Briefs

SANFORD, KEN GREEN TEAM UP IN N.Y.
FISHKILL, N.Y. — Golf course architect John Sanford and PGATour player Ken Green will soon break ground on their latest project: a new golf course near Fishkill, N.Y. Sanford, who has worked with Green since 1981 and still refers to his boss as Mr. Jones, said of his mentor: “Mr. Jones is really the creator of the modern profession of golf course architecture.”

GARL DESIGNS SANDRIDGE'S SECOND 18
VERO BEACH, Fla. — Construction has begun on the second 18-hole layout at nearby Sandridge Golf Course. The course, designed by Ron Garl of Lakeland, is scheduled to open next December.

The new course will measure about 6,200 yards from the championship tees, compared to the existing 6,600-yard course. It is designed, said Sandridge golf director Bob Komarinetz, as a thinking man’s golf course, oriented toward target golf.

The new layout includes six lakes already on the property, a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse overlooking the 18th green, an expanded practice area and putting green. The price tag is $5.5 million, and Komarinetz hopes to add some country-wide events to his club’s schedule.

REES JONES VENTURES TO OREGON
Rees Jones will design his first course in the western United States — in the Oregon coastal community of Florence.

Jones will lend his talents to the Florence Resort Community (FLORECO), a 242-acre development that began construction in February. The development will include housing parcels and a hotel/commercial site, but the Jones course will be its center.

“We’re not Rees’ own philosophy to determine the final design,” said Jack Roake, president of FLORECO. “We have a unique site that Rees himself calls superior. We want a classic course, and he’s the best.”

Working with Jones’ team will be The Design Professional Group of Grants Pass, Ore. Engineer T.J. Bossard, community and land use planner Alex Forrest and designer/architect Ken Snelling have worked on numerous coastal residential communities.

ELKHORN CELEBRATES REMODELING
STOCKTON, Calif. — Elkhorn Country Club’s recently completed remodel of its former clubhouse was celebrated with a grand opening on Jan. 11.

Elkhorn’s owners, Ty and Nancy Caplin, Stockton’s 1991 Small Business Persons of the Year, and members will enjoy the results of a six-month extensive remodel by B&H Construction, general contractor.

 Builders honor Robert Trent Jones Sr.

Elder statesman of golf course architecture given Rossi Award
By Peter Blaiz

Golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr., builder/architect Perry Dye and builder Brent Wadsworth were honored during the Golf Course Builders Association of America’s annual meeting in New Orleans.

Robert Trent Jones Sr., received the association’s Donald Ross Humanitarian Award. Jones, who emigrated to the United States from Wales at age 5, is generally regarded as one of the finest student of golf course architecture, designed hundreds of courses throughout the world, started the American Society of Golf Course Architects and is still designing courses at age 85. His two sons, Robert Jr. and Rees, are well-known architects in their own rights.

Architect Roger Haebich, who has worked with Jones since 1981 and still refers to his boss as Mr. Jones, said of his mentor: “Mr. Jones is really the creator of the modern profession of golf course architecture.”

New GCBAA President Jerry Pflegerman presented outgoing President Perry Dye with an award thanking him for his four years of service as the head of the organization. Dye is president of Denver-based Dye Designs.

The plaque read: “To a true visionary, whose leadership and dedication to the game inspired one of the highest chapters in GCBAA history.”

Dye said: “I can’t tell you how lucky I was that my father (well-known architect Pete Dye) told me not to get into the golf business, because I immediately got into the golf business, because I immediately got into the golf business.”

For the third straight year, Plainfield, Ill.-based Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. received the Golf Course News Builder of the Year Award from publisher Charles von Brecht. Wadsworth has been in the golf business since 1954 and built hundreds of courses throughout the country.

Wadsworth Vice President Paul Eldredge accepted the award on Wadsworth’s behalf.

“This is a credit to the architects and developers we’ve worked with,” said. “They have made it easy and pleasurable to do the work we’ve done.”

Expectations are high at Pumpkin Ridge
Cupp Design, developer Pumpkin Ridge Partners carve two courses out of Tualatin foothills
By Mark Leslie

NORTH PLAINS, Ore. — Pumpkin Ridge, cut out of “a fabulous natural site” according to Bob Cupp Inc. senior designer John Fought, will open here April 1.

The facility, at the base of the Tualatin Mountains foothills 21 miles from downtown Portland, will open one private and one daily-fee course. The East Course will open for members only on April 1. When the West Course opens June 21, it will become the private course, and the East will open up to the public.

The 6,900-yard East Course, which will play to par 71, is an “old-style golf course — square tees and all,” Fought said.

“There’s not a bad hole in the 36,” said project manager Gary Hellwege. “We’re excited by it. I’m prejudiced, but I will not hesitate to say it will be spectacular.”

Fought, Cupp’s partner, said they used the natural flow of the property, with a ridge line dividing the two courses, and with forest on the foothill side of the site and farmland on the valley side.

Fought created a two- to three-acre lake, from which water is piped to the top of the ridge and flows down two manmade creeks through both courses. Another two lakes were created on the East Course and three on the West Course.

“We only moved 400,000 cubic yards for both courses. That tells you the kind of site it is,” Fought said.

The 365-acre site includes two wetland areas that are low but with huge ash trees and “not at all marshy,” he said.

Hellwege also pointed with pride to the facility’s 30,000-square-foot 18-hole putting course, designed with “all the contour you’d ever want.”

Portland businessmen Marvin French, Barney Hyde and Gaylord Davis formed Pumpkin Ridge Partners to develop the course, with funding from Oregon Central Corp.

Tour pro Bob Gilder is already claiming Pumpkin Ridge as his home course, saying it is “a real tournament golf course where I can sharpen my game, ... and it can be played by my family. The golf course is good for any caliber of golfer.”

The 1984 PGA Professional of the Year, Jerry Mowlds is director of golf. Mowlds is a member of the PGA Pacific Northwest Hall of Fame, a director of the PGA of America, and has won the Oregon PGA Championship four times among other victories.

Bill Webster has left Seattle Golf Club to join Pumpkin Ridge as superintendent.

Hellwege said 200 of the targeted 500 West Course memberships had been sold by February.

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