

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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English, Irish, Scottish students intern in U.S., while Americans go abroad 13

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KEY WEST CHALLENGE

The Key West Golf Club (GC) float, above, graced the streets of this Florida Keys outpost during a recent parade. Key West GC's Rob Johnson, head superintendent at the southernmost golf course in the continental United States, is the subject of this month's Super Focus on page 18.

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PERIODICAL



CAR AND UTILITY VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS WEIGH IN ON OIL SHORTAGE. SEE SPECIAL SECTION ON PAGES 38-41.

BREAKING THE MOLD

K-State opening Colbert Hills as crowning jewel

By MARK LESLIE

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The hot buttons are all being pushed and on April 29, Kansas State University will unveil la piece de résistance: Colbert Hills Golf Course.

Colbert Hills is the crowning jewel on Kansas State's pioneering turfgrass management program, a curriculum that has been tailored to prepare students for club management as well as superintendent positions.

University officials be-



Kansas State University's Colbert Hills Golf Course.

lieve it also sets the standard in other areas:

- The 27-hole facility will include a nine-hole par-3 course that will serve as a "living laboratory" for researchers and students. Sitting in the Transition Zone, Colbert Hills "has all the cool-season and all the warm-season grasses," said Director of Golf Course Operations and

General Manager David Gourlay.

- The nine-hole track will also be the National Academy of the First Tee program, named after Tiger Woods' father Earl, a K-State alumnus.

- Colbert Hills is in the final stages of becoming a Silver Signature Audubon Course.

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SUNY-Delhi program eyes 'whole team'

By MARK LESLIE

DELHI, N.Y. — Calling it "a blueprint" for other schools, State University of New York (SUNY) at Delhi is instituting a curriculum in which aspiring golf course superintendents, club managers and club professionals will be taught together under a new Department of Business Administration and Golf Course Management.

"What we hope to achieve in the 21st century is to get out of the box,"

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John Deere set to open new factory

By A. OVERBECK

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — After nearly a decade of double-digit growth and continually outgrowing several manufacturing facilities, John Deere Vehicle Group is set to open a new \$30-million factory and headquarters here this summer. The 300,000-square-foot facility will house the manufacturing plant, a major design and engineering component and the sales and marketing team.

"The underlying reason for the facility is capacity

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Large trees and classic bunkers are trademarks of Harding Park Golf Course.

Harding Park faces new life, Tour

By DOUG SAUNDERS

SAN FRANCISCO — The city of San Francisco has tentatively reached an agreement with Arnold Palmer Golf Management to lease the aging Harding Park Golf Course for 35 years.

Under the agreement, Palmer Management will spend \$15 million to completely renovate the ignored jewel that is located along the shores of Lake Merced, just a stone's throw from the venerable Olympic Club. The goal is to bring the layout up to tournament standards in order to host the PGA Tour Champion-

ship in the fall of 2002.

Harding Park Golf Course was built in 1925 and is one of four public courses in San Francisco. Harding Park also includes a nine-hole executive course. The Fleming nine was named after its designer, Jack Fleming, who was a superintendent for the Department of Parks and Recreation and was a driving force in making the game of golf available to city residents.

During its 75-year history, Harding Park has hosted many amateur events, including the 1937 and 1957 USGA Public

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Freddy Bird photo

SUNY-Delhi to start umbrella program

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said turfgrass professor and Department Chairman Dominic Morales. "We are training, in the true sense of the word, the management team that runs a golf course. We are going to the next level of training superintendents. And I think there will be a lot of cross-fertilization."

Calling the new curriculum "a good way to build a team in the future," Morales said students will attend the same classes and "have a better appreciation for what each other does."

The new department will begin operation with the fall semester and is accepting applications from high school graduates, transfer

students and those involved in the school's two-year turfgrass management program. Students will all be in the Department of Business Administration and Golf Course Management, but will choose a concentration within it, specializing in turfgrass management, club management or club professional training.

"We have built a good reputation as a two-year school and hope to do so on the four-year level," Morales said. "Agronomically, our students learn a lot. It's a highly technical field that is evolving rapidly. We're trying to give the student a good solid foundation to build upon. Once they get to a facility in their three internships, they will get trained in the practical aspects. We will expose them to diversity."

Also, SUNY-Delhi is developing a cooperative exchange agreement with Elmwood College in Scotland.

The final approval for the new umbrella program came from the state Department of Education following two years of development that began with separate task forces of superintendents, club managers and club pros.

A group of certified superintendents spent two days drafting a flow chart of tasks their job entailed and what would-be superintendents needed to be taught to carry out those tasks. Club managers and club pros did the same, and then the curriculum was written.

"Superintendents said they need agronomic principles, but also, as they moved up, they felt they were lacking in management skills," Morales said. "Sixty to 70 percent of a superintendent's job is management. So we developed a curriculum that in the first two years is heavy in agronomics, and the last two years is heavy in management."

"We introduced courses like Golf Course Management and Planning; Advanced Golf Course Operations; Golf Course Governance and Public Relations; Argumentation and Debate; Strategic Management; Organizational Communication; Organizational Theory; and Public Policy."

"There are core courses in all three concentrations," Morales said. "The club manager will study hospitality marketing, risk management, etc., but also take courses in horticulture and grounds equipment, for instance. And the club pro also will take turf courses."

Citing many advances affecting turf maintenance, Morales said: "A program like this needs to be fluid. We've always been very industry-sensitive."

The program has an advisory board that is a cross-section of the golf world. Morales noted substantial support from industry — the New York State Turfgrass Foundation and the state's half-dozen chapters of golf course superintendents.

Meanwhile, he pointed to Delhi College Golf Course, which was expanded to 18 holes a couple of years ago and serves as a training facility and "laboratory" for students.

The front nine is "a traditional older design, with push-up greens, built in 1963, with unirrigated fairways," Morales said. "The back nine is high-tech, with sand greens, wall-to-wall irrigation and a sophisticated pumping station. It's quite a contrast to learn on."

Morales said interested people should contact the Golf, Plant Sciences, Recreational Services Department at 607-746-4410. ▶

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