

# Off The Fringe

NEWS WITH A HOOK

## Business briefs

### **BASF will buy Cyanamid**

German chemical company BASF will purchase the Cyanamid herbicide division of drug company American Home Products Corp. for \$3.8 billion, according to news reports. The purchase will double BASF's business in agricultural chemicals. Cyanamid makes herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.

### **Deere down for 1st quarter**

Deere & Co. reported first-quarter net income of \$37.7 million, or \$.16 per share, for its first quarter ending Jan. 31, 2000, compared with \$49.7 million, or \$.21 per share, in last year's first quarter.

### **ABT enters into DIP credit facility**

Henderson, Nev.-based AgriBioTech announced the entry of an interim bankruptcy court order authorizing the company to enter into a Chapter 11 debtor-in-possession credit facility with its prebankruptcy lenders.

At an emergency hearing in February, the bankruptcy court authorized the company to enter into the DIP credit facility with Bank of America N.A., as agent, and Deutsche Financial Services Corp., as administrative agent, for the bank group.

### **Van Waters snaps up Turf Industries**

Van Waters & Rogers has acquired Turf Industries of Dallas and Houston, Texas. Turf Industries joins Van Waters & Rogers Professional Products & Services business unit. The combined company will retain its current staff and locations serving Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and portions of other states.

### **Capstone under construction**

Construction is underway in Tuscaloosa, Ala., at The Capstone Club, an 18-hole Gil Hanse

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## Birdies And Bordeaux

### CORDEVALLE OFFERS 18 HOLES AND AN 85-ACRE VINEYARD

By James E. Guyette

Golfers sinking putts at the CordeValle GC near San Jose, Calif., will also be able to swill a goblet of homespun wine. The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course, which opened in October, will feature an 85-acre vineyard and winery located in the heart of one of California's most fertile grape-growing regions.

CordeValle has teamed with Saratoga, Calif.-based Clos LaChance Wines, an up-and-coming premium wine label, says Rick Riess, CordeValle's general manager. The grapevines are already crawling, and the 30,000 square-foot, Tuscan-style winery will open in the fall on the 7,169-yard, par 72 course. The invitation-only club plans to roll out the barrels for "high-profile business leaders" from the Golden State's Silicon Valley.

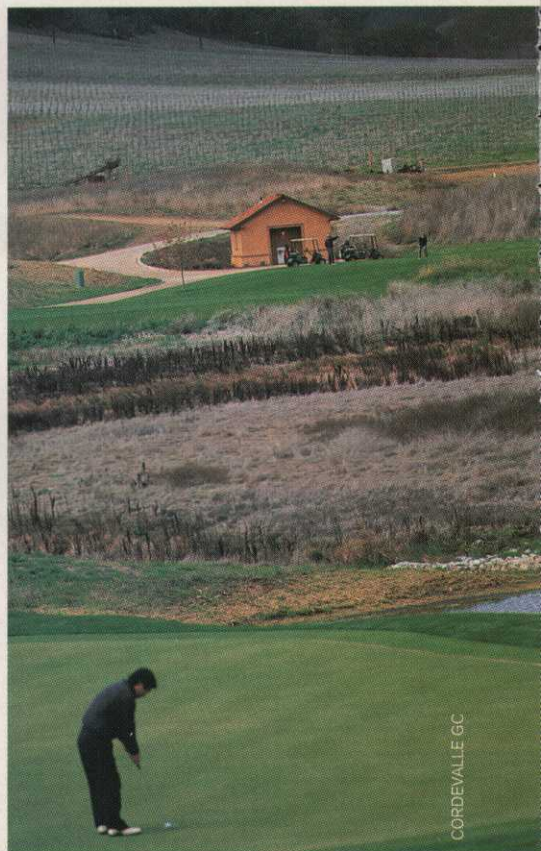
"We're on the 6th hole, so after you play the hole you can come in for a glass of wine," says Cheryl Murphy of Clos LaChance Wines.

With the vineyard hosting more than 22 varietals and 60 different clones, the winery will house processing equipment, tanks and barrel storage necessary for producing some 50,000 cases annually. A tasting room will host business banquets

and wine-related seminars, and patrons relaxing on the terrace can sip wine while viewing the course and vineyard.

Farming the fruit of the vine next to a golf course can create special challenges for superintendent Jim McPhilomy and vineyard manager Greg Mills.

"We'll probably be swapping gophers," quips Mills, who points out that he and McPhilomy are working



CORDEVALLE GC

Drive for show, putt for Merlot.

in tandem to nip in the bud any varmint invasions and to control any horticultural overflows brought about by growing grapes and grass together.

"A lot of the work has been dealing with the aesthetics between the golf course and the vineyard," says Mills, who adds that the two share equipment and knowledge, and help each other out when they can.

The two enterprises make use of a common pumping system and irrigation pond, and they've been collaborating on the plant materials being cultivated to hide some of the critical components, such as steel deer fencing and a filtering station.

"We want things like that to be hidden from view from the golfers," Mills explains. "They look rather industrial, so we need to put some landscaping around them."

The agricultural demands of a vineyard require some creative scheduling techniques, such as relegating pesticide applications to off hours. As vineyards mature, mildew becomes a problem, often requiring twice-monthly sulfur sprayings. This work is done at night, and Mills says the strategy offers horticultural advantages.

"There's usually less wind in the evenings and there's lower temperatures," he explains, adding that sulfur can burn the sensitive leaves of the grape plants if it's sprayed during a hot day.

*Jim Guyette is a free-lance writer from Cleveland.*

## Cool Idea, But Hold On to Your Golf Cap

**I**t's a beautiful spring morn to play 18. You load your clubs in the back of your car and wave goodbye to the yardwork.

One problem. The frickin' car won't start! Good grief.

Now, if you had one of those cool, new CaddyPacs, you could ride your bike — with your clubs — to the golf course and make your tee time and still miss doing the yardwork. But what is CaddyPac?

It's the first and only golf bag specifically designed for players who love the freedom of riding and the game of golf, according to the Southampton, N.Y., manufacturer of the same name. The bag has a sleek design, holds a set of clubs and has storage space for shoes, balls and tees. And it can travel from home to the course on your bike or motorcycle. You carry it on your back like a backpack.

The company claims the CaddyPac's design allows for safety, mobility and balance as you ride. Just hope your bike chain doesn't fall off when you're riding — and hold on to your golf cap.

# Quotable

**"Some sprinkler heads aren't much more than controlled leaks."**

— *Jim Skorulski, USGA Green Section, northeast region.*

**"Going on a Seth Raynor golf course is like meeting old friends in new places."**

— *Ron Forse of Forse Design, about the fact that Raynor borrowed hole designs liberally from other architects*

**"It's easier to get in a nun's habit."**

— *A GCSAA trade-show participant about the difficulty of getting on the exhibition floor without an exhibitor badge.*

**"I feel like Elizabeth Taylor's eighth husband. I know I have to come up with something different to keep your interest. And I want to make it exciting so you don't fall asleep."**

— *Larry Kassell, moderator at the Tee-2-Green distributor breakfast at the recent GCSAA Show.*

**"Out of debt, hopefully."**

— *John Daly, when asked by an AP reporter where he sees himself in five years.*

**"Jacobsen mowers — faster than sheep."**

— *Tag line from a 1965 Jacobsen mowers TV commercial*