

Business briefs

Briefs continued from page 16

platform. All proceeds will be used to reduce outstanding debt. LESCO expects to incur a one-time charge of \$2 million to \$3 million in connection with the agreement.

"In combination, these agreements will allow us to reduce debt by more than \$50 million and increase our financial flexibility, which is critical for long-term growth," said Michael P. DiMino, LESCO's president and CEO.

Certis USA distributing Basamid

Basamid soil fumigant is now available for use in golf course renovation in North America from Certis USA LLC. Basamid, used prior to turfgrass installation to control weeds, harmful bacteria and soil-borne diseases, nematodes and soil-dwelling insect pests, was recently sold by BASF to Kanesho Soil Treatment SPRL of Brussels, Belgium.

Kanesho Soil Treatment has granted the North American distribution rights for Basamid to Certis USA.

E-Z-GO upgrades ISO certification

E-Z-GO Textron has changed its Quality Management System to the new International Standardization Organization (ISO) 9001:2000 version. ISO certification is a model for quality assurance in design, development, production, installation and servicing.

Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI) of Jamestown, N.Y., the ISO registrar, conducted a final audit of E-Z-GO's Augusta, Ga., plant in early October, subjecting the company's operations to a rigorous inspection, according to E-Z-GO.

Medallion looks to expand

Medallion Golf, a new affiliate of New York-based Meadowbrook Golf Group, is looking to expand its portfolio from three to six in the next year.

According to the *Orlando Business Journal*, Medallion is preparing to spend \$100 million to buy equity interests in golf courses across the country. The report says three golf courses are already in the portfolio and that three more are under active consideration.

Before You Cut Down That Tree...

By Jami Pfirman

The foundation of any golf course is the turf. From playability to appearance, the health of a course's turf affects everything. By maintaining turf health, lush courses attract not only players but attention as well.

To maintain turf health, superintendents do their best to remove all hazards, from miniscule weeds and grubs

and many superintendents will send crews out to take down numerous trees during winter. Before handing over a chainsaw, however, The Davey Tree Expert Co. recommends exercising caution. Haphazard tree removal is dangerous to the course and the crew.

First, taking down a tree will alter your course dramatically. The look and playability will be affected. Other practices, such as routine pruning, may help improve turf condition.

Pruning, when done properly, will allow the necessary light and air movement to reach turf grasses once starved in the shade of a tree.

Second, tree removal can be incredibly dangerous to crew members who have little or no training. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recognizes the danger involved with tree removal and pruning by untrained personnel. OSHA has mandated that any person doing tree care or maintenance must be fully trained in accordance with the American Standards Institute Z133.1, which is the safety standard that includes pruning and removals.

By employing a trained and insured arborist, course managers can eliminate some of the danger to employees and the course. Trained arborists can assess a tree's existing conditions and suggest an appropriate course of action to protect turf and trees.



MIKE KLEMM

Consider consulting a trained arborist before you make a decision to cut down a tree.

to large threats like trees. While the decision to rid courses of grubs and weeds is an easy one, trees pose a conundrum. Trees affect course play and appearance. But they also cause shady patches and compete with the turf for nutrients, often causing damage to greens. For those reasons, many course managers opt to completely remove problem trees.

Removing the trees may seem like a logical solution to alleviate turf woes,

Pfirman is a communications specialist for The Davey Tree Expert Co.