



Would You Believe It?

"The car wouldn't budge. Mr. Westerkamp abandoned his car in the sand bunker, which filled with two feet of water around the car, to be discovered the next morning. Mr. Westerkamp also left two bags of marijuana inside the center console, which police found."

— Swiped from a March 26 report on eastbayri.com about the damage done when a reckless driver took a wrong turn and found himself on the 10th hole of the Montaup Country Club.

Timber!

GCI's man in Minneapolis, Jeff Johnson, superintendent at The Minikahda Club, was out touring his course early one late-April morning when he came across this fallen Basswood at the entrance to the 6th tee.

As you can see from Johnson's photos, while the crown of the tree appeared to be healthy, the stem of the trunk was decayed quite badly. Johnson says it was only a matter of time before the tree would have fallen. The location of the tree is right where golfers enter the 6th tee complex as they walk back from the 5th green. Thankfully no one was in the area at the time. With virtually no wind the previous night, Johnson says this is an important lesson to note. While tree maintenance is an important aspect of any maintenance program, unfortunately this is one of those budget areas that gets scaled back when costs are being scrutinized.

"There's a time to save and maintain certain trees on the golf course and there comes a time when a decision needs to be made to remove what may even appear to be a perfectly healthy tree," Johnson says. "This is a perfect example of why when the inside of the tree is showing signs of decay the tree needs to be removed especially when the health and safety of the golfers and employees is at risk."

Johnson says this serves as a good example as to why, even though it may be a difficult or emotional decision to remove even a hazardous tree, the best decision a club can make is to have the tree safely removed before Mother Nature decides to have it removed.



A HOLE IN ONE

It sounds like the stuff of tall tales but Cal Surgenor, GCI's eyes and ears in The Great White North, has the photo evidence to prove it.

According to Cal, the general manager at course accessories company Bayco Golf in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the incident in question took place about three years ago at Pinawa Golf Club in Pinawa, Manitoba, and involved a course club washer.

Apparently, this deer spied the green plastic club washer and went in for a drink of water. Only problem, she couldn't get the lid off from around her neck. "This lid 'snaps on' very tight," Cal adds. "So she must have had to shake it very hard to get the bottom to release from the lid."

Never fear, Greg Love, CPGA head professional at Pinawa Golf Club says all is well.

As the picture attests, the deer is doing well and sightings of her and her "ring" are still quite common on the course.

