N.C. architect busy on classics

CARY, N.Y. — Robbins & Associates International has been selected to provide design services for renovation and remodeling at several golf courses. The firm is reworking Camden (S.C.) Country Club, Pine Lakes International in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Carolina Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., and Blowing Rock (N.C.) Country Club.

"We feel that all of these existing golf courses are great examples of an earlier style of golf course design and, in many cases, these courses are also historically significant," said Rick Robbins, president of Robbins & Associates. "Three of these design commissions — Camden CC, Blowing Rock CC and Carolina Country Club — are Donald Ross designs."

Camden CC has been changed very little since its construction in 1928. It now needs greens reconstruction to allow for the increased volume of play.

Pine Lake International is often called "The Granddaddy" because it is the oldest golf club in the Myrtle Beach area, originally laid out by Robert White, the first PGA president, in the late 1920s.

Robbins & Associates is performing extensive remodeling design work to the back nine holes.

Efforts will be made to improve drainage in several areas, along with some increased visibility on several holes and a more defined strategy of play.

Salt Lake area course plan gains support

SANDY, Utah — Mayor Tom Dolan would like to join 50 acres near Albion Middle School with another 150 acres to create an 18-hole course and community park, according to the Salt Lake Tribune. And he wants Salt Lake County to build the course.

Salt Lake County Commissioner Randy Horiuchi supports the proposal to purchase the property from the Salt Lake Metropolitan Water District. The district originally purchased the land from subdivision developer Lear Thorpe, who has the first right of refusal on the surplus land valued at $8.3 million. The property could go on sale next spring.

Dolan said there could be enough land available for a course, housing and a community park. Salt Lake County's recreation master plan calls for a sixth county-owned golf course to be built in the southeast part of Salt Lake Valley.

Lucky Ontario golfer defies cosmic forces

KITCHENER, Ontario, Canada — Orville Delong, a 57-year-old maintenance worker from Cambridge, was waiting to putt on the sixth green at Doon Valley Golf Club in Kitchener on July 12 when he heard something whiz past his ear, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

"At first we thought somebody was shooting at us," he said. According to tests, it was a fist-sized meteorite that was traveling about 150 mph.

He found the seven-ounce meteorite and donated it to the University of Toronto. Geology professor John Rucklidge speculated the rock came from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

The university rewarded Delong with a season pass to the golf club as a finder's fee. Delong told the Kitchener-Waterloo Record this wasn't his first brush with death while golfing. He said he was blown off his feet when a bolt of lightning struck a tree at the Galt Country Club in 1977.