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Rejuvenated Pacific NW resort targets international golf market

POINT ROBERTS, Wash. — A Ferndale, Wash., company is planning to resurrect a bankrupt, unbuilt golf course and will break ground this spring. The $10 million Point Roberts Golf and Country Club would be the first golf course on the point, which is connected to British Columbia but extends down across the Washington state line, near Vancouver’s huge golfing population. The course would be the 21st in Whatcom County.

The proposed Point Roberts Golf Club would be the first owned by JIJ Corp., which has built several golf courses and housing projects in the region. The course and clubhouse also would include a mix of 150 condominiums and houses.

Canadian and Point Roberts developers originally planned to build the golf course several years ago but sold out in 1990 when Japanese development companies were gobbling up U.S. resort land. The project sold for $10.5 million to I.S. International Japan Co. Ltd.

I.S. International hired JIJ Corp. to build the course, and JIJ began clearing trees at the site. However, JIJ filed a lien for $1.9 million in Whatcom County Superior Court when it wasn’t paid for the work. JIJ recently gained clear title to the 194 acres.

The proposed Point Roberts course is an 18-hole layout designed by Ted Robinson, who has designed more than 200 courses, many of them in the Pacific Northwest. The Point Roberts Golf Club would be semi-private.

Train service for Costner’s SD development

DEADWOOD, S.D. — Golfers teeing it up at actor Kevin Costner’s $100 million, under-construction golf and conference resort here in the Black Hills will have the option of traveling to the site by train.

Northwest Engineering has started designing a 12.7-mile rail link between the historic mining town of Deadwood and Costner’s golf and conference destination. The resort will be called Dunbar, the name of the U.S. cavalry lieutenant played by Costner in the movie “Dances with Wolves.”

Native Americans in the area and around the country have criticized Costner and characterized him as hypocritical for his plans to develop a golf and conference center on land that has long-standing spiritual significance for local tribes.

The planned rail link will restore 9.5 miles of abandoned Chicago and North Western right-of-way. A one-mile spur to Rapid City Regional Airport will also be built. Included in the project is a new 960-foot trestle made of timber, which Northwest Engineering says “is believed to be the first such structure of this magnitude constructed in the United States in the last 50 years.”

The trestle will rise 125 feet above the canyon floor. A second trestle, constructed of structural steel, will span 800 feet at 140-foot elevation.