

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIAMI — Golf at sea? Well, Royal Caribbean Cruises says it will unveil a complete (if miniaturized) 18-hole golf course aboard on of its new cruise ships, due to debut in the Caribbean come May. The first-ever course of its kind will reportedly feature sand traps, trees, Scottish heather and, presumably, lots of water hazards. There's no word yet on yardage.

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MARION, Iowa — A proposed golf course and housing development here would create about \$1 million per year in property taxes and \$500,000 for the Linn-Mar school district. The proposed \$20 million Hunters Ridge project will include a daily-fee, 18-hole golf course along with 278 large lots for upscale homes and 100 townhouse units. The project is being undertaken by a private partnership involving local businessmen Bob and Dave Verhille, Ralph Blackford, and George Powers.

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Burns Park now has a full, 18-hole golf course to complement another 18. A new nine-hole course, under construction for 30 months, has been added to an existing "short nine" to create a par-71, 6,300-yard layout. In the spring, builders will finish sodding and installing cart paths. The new nine cost about \$200,000 and was funded by the city of North Little Rock and the Burns Park men's golf association.

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AUSTIN, Texas — The city will spend \$100,000 to study pollution from golf courses. The city has hired Spectrum Research Inc. of Duluth, Minn., to perform the work. The project will include evaluation of city golf course management practices and recommendations to minimize pesticide and fertilizer pollution of waterways on and off the city's six municipal golf courses. Private courses are also likely to participate in the study.



TERRAVITA GC UNVEILED IN THE ARIZONA DESERT

A late-afternoon sun frames the 9th hole at Terravita Golf Course. Opened for play last month in North Scottsdale, Ariz., this Casper/Nash design is the first project of its size to be developed under the City of Scottsdale's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance governing desert development. Paul Ellwood is the new superintendent and Phil Green the director of golf.

Survey: Safe chemical use a public concern

There's no question in the minds of consumers about the benefits of specialty pesticides, but there are concerns about their responsible use, according to results of a public opinion survey commissioned by RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

The study — conducted by Charlton Research Co. of San Francisco — assessed public attitudes toward the value and risk of specialty pesticides and was conducted among the general public, rather than consumers who specifically purchase and use pesticides.

The Charlton survey consisted of both qualitative and quantitative research. Eight focus groups were conducted at four different locations: Pittsburgh, Seattle, Milwaukee and

Half those surveyed believe pesticides available to the public are thoroughly tested; the other half aren't so sure.

Birmingham. Each group comprised adults of mixed age, gender, area of residence and education. Each discussion lasted 90 minutes to two hours.

Quantitative research included a telephone survey of 1,000 adults, 18 years and older, and consisted of 83 questions. Each phone interview lasted approximately 22 minutes.

Key findings showed:

- Many Americans clearly see the benefits of pesticides and are willing to

balance their personal and environmental health and safety concerns with these perceived benefits.

- The most trusted sources of information on pesticides are local government agencies: extension services, poison control centers and departments of health.

- Professional applicators are thought to be safer with the pesticides they apply, even though they are thought to use stronger pesticides than homeowners.

- The majority of people use some form of pesticides, with controlling household insects/rodents ranking first with 64 percent. Garden care/outdoor insect control ranked second with 48 percent, while lawn care ranked third with 38 percent. One in 10 respondents

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