

NEWS IN BRIEF

YORK, Maine — The Ledges Golf Course off Route 91 has received town Planning Board preliminary approval. Ledges president Patrick Rocheleau anticipates full approval soon. Project construction is expected to proceed in 1995, with course opening in mid-1996. Course principals are structuring an equity offering to finance the \$3.2 million project.

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SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course will be this city's newest links. In giving swift approval to the planned course near Sherman Park, Planning and Development Commission members asked only one major question of owner Abdallah Hellow: "When could they make tee time reservations?" Hellow hopes to open the 18 holes this year. He invited board members to walk the course "before the balls start flying."

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GLENWOOD, Ark. — The 6,500-yard, 18-hole public golf course on U.S. 70 east of Glenwood has opened for play. Designed by Bobby McGee of Little Rock, Glenwood Country Club had been under construction since early 1993. Owner/developer Irvin Bainum is seeking course approval for Arkansas State Golf Association events.

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WAUKEGAN, Ill. — The Links of Midlane, a nine-hole 182-acre golf community next to the 18-hole daily-fee Midlane course, is expected to be ready for play next July. Other recreational facilities available to surrounding residents will include a driving range and golf learning center. Neal Anderson, former Chicago Bears running back and a familiar figure at Midlane CC in this city's north suburban area, soon may not have to make his customary 6:30 a.m. appearance for practice space. He will have more elbow room at the Links of Midlane.



REES JONES CARVES COURSE FROM KEYSTONE LANDSCAPE

The 390-yard 2nd hole at Huntsville (Pa.) Golf Club — one of the latest creations from the hand of architect Rees Jones — falls 120 feet from tee to landing area before it turns ever so gracefully to the left. Located a few miles north of Wikes-Barre, the private Huntsville G.C., built by Tanto Construction of Pittsburgh, opened for play earlier this year. Elsewhere, another Jones product — the Falcon Course at Wild Wing Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C. — also has opened for play. Some 900,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved during construction of Wild Wing's fourth course. Jones' Falcon joins the Hummingbird and Woodstork courses, both Willard Byrd designs, and the Avocet Course, designed by Jeff Brauer and Larry Nelson.

Architect shuffle may right troubled Ojai project

VENTURA, Calif. — The Farmont Corp.'s plan to build an exclusive 18-hole golf course in the Ojai Valley continues in hot water, but hiring noted Jupiter, Fla., golf course architect Tom Fazio is seen as the first step in righting the troubled project.

Architect Pete Dye quit right after Ventura County officials had approved the project. Dye said his son's company, Dye Design, had designed the course, not him.

Farmont attorney Lindsay Nielsen, shocked by this claim,

insisted Dye designed the golf course, and that Farmont was considering some form of litigation.

Farmont expects to start construction next spring and open in 1996. Farmont is owned by Japanese media tycoon Kagehisa Toyama.

The county has revised its water ordinance. Golf courses now may use drinking water for irrigation if its builder shows that the total water consumption will be substantially less than the historic water consumption for the site.

Wampanoag tribe uproots course with casino plans

By HAL PHILLIPS

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — With golf courses popping up alongside gaming casinos all over the country, the plight of New Bedford Municipal Golf Course stands in stark contrast.

The Wampanoag tribe of Gay Head (located on the island of Martha's Vineyard) has received exclusive rights to casino gambling in eastern Massachusetts. Part of the agreement gives this Native American nation the right of eminent domain with regard to New Bedford Municipal, an 18-hole track laid out by Donald Ross in 1920.

While the current lease is fighting the tribe and city, there is an inevitability about the transaction: A casino will eventually replace the golf course, which is now looking for a new site. New Bedford Mayor Rosemary Tierney has agreed to sell the parcel and committed her office to developing a new course.

Only three hours after Tierney signed the course away, officials were eyeing potential sites. Nineteen parcels in six neighboring communities are now under consideration.

The Wampanoags have reportedly considered funding development of a new course. "Anything's possible," Tierney told the *Standard-Times*. "None of that has been solidified."

While numerous tribes have built golf courses as resort components to gaming houses (*GCN*, July 1994), it's unlikely the Wampanoags will keep a course on the 280-acre parcel, which also abuts a federal Superfund site. New Bedford is a city of 120,000 in a populous region that needn't worry about drawing vacationers to the casino. Indeed, the nearby cities of

Continued on page 44

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