

# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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**THE DYNAMIC DUO OF PINEHURST NO. 2**  
PINEHURST, N.C. — Paul Jett, No. 2 Course superintendent (left), and Bradley Kocher, director of golf course maintenance, have kept cool heads in their preparation for this year's U.S. Open. See *Super Focus*, page 13.

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## Ojai reclaims one of world's best par-3s



OJAI, Calif. — An ambitious project to renovate Ojai Valley Inn & Spa's George C. Thomas-designed course will return two signature holes that have been "lost" for over a half-century, including one which was hailed as one of the world's best par-3s.

"We have an extraordinary opportunity to preserve a piece of history," said the inn's director of golf, Mark Greenslit. "Our classic course is reclaiming two of its most unique and beautiful holes."

The terrain of these two holes is so spectacular that PGA Tour great, historian and course designer Ben Crenshaw said, "This shot is going to be once again one of the best shots in golf."

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### NEW TECHNOLOGIES

## Fully autonomous, 'intelligent' mower tackles turf in Fla.

By ANDREW OVERBECK

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Engineers at the University of Florida's Mechanical Engineering School have developed a fully automated robotic fairway mower that may very well revolutionize golf course maintenance. The unit, which utilizes a Global Positioning System (GPS), sonar sensors and five on-board pentium computers is truly a "smart mower," according to engineer David Armstrong.

"This has a large platform with a lot of intelligence," said Armstrong. "I've taken it out and let it run for three or four hours and it stays within an inch or two of where we want it to be."

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# GOLF COURSE NEWS

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## Nation's eyes on board ruling

BY COVER PHOTO  
The National Environmental Board is sitting on a decision that could affect golf course development nationwide. "These [environmental] laws are sweeping in scope," says Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts' Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. His committee is charged by other scientists.

At the heart of the debate is the 1996-end of the 1990s. The National Environmental Board is charged with reviewing the impact of the 1996-end of the 1990s. The board is charged with reviewing the impact of the 1996-end of the 1990s.



Dr. Michael Hartman, right, and David P. Moore, left, are looking at a map of the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa's George C. Thomas-designed course. The map shows the location of the two signature holes that have been "lost" for over a half-century.

## Hyundai eyes cart market

Giant hopes to make splash

BY MARK LESLIE  
Giant Korean manufacturer Hyundai Corp. (USA) expects to be selling golf carts in the United States by the end of this year, according to a company official.



Golf cart designer Mike Ruffalo.

## Insurance spreading nationwide

BY MARK LESLIE

A recent study by the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) shows that more than 50 percent of golf courses nationwide have liability insurance. The study also shows that the cost of liability insurance has increased significantly in recent years.

## Builders cite USGA section

BY MARK LESLIE

The Golf Course Builders of America (GCBA) has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in San Francisco, claiming that the USGA's new rules for golf course construction are unfair and discriminatory.

## 10 YEARS LATER GCN CONTINUES TO SET THE PACE

YARMOUTH, Maine — From a small town in coastal Maine, *Golf Course News* has helped set the pace of the golf course industry for the past 10 years. In a special 14-page section, some of the industry's best and brightest weigh in to put the past decade into perspective and share their visions from golf's crystal ball. Above, a copy of GCN's premier issue, February 1989.

## SunCor on fire in the Southwest

By PETER BLAIS

PHOENIX — Things are heating up here in the Valley of the Sun for SunCor Resort & Golf Management Inc.

The Phoenix-based subsidiary of SunCor Development Co. is building 45 holes of golf in the Phoenix area, 18 in St. George, Utah, and operating another 108 holes scattered between four greater Phoenix-area properties.

Among the properties under construction are:

- A Hale Irwin-designed 18-hole executive course called The Lakes Course and a nine-hole pitch 'n putt layout across Litchfield Road from the Art Hills-designed Palm Valley Golf Club, which SunCor

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## MILLER/GRAVES & PASCUZZO COMBINE EFFORTS AT THE BRIDGES

SAN RAMON, Calif. — The Bridges at Gale Ranch, a daily-fee golf course designed by Johnny Miller Design and Graves & Pascuzzo Limited, has taken a step closer to opening with the recent hiring of superintendent Mike Orren. Inspired by Royal Dornoch in Scotland, the course features a 16,000-square-foot, three-tiered green. Pictured above is the 13th green. The course is due to open late fall.



## GCA breaks ground in Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. — Golf Communities of America, Inc. recently held a groundbreaking ceremony in Montverde for its Hillcrest Country Club golf community. The property consists of 430 acres of mixed-density, single-family homesites with 120 acres dedicated to the construction of a championship course. The 18-hole, par-72 layout will feature rolling terrain.

"The elements that make this a unique project for Central Florida are the very dramatic topography and the excellent soil conditions," said architect Steve Smyers. The highest point is 180 feet above sea level.

## OPERATING & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE PROFILES FOR GOLF FACILITIES



The National Golf Foundation covers the facts with reports on private, daily fee and municipal 18- and 9-hole golf facilities and nine U.S. climate regions. They blanket the country, providing all the data you need, including:

- 21 separate revenue and expense line items
- net operating incomes
- average operating margins
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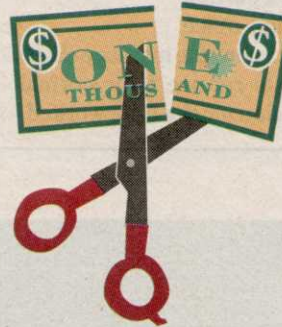
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## New suppliers added to Smart Buy Network

John Deere among golf companies recruited for NGCOA group buying program

CHARLESTON, S.C.—The Smart Buy Network, the National Golf Course Owners Association's (NGCOA) group purchasing program, has added several new suppliers. They include:

- Pepsi — soft drinks and dispensing equipment;
  - Gateway — computer systems;
  - John Deere — reconditioned and new equipment;
  - Kirby Marker Systems — fairway marker system;
  - Burton Bags — golf bags;
  - SOLO — cups and paper goods;
  - Cigars Around the World — name-brand cigars and humidors;
  - Design Materials, Inc. — floor coverings and wall coverings;
  - World Junior Golf LLC — junior apparel;
  - Richardson Sports — hats and caps;
  - HOK Gloves — golf gloves;
  - New Wood Displays — custom wood retail display units.
- "These suppliers are leaders in their respective



markets and offer great products and services to members of the NGCOA," said Jim Bailey, director of the Smart Buy Network. "The Smart Buy Network gives participating golf course owners and operators a competitive edge in today's market by offering significant savings on major purchases."

Said Aaron Wetzel, national accounts manager for John Deere: "Participating in the NGCOA Smart Buy Network gives John Deere access to golf course owners and operators who make the final decision on major purchases, such as maintenance equipment. Our distributors are able to continue working at the local level with their established contacts, with the added strength of the Smart Buy Network behind them."

Participation in the Smart Buy Network is free to all NGCOA members. In addition to the traditional purchasing program, the Smart Buy Network implemented an electronic commerce program that offers substantial savings. The site is located at [www.smartbuynet.com](http://www.smartbuynet.com).

## SunCor en fuego

Continued from page 1

operates in Goodyear. Accessed from the Palm Valley clubhouse via a newly constructed tunnel, the par-60, 4,755-yard Lakes Course sits on 127 acres. Greens are planted with Tifdwarf; tees, fairways and roughs with Tif 419.

Irwin is also designing the nine-hole pitch 'n putt track. The eight-acre layout will be lit for evening play. Contoured greens will be made of a synthetic grass top dressed with sand to the desired putting height, Patrick said. Natural and artificial grass teeing surfaces will be used. To complement Palm Valley, which offers one of the leading junior golf programs in Arizona, green fees will run as low as \$5 at the pitch 'n putt in order to stimulate junior golf. A lighted, 15-acre practice facility is adjacent to the pitch 'n putt.

The anticipated opening is November.

- Northeast of the city, construction is under way on a new Randy Heckenkemper-designed layout named the Sanctuary Golf Course at Westworld in Scottsdale. Built near the Arizona Canal, which transports drinking water to Phoenix residents, partners SunCor and Capital Realty Corp. are working with Audubon International to make the Sanctuary the area's first Audubon Signature course.

"Some of the species the Sanctuary hopes to reintroduce and support on and around its course are an entire family of native plants and birds," said Dave Harris, adjunct faculty for the Audubon International Institute. "The willow, mesquite, reeds and cottonwoods which were originally a part of the area's natural landscaping, will beautify the course and set it apart from others in the area."

The facility will open in late 1999.

- Coral Canyon in St. George, Utah, started construction in late May. The 18-hole, Keith Foster-designed layout will be the centerpiece of an 1,800-acre residential/commercial master-planned community, a two-hour drive east of Las Vegas. Coral Canyon will open in September 2000.

SunCor also operates SunRidge Canyon Golf Club in Scottsdale; Sedona Golf Resort in Arizona's Red Rock Country 90 minutes north of Phoenix; and the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, southwest of the city.

The Wigwam Resort — built in the early 1900s as a retreat for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. executives visiting the firm's nearby cotton farms — has earned Mobil's Five-Star ranking 24 times. The Robert Trent Jones-designed Gold Course is the most famous of



The Wigwam near Phoenix is a SunCor property.

the Wigwam's three tracks and has received numerous accolades in golf publications.

SunCor has also had a hand in developing and/or managing Scottsdale Country Club and Anclala Country Club in Scottsdale; Tatum Ranch Golf Club in Phoenix; and Real Del Mar Golf Club in Baja California, Mexico.

As for the future, SunCor Vice President Tom Patrick, who also serves as president of Arizona's Golf Industry Association, said: "We'd like to develop one or two golf projects a year. We'll continue to follow the market and, as opportunities come up, we'll keep moving forward...We'd like to stay within a two-hour air flight of the Phoenix market."

Patrick said the major roadblock to future golf development in the Southwest is neither water nor environmental issues, but rather consumer demand.

"When Arizonans started dealing with the water situation, we soon became the leader in technology and the ability to stretch water," Patrick said. "Golfers can have as great a playing experience on a course with 70 acres of turf as they can on a course with 100 acres of turf."

"The only obstacle for the golf industry is the consumer. As an industry, we need to do a better job of creating new golfers and keeping them. That's the biggest challenge."