

BRIEFS

**HOUSTON** — Sunrise Colony Co. announced plans for Royal Oaks Country Club, a 500-acre, 1,100-home private community situated in the Westchase district of Houston. The project will be built on the site of the defunct Andrau Airpark. Native Houstonian Fred Couples will design the 7,000-yard, par-72 course. Completion of the first homes and the opening of the course are anticipated by late 1999.

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**LOS ANGELES** — The Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department plans to renovate the 49-year-old Rancho Park golf course. The \$6 million improvement program includes upgrading the driving range and existing irrigation system and rebuilding all 18 greens. Plans also call for the construction of 15 alternate greens. Work could begin by spring 1999.

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**NACO, Ariz.** — The newly expanded Turquoise Valley Golf Course is set to open Jan. 15. The \$1-million project includes a nine-hole addition, upgraded putting green, and renovation of the original nine holes. Turquoise Valley is Arizona's oldest, continuously operated golf facility.

# Golden Bear, Weitz form construction venture

**NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla.** — Golden Bear Golf (GBG) Inc. and The Weitz Co. Inc. have announced the formation of Weitz Golf International (WGI) LLC, a construction company focused on building golf courses and clubhouses worldwide.

As part of a new alliance with Weitz Golf, Golden Bear will offer golf course construction expertise and marketing assistance. Golden Bear will no longer offer construction services independently and will share in the profitability of Weitz Golf.

Weitz Chairman of the Board Richard Oggero said WGI will provide general contracting, design-build and construc-

tion management services to developers and designers.

"Golden Bear Golf made a decision to team with a contractor who has a national reputation for quality and integrity. Weitz met our criteria to a 'T', GBG Chairman Jack Nicklaus said.

"Weitz has the capacity and financial strength to handle complex projects. Moreover, Weitz impressed us with its innovative systems in budgeting, scheduling, cost control, and value analysis and engineering. We concluded that this is the best way to move our construction operations forward."



Weitz's resume includes The Links at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, Calif. The company also constructed clubhouses for John's Island Golf Course (GC) in

Vero Beach, Fla.; the Tonto Verde GC in Rio Verde, Ariz.; Ibis Golf and Country Club (CC) in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; Ancala GC in Scottsdale, Ariz.; Columbine CC in Littleton, Colo.; and Binks Forest Club in Wellington, Fla.

# From floods to fairways in Indy

By ANDREW OVERBECK

**ENGLISH, Ind.** — Mother Nature be damned.

These days landfills, old mines, deserts, even flood plains can be converted into playable courses. And when the people of English, complete their move to higher ground this winter, developers will level the old town's neighborhoods and commercial buildings and commence construction of a Michael Hurdzan-designed 18-hole course.

But there's more to the master plan.

The course is being built entirely by the local community. The project will cost roughly \$1 million — utilizing area volunteers for labor, locally raised money and special golf-industry agreements.

Cary Hammond, a partner in Sterling Development Corp., the developer who hatched the plan, said the project is a community-led effort to breathe new life into the area's tired economy. "The town will be revitalized by this golf course project and the growth it produces," said Hammond.

He has assembled a corps of 52 local,

heavy-machinery operators, who have volunteered to work through the winter on the rough-in construction. Many volunteers are local builders, who work during the year constructing roads, bridges, and dams, and have donated their labor during a slow time of the year. Local course builder Carl March will oversee construction.

When rough-in construction is finished this spring, March and one of his shapers will put the finishing touches on the layout.

Developers took care has to build all greens above the 100-year flood stage.

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## Bombardier NV goes in both 'golf' and 'drive' mode

The Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle is an environmentally-friendly and quiet mode of transportation. What makes the vehicle unique is that it's designed for the fairways and the roadways. In "golf" mode, the Bombardier NV Neighborhood Vehicle reaches a top speed of 15 mph (to help it comply with golf course standards).

In "drive" mode, for off the

course, the Bombardier NV reaches a maximum speed of 25 mph, providing drivers with a fun and sporty vehicle for getting around town. The Bombardier NV is great for the golf course and the country club, and also for trips to the store or visiting friends in the neighborhood. For more information, contact 888-638-5397.

CIRCLE #201



Trucktor T-Series

## Trucktor T-Series: A machine for all seasons

The new Trucktor T-Series Combination Tractor-Truck work vehicles now offer their rugged four-wheel drive units equipped with turf-tread tires and an assortment of gang

mowers, rototillers, front bucket loaders, aerators and overseeders for golf-course construction, repair and maintenance.

Made in Massachusetts, the diesel-powered Trucktor T-Series

(Kubota 4-cylinder 49 and 56-hp, and Continental 66-hp diesel engines) has just won the OEM "Emmie Award" for 1998. For more information, contact 508-748-1200.

CIRCLE #203

### GCSAA SHOW PREVIEW

## GCSAA Tourney

Continued from page 29

greens, and I hit two consecutive 40-foot putts which is something that doesn't happen every day," said Pondel on last year's championship effort. "And this year I feel pretty good, although you never know what's going to happen—if you look at the trophy not too many guys have won back to back."

Pondel, along with defending chapter team winners Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents in gross, and California No. 14 net are looking forward to the beautiful courses that await them. Tournament activities will get under way with practice rounds on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 5-6, a four-ball championship on Sunday, Feb. 7. The official two day tourney gets underway Monday, Feb. 8.

The following is a brief rundown of the courses that will host the 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship:

— **The Westin Innisbrook Resort** will be hosting the event at three of its courses, all of which were designed by Larry Packard.

— **Copperhead** (host superintendent, Rob Giampietro/course rating 74.4, slope 140). The Copperhead course is the home of the season ending J.C. Penny Classic. The 7,087 yard, par-71 course features pine tree-

lined fairways and rolling terrain and demanding long and accurate tee shots. Designed by Larry Packard in 1973, this resort course is reminiscent of a classic Carolina layout.

— **Island** (host superintendent, Carl Collins/course rating 74.1). The Island course stays true to its name with the first six holes featuring lateral water hazards. The remainder of the 6,999 yard, par-72 course features rolling terrain and cypress and pine trees that will require pin point accuracy. The 18th hole which dog legs left over water will provide a stern finish.

— **Hawk's Run** (host superintendent, Mike Blanchard/course rating 70.5, slope 125) The Hawk's Run course may be deceiving in distance, but with water hazards coming into play on almost every shot, the 6,260 yard, par-70 layout will surely test all golfers. In addition to the water, there are also 46 bunkers and a resident 10-foot gator to contend with. This 1992 Packard-designed run is not the place to spray shots.

— **World Woods Golf Club** will be hosting the event at two of its Tom Fazio designed courses.

— **Rolling Oaks** (host superintendent, Quinn M. Kuite/course rating 73.5, slope 136). The Augusta National-inspired fairways at Rolling Oaks, lined

with live oaks, dogwoods and magnolias, roll gently through this 6,985 yard, par-72 layout that is one of the top upscale daily fee courses in the country. The layout features challenges like the 10 bunkers on the par-5 third hole and a 300-year-old live oak tree that menaces the right side of the finishing hole.

— **Pine Barrens** (host superintendent, Robert M. Roessing/course rating 73.7, slope 140). Waste areas abound at the Pine Barrens course which will force golfers to take a more measured approach to their game. The 6,985 yard, par-71 links course is also reminiscent of a Carolina layout featuring plenty of pine trees and rolling terrain. High scores will plague those who find themselves in the native sand waste areas.

— **Southern Woods Golf Club** (host superintendent, John Morrison/course rating 72.9, slope 126) This 6,900 yard, par-72 layout designed by Hale Irwin in 1992 features natural rolling terrain and lush forest areas. The challenge on this course will be the drainage retention areas that border almost every hole at Southern Woods. Land in these grassy holes and you will face elevation changes of 20 to 40 feet from the fairway to the green areas. Strategically placed bunkers and water hazards add further dangers to this otherwise straightforward layout.



## John Deere enhances 2500

The new John Deere 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower's cut quality is enhanced by a new cutting unit suspension that is designed to carry the weight of the lift arms on the traction unit and on the cutting units. The 22-inch cutting units are John Deere designed and manufactured and come with eleven blade reels, 3-mm standard bedknives and a smooth front roller.

CIRCLE #202

## Vermeer packs stump cutting punch

Packing the most power in Vermeer Manufacturing's premier line of stump cutters, the 106 HP (79 kw) SC1102A stump cutter offers the most significant advancements in stump cutting technology in years—Vermeer's Auto Sweep system. The patented Auto Sweep function better equips the SC1102A to meet the needs of land clearing contractors, golf courses, municipalities, public works departments and rental centers. For more information, contact 1-888-Vermeer.

CIRCLE #205

## Textron/Burtner

Continued from page 1

Jacobsen and Bunton lawn-care machinery.

Reporting to Burtner will be Philip Trailies who is responsible for turf care in the Americas; L.T. Walden, president of E-Z-GO; Tom Meier, president of Steiner; Bob Grenhart, vice president of finance; and in Europe, Paul Hollingworth will be managing director responsible for the European operations.

Burtner joined Textron in 1980 and held various executive positions with Greenlee Textron, including president. In 1995, he was promoted from Greenlee to Textron's world headquarters as vice president of human resources. In January 1997, he became president of Industrial Components.

Peter Wilson, ex-president of Ransomes, was heading up Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products worldwide, but has since been promoted to president of Textron Fastening Systems (TFS) Europe. Wilson will remain in England and oversee 23 operations across Europe with more than 5,500 employees and revenues exceeding \$ 700 million.

According to Trailies, Burtner's move to Elgin from world headquarters in Provi-

## English, Ind.

Continued from page 3

However, there will still be four or five fairways susceptible to flooding. That's why Hammond called Hurdzan, who has designed several courses in flood-plain areas.

"It is a tough site with two creeks to work around and a big hill to get on top of," explained Hurdzan's senior design associate David Welchel. "But it's going to work out. We aim to build a golf course that is easy to maintain, challenging and fun."

Construction began Nov. 21 with an official kickoff and "golf course raising." The volunteers and March worked all day to grade the driving range and do some work on the 6th hole. They also worked out a construction schedule and assigned tasks. "The great thing about this process is that it is truly a family effort," said Hammond. "For example, the Holzbog family is responsible for the 5th hole. They have taken it on and know what it will take to get it built."

dence makes sound, geographic sense. "Textron has a fastening office that's being built in Elgin," said Trailies. "So it made more sense to have Burtner outside of Providence and closer to Chicago and closer to Racine."

As far as the ongoing consolidation, "We're about 90 percent there," added Trailies.

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