

Business briefs

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year. Farm equipment demand continued to decline during the quarter as a result of depressed agricultural commodity prices, which reduced farm income, Deere reported.

In other company news, Deere announced it filed a federal lawsuit to stop Howard Price Turf Equipment of Chesterfield, Mo., from allegedly copying Deere's design for the Gator utility vehicle. Deere filed suit against Kubota Corp. of Japan in April.

Toro reports increase

Bloomington, Minn.-based the Toro Company reported net income of \$24.9 million for the second quarter — up about 20 percent from \$20.1 million for the same period last year. Net income for the first half was \$24.9 million, an increase of 31 percent over the \$19 million in 1998.

In other company news, Toro announced that Exmark Manufacturing Co., a subsidiary based in Beatrice, Neb., obtained a "favorable settlement" of a patent lawsuit against F.D. Kees Co., and Yazoo/Kees Power Equipment, a Nebraska-based manufacturer of lawn mowing equipment.

SRO acquires Advanta Seeds

Corvallis, Ore.-based Seed Research of Oregon acquired the North American turfgrass marketing program of Advanta Seeds, Inc. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Both firms will also participate in a cooperative research program to develop new and improved turfgrass varieties through conventional breeding and biotechnology.

Rohm and Haas acquires Morton

Philadelphia-based Rohm and Haas Co. has completed its acquisition of Chicago-based Morton International Inc. in a cash and stock transaction worth \$4.6 billion. The merger creates a global specialty chemical company with annual revenues of \$6.5 billion.

Terra completes sale

Sioux City, Iowa-based Terra Industries Inc. has completed the sale of its distribution business to St. Paul, Minn.-based Cenex/Land O'Lakes Agronomy Co. for a reported \$390 million.

Shotgun Heard 'Round the World

Mark your calendars and ready your divot repair mix for June 24, 2000.

Organizers believe World Shotgun 2000 will be the biggest event in golfing history. On that Saturday, the goal is to have as many golfers as possible around the world strike a shot at the same time, with play coordinated by shotgun starts at the Royal & Ancient GC in St. Andrews, Scotland. Why?

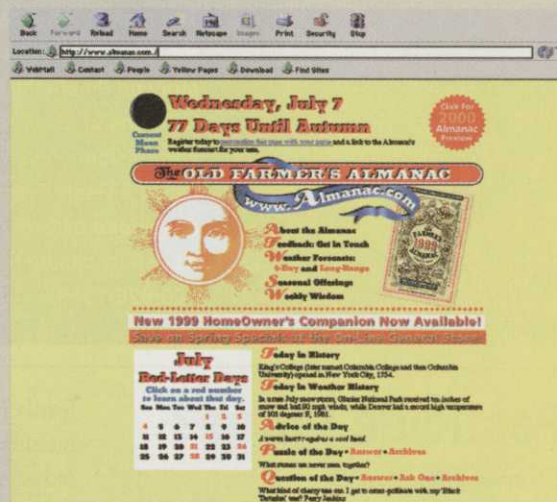
It's an opportunity to celebrate six centuries of golf and the time-honored traditions of the game, says co-patron Sir Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal & Ancient GC, in promotional materials sent to Golfdom.

"By uniting golfers across the globe on one day, the World Shotgun 2000 will help promote the heritage, integrity and values of the game into the new millennium," adds Arnold Palmer, co-patron of the event. For more information, check out the Web site www.worldshotgun2000.com or e-mail enquiries@worldshotgun2000.com.

Scanning the Web

Whether you're nuts about weather or you're simply interested in interesting online weather resources, here is a dozen to choose from:

- ▶ **www.almanac.com** — The Old Farmer's Almanac online has everything from long-range forecasts and weather trivia to words of wisdom.
- ▶ **www.earthwatch.com** — Earth-Watch Weather on Demand features 3D weather information, forecasts, current conditions, radar and more.
- ▶ **www.iwin.nws.noaa.gov** — The National Weather Service site averages 1 million hits a day, noting it has "served 1 billion" since 1997.
- ▶ **www.weather24.com** — Short-term forecasts free direct to your e-mail inbox.
- ▶ **www.usatoday.com/weather/wfront** — USA Today newspaper's online weather page with colorful graphics, radar, forecasts and headlines.
- ▶ **http://cirrus.spri.umich.edu/wxnet** — This University of Michigan site features thousands of forecasts, as well as many satellite images and links.
- ▶ **www.landings.com** — Up-to-date conditions and satellite images help pilots navigate. The site boasts virtually "every weather link known."
- ▶ **www.nssi.noaa.gov** — Severe weather preparedness guides from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with sophisticated radar, climate archives and more.
- ▶ **www.accuweather.com** — AccuWeather Inc. offers free and premium services, with five-day forecasts, Doppler radar and dozens of other features.
- ▶ **www.intellicast.com** — Check out Golfcast, a special feature that alerts golfers to the best and worst places to play based on weather conditions.
- ▶ **http://weather.yahoo.com** — Enter a ZIP code for local forecasts or peruse the storm center, ski and travel information, records, averages and maps.
- ▶ **http://grads.iges.org/cola** — The Weather & Climate site features options from the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmospheric Studies (COLA) and the Institute for Global Environment and Society (IGES).



Scanning the Web is compiled by Mike Perrault.