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Making the switch

Spring Creek Ranch CC is converting its roughs from a fescue blend to Palisades zoysiagrass.....6

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MOVIN' ON UP

Ever since the century-old Monterey pine that stood near the 18th green at Pebble Beach Golf Links succumbed to lightning and disease last fall, the plan was to replace it. After searching far and wide for a suitable replacement, the course found one – a 67-foot cypress tree – right on the property. See story on page 3.

Photo: Freddy Bird

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COUNTERPOINT

Editorial Focus: Turf & Seed

Turf Seed forging ahead with naturally Roundup resistant turf

By ANDREW OVERBECK

HUBBARD, Ore. — While it continues to work on transgenic Roundup ready turfgrass, Pure Seed Testing, Turf Seed's research corporation, is also pressing forward with its decade-long effort to develop naturally Roundup resistant turfgrass.

"Ten years ago I asked the marketing guys what they would like to see in the future and they said herbicide resistant grasses," said Pure Seed Testing president Crystal Rose-Fricker. "I decided to start work on Roundup because it was the most accepted herbicide and most usable to kill grassy weeds like Poa annua."

Rose-Fricker has already developed Aurora Gold hard fescue, and Pure Gold and Tomahawk RT tall fescues that tolerate higher than usual rates of Roundup. All three

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Crystal Rose-Fricker in the field

Textron continues refocusing efforts

By ANDREW OVERBECK

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — With its manufacturing and engineering facilities mostly consolidated to its Charlotte, N.C., and Ipswich, England, facilities, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products is pushing forward with other initiatives to retool the company.

These ongoing efforts involve condensing product platforms, rolling out a new walk-behind greens mower line and opening a new testing facility that will include a par-3 golf hole. Over the long-term, the company also plans to convert to a build-to-order company instead of a build-to-stock company giving its dealers and distributors more control over inventory and costs.

"Charlotte is the center for turf engineering globally," said Michael Vickers, Textron's new vice president of engineering for turf products. "When we moved here from Racine [Wis.] we assembled a new team of engineers because there were very few people who wanted to transfer down here."

"We ended up with a team that is extremely diverse from both an experience and a industry point of view," he continued. "We have engineers from aircraft, automobile, agricultural and construction,



Michael Vickers

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AGC defamation suits proceed in Illinois

By DEREK RICE

GENEVA, Ill. — In late May, Santa Monica, Calif.-based American Golf Corp. (AGC) and disgruntled Eagle Brook Country Club member Tom Doyle finally had their day in court to address lawsuits filed by each side alleging defamation.

AGC alleges that Doyle's Web site that criticizes Eagle Brook is defamatory. Doyle

alleges that he and his wife were defamed when their names were posted at the club as deadbeats. He also claims breach of contract and fraud on the part of AGC-operated Eagle Brook.

At the May 23 hearing, Judge Patrick Dixon set a late-June court date for a preliminary hearing on the suits. At this hearing, both sides will be forced to play all their cards, which is essentially what Doyle said he has been seeking from the beginning.

At issue is the status of maintenance issues at the club, as well as Eagle Brook's insistence that members join a resigning members list and wait for a set number of members to join before existing

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Oneidas building on casino, golf successes

By DEREK RICE

ONEIDA, N.Y. — The Oneida Indian Nation has broken ground for construction of the first of two new golf courses to complement its Shenandoah Golf Club at Turning Stone Casino.

"What the nation is looking to do is to shift Turning Stone from a casino that has a golf course to a golf destination that happens to have a casino," said Mark Emery, a spokesman for the Oneida Nation.

The decision to build the two new courses was based on the increased demand for golf in the

area surrounding the casino, Emery said.



The Oneida Indian Nation in New York is building two new golf courses at Turning Point Casino to complement Shenandoah Golf Club, the 12th hole of which is pictured above.

"Golf is very popular here, and people have been thrilled with the

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