

BRIEFS



LAYTON JOINS PALMER GOLF DESIGN

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.—Newly graduated landscape architect Thad Layton has joined Palmer Design Company as part of the design staff. While studying at Mississippi State University, Layton interned with the Palmer group and also worked construction on several courses.

"Over the past three years, Thad has proven himself to be an extremely valuable player on our team," said Ed Seay, executive vice president and chief operating officer for Palmer Design.

"We look forward to having him around on a full-time basis." Palmer Design is a complete course planning and design organization with more than 250 active projects and open courses in 30 states and 20 countries.

SCHRICKLE JOINS TRENT JONES II INT'L

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Bettina Schrickel has joined Robert Trent Jones II International as a design associate. Previously, she was a design associate with Santa Rosa-based Bettina Schrickel Fream & Dale Golfplan.



Bettina Schrickel

TPC SNOQUALMIE VOTED TOP COURSE IN WASHINGTON STATE

SEATTLE—The Jack Nicklaus-designed TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club has been voted the number one course in the state by Washington's golf professionals, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reported. The private membership course, open for only a year, is located about 30 minutes east of Seattle. Western Golf Properties, of Scottsdale, Ariz., manages the course, which is focal point of the 1,343-acre Snoqualmie Ridge Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company's golf community. It offers membership to community homeowners, non-residents and corporations. The superintendent is Tom Wolff.



Sanford ready to play in Big Dig's dirt

By ANDREW OVERBECK

BOSTON—After almost three years of work and more than 500,000 truckloads of dirt, developer Charles Geilich and architect John Sanford are finally ready to start construction on Quarry Hills Golf Course in Quincy.

In total, Boston's "Big Dig" underground highway project has supplied 7.7 million cubic yards of fill that was used by the developers, Quarry Hills Associates, to cap two former landfills and fill in an abandoned granite quarry to make the 450-acre golf course project a reality. In order to facilitate the delivery of materials, trucks made an average of 800 trips a day to the site—so many that the Massachusetts Highway Department built a separate exit off the highway just for the trucks.

Geilich and his group worked a deal with the highway authority and the towns of Milton and Quincy whereby they would be paid around \$12 per ton to take the material, cover the landfills and develop the golf course. The developers will lease the land from the city of Quincy for 50 years.

In the face of continued scrutiny over the \$1.4-billion cost over-run of the Big Dig project, the developers maintain that the highway authority has saved money by trucking the fill a mere eight miles to

Quincy. Geilich insists that all of the money they are being paid to take the fill is being eaten up by construction and engineering costs.

"By our estimates, we are saving the Big Dig \$150 million," he said. "We are working three shifts around the clock and the staff is enormous. Our engineering costs alone are upwards of \$7 million. Every dime [we've been paid] has all gone into the project."

Regulatory pressures have also added costs to the project, according to Geilich.

"There isn't a regulatory body that we haven't dealt with," he said. "Between federal, state and local authori-

ties, we have an inspection by somebody every week."

As a result, Sanford estimated that he has done more than 30 different routing plans for the project.

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It took an average of 800 trucks a day for three years to bring 7.7 million cubic yards of fill from the Big Dig to Quarry Hills. A view of the Boston skyline from the site. (inset)

New Tom Fazio complex in Virginia spotlights junior golf

By JAY FINEGAN

RICHMOND, Va.—When the Independence Golf Club opens here next summer, junior golfers will have an upscale course of their own, designed by award-winning architect Tom Fazio. The 9-hole layout is only part of a major new \$17-million golf center taking shape on 250 acres of rolling countryside southwest of this state capital.

The brainchild of the Virginia State Golf Association (VSGA) and 15 years in the planning, Independence also will feature an 18-hole, Fazio-designed championship course, complete with four man-made lakes. An elegant, Jeffersonian-style clubhouse, 20,000 square feet, will anchor the complex and house everything from the pro shop and grill to a museum of Virginia golf history and a library. An education center will provide a place for seminars and conferences for superintendents, golf professionals, and club

managers.

The so-called Kids' Course, however, along with other youth-oriented amenities, makes the new facility the first of its kind on the East Coast. "The emphasis on kids has been the focus from day one," said David Norman, executive director of the VSGA. "We think it's going to be a really neat atmosphere for them."

Measuring 1,326 yards, the Kids' Course is a par-3 layout, with multiple tee boxes on each hole. "It's going to be for everyone from toddlers up to the early teens," Norman said, "but it will look like a championship course. You will definitely have the feel of a regular course, with hazards and all. It has bunkers, but not pot bunkers, and it actually crosses a creek twice, but from the shortest tees you don't have to shoot across water. The holes range up to 192 yards, but we'll have some tees down to 60 yards for the

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Brian Ault voted new president of ASGCA

CHICAGO—Course designer Brian Ault, of Kensington, Md., was elected president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects at the group's annual meeting, held recently in Ireland.

A member of the ASGCA since 1977, Ault has earned a reputation for developing award-winning residential and resort courses. Among the layouts he has designed or remodeled are: the Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Avenel, in Potomac, Md.; Eagle Ridge Golf Club, in Lakewood, N.J.; South

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Keystone's second 18-hole layout opens in Rockies

KEYSTONE, Colo.—The Rocky Mountains' newest 18-hole course opened last month at Keystone Resort. Situated at 9,300 feet above sea level and surrounded by soaring peaks, the River Course at Keystone was designed by Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry to compliment the natural beauty of the area and also to minimize any impact on wildlife and native vegetation.

"With the opening of the River Course, Keystone will take its place as one of the premier mountain golf destinations in North America," said John Rutter, chief operating officer. Combined with the highly rated Ranch Course, Keystone now offers 36 holes of championship golf in a spectacular setting.

The par-71 River Course stretches to

6,886 yards, with a rating of 70.3 and a 131 slope. The front nine meanders along the Snake River, while the back nine provides superb views of the Continental Divide, Lake Dillon, and the Gore Range. The course also offers a 194-foot vertical drop on the par-4 16th hole and a challenging navigation through 12 bunkers on the 18th.

"There's a breathtaking view from every hole on the course," said Steve Corneillier, director of golf at Keystone. "It's more than just a natural design. We used environmental principles for this design. It looks as if the course was air-lifted in."

According to Corneillier, Hurdzan and Fry were selected because of their



Keystone's back nine provides breathtaking views.

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"There were many constraints throughout the permitting process," said Sanford. "We'd get a routing plan and they would change it because more quarries were discovered. Then we had a plan and the archaeologists found eight more prehistoric Indian workshop areas.

Each time, we'd do five to 10 different plans to make it work."

Sanford also had to design around wetland areas and figure out how to terrace the course off the landfill mounds.

"The landfills are basically elliptical domes and we had to use the fill to terrace off the side of the domes. I have worked in Japan where we were working with steep mountainous slopes, so I

had a leg up on that," he said.

Also, by using pre-loaded fill, Sanford hopes to avoid the pitfalls of settling that is common in courses that are built on landfills.

Now that all of the dirt has arrived Sanford is eager to get started.

"This project wins the prize for constraints," he said. "But on the flip side, it is a great location with tremendous elevation

change and panoramic views. It is all worth it."

The course has 150 feet of elevation change and features views of downtown Boston, the harbor, Logan Airport, the Kennedy Library and Blue Hills State Forest.

Each nine-hole section of the course will have its own distinct design characteristics.

This summer and fall, Sanford

expects to shape, irrigate and grass the Milton 9 that will be fairly open and have a Scottish or Irish links look.

Between the Milton and Quincy landfills, the course will play through a natural valley and a tree-lined parkland-style section of the property. The final nine holes will play down along the water-filled quarries.

Working west to east, Sanford estimates that the rest of the construction will be wrapped up by the end of 2001 and all 27-holes will be open for play by summer 2002.

In the meantime, developers are working on a 44,000-square-foot clubhouse, a pavilion and four soccer and Little League ball fields. If construction keeps pace with the planned timetable, the project will open exactly 10 years after work began and bring a once derelict piece of property back to life.

"Eight years ago when I first started, it was one of those jobs that I looked at and said, 'Chances are this will never really happen, but if it does it will be a great course,'" said Sanford. "From day one it was a long shot, and now it is actually happening." ▽

Ault

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River Golf Links, in Annapolis, Md.; and the Mississippi State University Golf Course, in Starkville, Miss.

"It is indeed a privilege to belong to and serve an organization with such a rich tradition in golf course architecture," Ault said. "Some of the most experienced and accomplished golf course architects in the world have been ASGCA members, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

As the society's new president, Ault will focus on informing golf course developers, golfers and the public about the value of capitalizing on the talents of an experienced course architect throughout the design and development process. He will also highlight the professionalism, talent and code of ethics that distinguish members of the society. In addition, he'll work to promote the group's "remodeling university" program, now in its second year.

Joining Ault on ASGCA's executive committee will be other prominent course architects. Damian Pascuzzo, of Walnut Creek, Calif., takes over as vice president. Jay Morrish, of Flower Mound, Tex., is the new treasurer. Clyde Johnson, of Hilton Head Island, S.C., was elected secretary. Outgoing president John LaFoy, of Greenville, S.C., will remain on the executive committee.

The ASGCA, founded in 1946, has 149 members. ▽



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