

BRIEFS

GARLAND, Texas — RBI Golf, Inc. and course architect Richard Phelps have begun construction on the 27-hole \$6 million addition to Firewheel Golf Park here. Once complete, the course will incorporate many lakes as well as natural vegetation, including the "Firewheel" flower, for which it is named. Phelps and RBI have previously teamed up on 15 projects, including Saddle Rock in Aurora, Colo.

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PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. — Pawleys Plantation is working on \$500,000 in improvements to enhance its Jack Nicklaus-designed course. Improvements include installing a computer-controlled irrigation system and sulfur generator in the lake to lower the pH level in the water and soil.

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LONDON — American Golf (UK) Ltd. (AG-UK) has purchased Chartham Park Golf Club located in East Grinstead, Sussex, for £1.785 million. "Chartham Park Golf Club is an extraordinary and high-quality facility that fits perfectly in our national and South-London cluster-group of golf courses and clubs," said Geary Leathers, AG-UK managing director.



SUNRIVER, Ore. — Classic elements of design and style that are the hallmarks of early golf course architects Alister Mackenzie and Donald Ross reportedly were captured by John Fought in his newly opened redesign of Sunriver Resort's Meadows golf course, particularly in the placement and design of the bunkers.

"This was not a facelift," said Fought, former PGA Tour professional and 1977 U.S. Amateur champion. "The Meadows is

a completely new course built within the general framework of the old Meadows course, with a change in par, new greens and a spectacular bunkering strategy."

"Our goal was to produce a course that will measure up against any course in the region," said Sean Cracraft, director of golf for Sunriver's Meadows and Woodlands golf courses. "Meadows is a modern golf course, built with the latest technology, designed in traditional, classic style."

The course opened June 30 after a \$3.2

million renovation that included complete replacement of all 18 greens, addition and replacement of bunkers and tees, renovation of all fairways and strategic redesign of selected holes. New irrigation and a maintenance facility were also included in the project.

"Meadows is like a Brooks Brothers shirt or a pair of khakis updated for the new century," Fought said. "With this redesign, the Meadows is still a solid,

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Changes afoot at GCN editorial offices

YARMOUTH, Maine — *Golf Course News* Publisher Charles von Brecht has announced several changes in the editorial and advertising staffs at the newspaper, including promotions of Mark Leslie and Peter Blais.

Leslie, the longtime managing editor, has been named editor, succeeding Michael Levans, who



Michael Levans
Western sales rep

has taken over the Western territory on the sales staff after two years at the editorial helm of *Golf Course News*. Meanwhile, Blais, the associate editor for nine years, has assumed the managing editor post and Andrew Overbeck has been named associate editor.

The three will work in those

same capacities with *Golf Course News International (GCNI)*, a bi-monthly newspaper which covers the golf industry outside North America.

Leslie has been with *Golf Course News (GCM)* since its inception in 1989. Before that, he worked in various editorial capacities with the Lewiston and Portland daily and Sunday newspapers in Maine. A 1971 graduate of the University of Maine in journalism, he has won a national award for his golf writing.

Blais joined *GCN* after a 5 1/2-year

stint as a sports and business writer with the *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*.

He has earned a master's degree in business administration from Western State College, a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Hampshire.

As managing editor, Blais will continue to focus on the course management aspects of the golf industry and be responsible for day-to-day operations at *GCN*.

Overbeck joined *GCN* as an interna-

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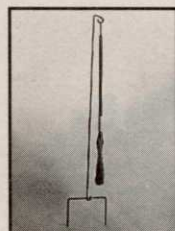
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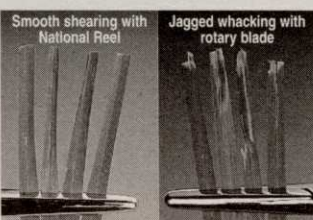
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Sun International to purchase Vegas' Desert Inn GC

LAS VEGAS — Sun International Hotels Ltd., which operates casinos in the Bahamas, Atlantic City, and on the Mauritius and Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, is expanding to Las Vegas. The company has reached agreement to buy the Desert Inn Resort on the Las Vegas Strip for \$275 million cash from Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Nevada gaming officials estimate it will take 12 to 16 months to process Sun International gambling licenses. In the meantime, the 715-room Desert Inn will continue to be operated by Starwood. The purchase includes the hotel-casino's 140-acre, 18-hole, championship Desert Inn golf course on the Strip as well as an adjoining 32 acres of prime un-

developed Strip land.

The *Las Vegas Review Journal* and *Las Vegas Sun* report that Sol Kerzner, sometimes referred to as a visionary and fearless developer similar to Steve Wynn, is talking with Starwood about joint development of 350 time-share units behind the Desert Inn Golf Course along Paradise Road, one block east of the Strip.

Starwood gradually is pulling out of the casino business. The company recently reached agreement to sell Caesars World, Inc., including Caesars Palace Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip, for \$3 billion cash to Park Place Entertainment Corp. Starwood acquired the Desert Inn Resort and Caesars Palace in Las Vegas when it purchased ITT Corp. for \$13 billion in 1998.

H.R. 1592 aims to end unfair pesticide assessments

WASHINGTON — In an effort to ensure the full and fair implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), H.R. 1592, "The Regulatory Fairness and Openness Act of 1999," has been introduced in Congress.

The proposed bill maintains the fundamental goals of FQPA but requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use reliable information and sound scientific data to assess the usage of pesticides under FQPA.

The 1996 FQPA law dramatically changed the way pesticides are evaluated for risk, allowing the EPA to use unscientific assumptions and models in safety assessments. Under H.R. 1592 superintendents will continue to have access to effective, reliable pesticides as long as they meet rigorous scientific safety standards after full and fair review by the EPA.

As a result of the 1996 FQPA law, two classes of chemicals important to superintendents, organophosphates and carbamates, are under scrutiny at EPA.

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GCN changes

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tional correspondent shortly after graduating from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., in 1997. He spent close to two years in Southeast Asia researching the economic impact of golf course development and reported for *GCNI* on the state of the industry.

Since his return stateside Overbeck has been contributing to *GCN* and working for two of United Publication's other newspapers since last November.

As associate editor, Overbeck will continue to cover international golf course development as well as the supplier business and the new product beats.

Levens spent three years as a reporter at *The Pittsburgh Press* before joining the staff at United Publications, the parent company of *Golf Course News*. Prior to his tenure as editor of *Golf Course News*, Levens was responsible the editorial launch of *HME News*, a business newspaper in the medical equipment industry, the company's most successful start-up.