

Business briefs

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was to be used for the course. Reportedly, the course was to cost between \$9 million and \$14 million.

NGCOA, AAGMC merge

The American Association of Golf Course Management Companies (AAGMC) and the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) have merged to establish a single program of products and services for owners and operators of multiple golf courses.

"We both realize that by consolidating our resources, we can better serve the interests of our members," says Mike Hughes, NGCOA executive director. "The AAGMC represents some of the most progressive management companies in our business, and we look forward to working with them to make the golf industry stronger."

Jacobsen awarded for safety

Jacobsen earned another Textron Award of Merit for safety at its Charlotte, N.C., plant, which recently exceeded 1 million hours of operation without a lost-time accident.

"Manufacturing high-speed turf-cutting aeration equipment and accessories parts can be very dangerous," said Jon Carlson, Jacobsen's president and CEO. "The [award] recognizes that our employees are dedicated to their co-workers and their own safety."

Merion gets Walker Cup

The USGA announced that the East Course at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa., was selected to host the 2009 Walker Cup Match, a biennial international amateur team competition. The club, maintained by superintendent Matt Shaffer and his crew, will also host the U.S. Amateur Championship in 2005.

The Walker Cup pits two 10-man teams from the United States and a combined team from Great Britain and Ireland.

ASIC elects president

The American Society of Irrigation Consultants (ASIC) elected Daniel Brenner as its new president at its recent conference. Brenner, who is also president of Hydro Environmental, has designed or been involved with 2,650 irrigation projects.

The Weather Will Get Wacky, But Not That Wacky

And you thought the weather has been wild the past few years, what with buckets of rain, the driest of droughts, and stifling heat and humidity. Last month, thanks to the release of *The Day After Tomorrow*, the latest disaster movie (speaking of which, it didn't get very good reviews) that depicts giant storms and plummeting temperatures on earth, people started talking about the weather more than they already do. They wanted to know if the wild weather that happened in the film could happen on earth.

The good news is the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) says it's impossible for an ice age to strike within days, as happens in the movie. The bad news is NCAR warns that climate change may have significant consequences for society in coming decades. Here's why:

- Humans affect global climate through emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases that trap sunlight in the atmosphere and warm the planet.
- Many greenhouse gases emitted from the burning of fossil fuels and other sources remain in the atmosphere for decades or even centuries.
- Researchers at NCAR and other institutions have found that global temperatures are likely to rise by 3.1 to 8.9 degrees Fahrenheit between 1990 and 2100. Such an increase in temperatures may spur droughts, extreme storms and related events, including wildfires, vegetation changes and a rise in sea levels.

However, as dramatic as real-world climate change is likely to be, it would differ from the climate change depicted in *The Day After Tomorrow* in several important ways. For example, temperatures in New York City plummet from sweltering to freezing in a matter of hours in the film. (Think the green committee would blame that on you?) In reality, scientists say that temperatures in parts of the world could drop, but not nearly as rapidly or dramatically as portrayed in the movie. — **Newswise and Larry Aylward**



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Quotable

"I think there's a lot of internal strife in the USGA. One person wants one thing, another person wants another. They duck and hide until they go on TV, when they say everything is fine."

— *Frank Hannigan, former USGA executive director, on the controversy surrounding the course setup at last month's U.S. Open, held at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club (Newsday).*

"Unless you live the business for a time, I don't think you really understand it."

— *John Burns, certified superintendent of The Gauntlet at Curtis Park in Fredricksburg, Va., on comprehending the nuances of the profession.*