

Starter

NEWS, NOTES AND QUOTES



// DROUGHT

CALIFORNIA DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY

➔ On this winter's day, Californians are dreaming about rain. Not that it's doing them any good.

"We're on our 53rd day without any rain," sighs Billy Hausch, superintendent the Nicklaus Club Monterey in Monterey, Calif. The drought in California has caused Governor Jerry Brown to declare a statewide emergency. Superintendents are gearing up for what promises to be a challenging year.

Normally the wettest part of the year, Hausch is one of many superintendents left in a lurch from this unusually dry weather. Other states are in the same boat — federal agriculture officials designated parts of 11 states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah — as disaster areas, citing the economic strain this drought is putting on farmers.

"This takes a coming together of all the people of California to deal with this serious and prolonged event of nature," Gov. Brown told reporters in San Francisco. "Hopefully it'll rain eventually. But in the meantime, we have to do our part."

For now, Gov. Brown is asking — nicely — for Californians to do their part. If the drought continues much

longer, he won't be asking.

"We have X amount of water allocated to us from wells each year," says Hausch. However, this year they may be looking for more water before the year's out. "We may be begging (for water) by the time it's all done."

One additional problem Hausch is facing is the use of sodium rich recycled water. For Hausch, the extra sodium found in the water can be a problem. When used on the course, the sodium from the water can create small build ups called "sour spots." "You see pockets build up in our fairways and it's no good."

If the rain doesn't show soon, Hausch worries about many busted budgets for area courses, especially those who use municipal water supplies. "We only pay for electricity to move the water, but not the water itself," says Hausch. "It's going to be a tough year for everyone down here."

// ALL THE BUZZ

ODA DETERMINES CAUSE OF BUMBLEBEE DEATHS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced the findings of an investigation into the deaths of bumblebees at multiple sites in Oregon. They concluded that product misapplication was the cause.

The ODA issued a temporary rule in June, restricting the use of products containing the active ingredients dinotefuran and imidacloprid in the wake of four separate incidents. One of which involved a foliar application of Valent U.S.A. Corporation product, Safari insecticide, to European linden trees during bloom. This was a violation of label instructions.

The ODA report determined that the bumblebee deaths connected to the use of Safari, were the direct result of a private commercial applicator "performing a pesticide application in a faulty, careless, or negligent manner."

The applicator company at fault has been issued civil penalties totaling \$1,665. The ODA requested that Valent include new language on Safari labels. The updated labels will be seen on March 1, 2014.

// HONORABLE MENTION

GWAA HONORS ROBERT ALLENBY

The Golf Writers Association of America have selected PGA Tour member Robert Allenby as the 2014 Charlie Bartlett Award winner. This award goes to a playing professional who makes unselfish contributions for the betterment of society. The Australian Allenby has raised over \$26 million over the last 23 years through the Robert Allenby Golf Day and Gala Dinner. Inspired by the death of a close friend when he was 13, Allenby has been dedicated to raising money to help children with cancer throughout his career. The award will be given on April 9 in Augusta, Ga., the night before the Masters begins.

Past winners include Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Tiger Woods, K.J. Choi, Lorena Ochoa, Ernie Els, Tom Watson and Payne Stewart.



EMAILS @ TEXTS # TWEETS

Mr. Woodward, after reading about your father ("A Dymond in the rough," January 2014) I want you to know that I too lost my hero, as my father passed away last March. He was a retired farmer who instilled in me a work ethic that I know has made me a better superintendent. Something that helped me was a quote from Arnold Palmer, that not a day goes by that he doesn't think of his father. And I know I now have a "special" crew member who joined my staff this year.

—**Dave Blasiman, Superintendent, Alliance (Ohio) Country Club**

Golfdom's Seth Jones will be the MC of Monday's Palm Beach GCSA meeting? Good. Looking forward to recapping the Florida/Kansas game!

—**Brian Birney (@BrianBirneyGCS)**



Damage to the tenth green at Coal Creek.

Cleaning up Coal Creek

➔ The best-laid plans can amount to nothing with Mother Nature's help. When late summer storms uprooted trees, washed out bunkers and wrecked the Coal Creek GC in Louisville, Colo., prior restoration plans were swept away.

In 2011, golf course architect Kevin Norby was hired by the city to complete a long-range capital improvement plan for the course, directed at improving overall course conditions and identifying long-term improvements. However, Norby now has to sort storm repairs out from the list of improvements originally planned. Norby explained that some repairs, those caused by storm damage, will be funded by FEMA. "FEMA gets involved and they will only pay to get (the course) back to original conditions," says Norby.

Norby is currently working to determine which damages fall under FEMA funding and which the original plan. "It's a very tedious process, but it's the process we have to go through," says Norby. Construction begins this month.

THEY SAID IT

RON PRICHARD, ARCHITECT

On one of the first things he recommends when he visits a course:

"There's always some need for management of the trees that have been planted over the years. Too many courses have planted inexpensive pine trees all over the golf course, making the course very difficult to play. It's not the most expensive or difficult process (to remove them), it's not a major surgery. But we created a problem for many of our great old classic courses."