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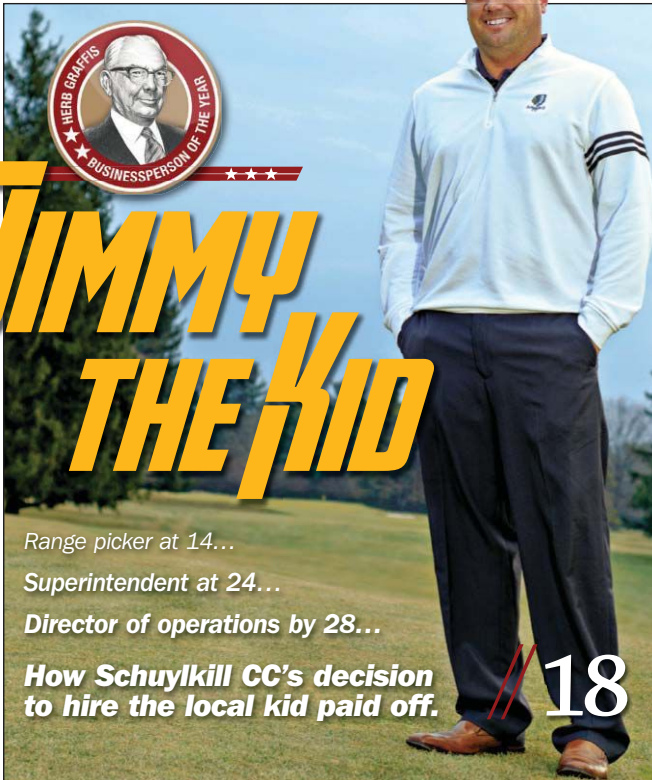


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Count on it.



JIMMY THE KID

Range picker at 14...
Superintendent at 24...
Director of operations by 28...
How Schuylkill CC's decision to hire the local kid paid off. // 18

(Circular inset: HERB GRAFFIS BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR)



Blown away

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BEHIND THE SCENES: STANDARD GOLF

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And no, as much as we like to be helpful, we'd rather not discuss underwear over the phone. For that, you'd better call mom.



Golfdom

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“It takes some doing to get to Orwigsburg, Pa. You can’t just claim to be in the neighborhood, like I did with both Chojnacky and Kappelman.”

SETH JONES, *Editor-in-Chief*

Over hamburgers in Hamburg

The MacKenzie Bar and Grill at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz, Calif. No. 13 green at Sharp Park Golf Course in Pacifica, Calif. And now, the Red Robin in Hamburg, Pa.

¶ *One of these things is not like the others...*

These are the three places where I first told the three winners of the Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year Award that they were the recipients of *Golfdom's* only (and therefore “most prestigious”) award. In 2012 Paul Chojnacky, then at Pasatiempo, now superintendent at Oakridge CC in Utah, was our first winner. Last year I flew to the same part of the country and told Sharp Park’s Wayne Kappelman that he was the 2013 honoree.

It takes some doing to get to Orwigsburg, Pa. You can’t just claim to be in the neighborhood, like I did with both Chojnacky and Kappelman. Schuylkill Country Club is as hard to get to as it is to spell. It’s 90 minutes northwest of

Philadelphia, a picturesque, mountainous setting in the middle of coal country.

Yet I convinced this year’s winner, Jim Rattigan, to meet me at a nearby Red Robin for dinner on a Tuesday night in the middle of January for no particular reason.

I had the good fortune of having met Jim previously, while I was on assignment doing my 2013 U.S. Open preview on Merion. A member had invited me out to play the course, telling me I just had to see this Donald Ross beauty and I’d fall in love with it. It didn’t matter that not only had I never heard of the course, I also continuously struggled pronouncing its name. (As far as I can tell, you say it *SKOOK-uhl*. That’s the pronunciation I gave it in my story, at least.)

That member, Roy Heim, was right. I was instantly impressed by the course, its greens, its stunning panoramic views of the mountains, its hospitable members and its outstanding superintendent/general manager, the aforementioned Mr. Rattigan.

So two weeks ago I met Rattigan for dinner at Red Robin. Over hamburgers and a couple beers, I pitched him the idea for the story you’ll find in this issue: Local kid does good. Jim was agreeable.

I decided that over those hamburgers and Yuengling beers was as good a time as any. I went ahead and told Jim that, based on what I knew of him and the work he had done, and based on conversations with Roy and

others, I would be naming him the 2014 Herb Graffis Businessperson of the Year.

Jim’s demeanor totally changed. “Are you serious?” he asked me, incredulous. “You’re totally blowing me away with this... are you sure I deserve it?”

I told Jim that he has a great story, that he’s done a great job, and though it might just be called “doing my job” to him, it was indeed an impressive thing he had done in the past 12 years at Schuylkill CC.

Jim then tried to redirect the credit. He has an incredible team at the course, he told me. Humility. I’ve come to expect it from supers.

Eventually I got Jimmy on board with the idea. The next day at the course I got him to tell me his whole story. The more I learned, the more I knew: Rattigan personifies what we’re looking for with this award.

When Mr. Graffis founded this magazine in 1927, he did it for readers like Rattigan. He knew there were professionals out there like Jim, people probably like you, who pour their souls into making the game profitable. That’s what the award embodies: people who strive to make their business the best it can be.

I doubt that Mr. Graffis would have ever imagined his name being thrown about at a Red Robin in Hamburg, Pa. in 2014.

But I guarantee you, he would have been impressed by Jim Rattigan.

Email Jones at: sjones@northcoastmedia.net.



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JACOBSEN


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 its 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.



Damage to the tenth green at Coal Creek.



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)*

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."

Golfdom Gallery



1
WE CAME.
WE SAW.
WE TOOK PICTURES.

1 Bird of a different feather We had to turn to Twitter to help us identify this Wood Stork spotted at the Breakers Rees Jones Course in West Palm Beach, Fla. We also learned it is the only North American stork, thanks to the wisdom of Scott Griffith (@UGAGCAgronomy).



2 Playing partners John Spiwak, Eastpointe CC, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; Curtis Tyrrell III, CGCS, MG, Medinah CC, Medinah, Ill.; and Steve Wright, CGCS, Boca West CC, Boca Raton, Fla., take time from a busy round for a friendly photo.

3 Familiar faces Daniel McCann, director of grounds at San Antonio (Texas) CC; James Smith, assistant superintendent at San Antonio CC; and Scott Boyle, media relations manager for Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee, were spotted at the Sports Turf Managers Association Conference & Exhibition in San Antonio last month.



4 The coach and I It only took two months for Seth to meet his limit of Jayhawk photos in the magazine for a year, thanks to this photo with Kansas Jayhawks head basketball coach Bill Self. Now, the only other Jayhawks he can picture in the magazine for the remainder of the year are Gary Woodland and Paul Pierce. *(Update: Turns out people around the office are still sore about a 1997 Kansas victory over Ohio State in which Pierce scored 22 points. So it's down to Woodland now.)*



5 America's oldest brewery Though it wasn't mentioned in this month's cover story, Schuylkill CC is located just a few miles from America's oldest brewery, Yuengling Brewery, in Pottsville, Pa. It took Jim Rattigan about 2 seconds to convince Seth to go on the brewery tour.

PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES (1-3) / ERIC NEUTEBOOM (4)