished nine opened Sept. 4. Course architect Bob Lohmann of Mareng is overseeing design and construction of the ongoing renovation project. The facility was originally designed in the 1920s by William Langford and Theodore Moreau. Renovation of the remaining nine will begin this month.

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BAY CITY, Texas — Rio Colorado Golf Course has joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Rio Colorado GC will be involved in projects that enhance habitat for wildlife on the golf course and preserve natural resources for the benefit of the local community. These projects may include placing nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds such as bluebirds and swallows, utilizing integrated pest management techniques, conserving water, and maintaining food and cover for wildlife.

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PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — South Smith, former vice president of marketing and development for the National Golf Foundation, has been named national sales manager for Gary Player Golf Equipment. Smith joins Gary Player Golf Equipment after working seven years at the NGF. He also serve as a liaison between the NGF and equipment and apparel manufacturers in the golf industry.

**BEFORE AND AFTER**

The front nine of the Robber's Row course at Port Royal Golf Club in Hilton Head Island, S.C., has reopened after an extensive, five-month redesign by architect Pete Dye. The above photo shows the par-3 8th hole "before" the renovation. The bottom photo shows — believe it or not — the same hole "after" Dye had finished. Dye will complete the redesign of Robber's Row this year, with work on the back nine scheduled to begin this May.



California suppers witness severe fire damage first-hand

By PETER BLAIS

"I was pretty nervous watching the fire come over that last ridge. It was moving fast and jumping all over the place. You'd see an area far away from the fire suddenly burst into flames. The fire was 40, 50 feet high. It was starting to come down the ridge when the wind suddenly shifted and knocked it down. We were pretty lucky."

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — If not for that sudden wind shift, Pelican Hills Director of Agronomy George Druzisky might be talking about his course, as well as THE FIRE, in the past tense.

As it was, the Tom Fazio design, voted *Golf Digest's* best new resort layout in 1993, escaped with damage to eight acres of native area bordering the Ocean Course's 5th hole, a couple of melted sprinkler heads and some minor turf damage.

The course's good fortune was typical throughout the Southern California golf community, where fires devastated woods, grassland and homes for nearly two weeks in late October and early November.

"The fire department asked us to evacuate at 1 p.m. [Oct. 27]," Druzisky recalled. "The course was pretty full. There was no immediate danger from the fire. But they [fire officials] were concerned about having to close the highways and people not being able to drive away."

"Most of the staff left, except for a few key people who stayed behind to man the sprinklers. We kept those running to slow the fire."

The flames never reached courses farther south in Laguna Beach. Still, several were affected.

The fire marched within a half mile of Coto De Caza Golf Course, ravaging a nearby Audubon Society wildlife preserve, according to head superintendent Lee

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