

BRIEFS



\$4B PROJECT UNDERWAY

HENDERSON, Nev. — Construction has started on a Jack Nicklaus-designed 18-hole course that is part of a \$4 billion resort and gaming facility planned by Hyatt Hotels Corp. The course will be part of the Monte Largo complex, which will have a Mediterranean-style hotel, gaming casino, 500-room luxury hotel and other amenities, all at the edge of Lake Las Vegas near Henderson in southern Nevada. The golf course is expected to be done by late 1998. Plans call for as many as six resort hotels and four more chamgolf courses at what will be southern Nevada's first lakeside resort development.

LEGISLATURE ORDERS CONSTRUCTION

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The Oklahoma Legislature has ordered the state's Tourism Department to build a new 18-hole public course at Lake Texoma and two nine-hole courses at Langley and Roman Nose State Park. The total cost for the three separate projects is expected to be about \$5.5 million — \$3.4 million for the Lake Texoma project, \$1.3 million for the nine-hole course at Langley, and \$770,000 for the nine-hole expansion at Roman Nose. The Lake Texoma course will be designed by Randy Heckenkemper, and the two others by Tripp Davis.

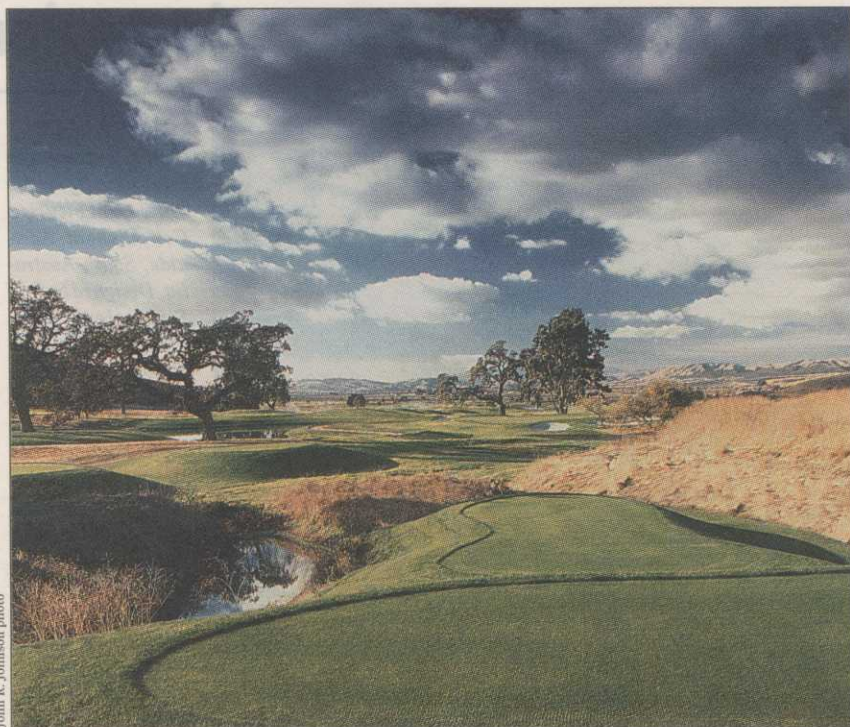


KAVANAUGH HIRES STERLING

TUCSON, Ariz. — Blake Sterling has joined Kenneth M. Kavanaugh Golf Course Design as a senior designer. He will be responsible for construction documents, specifications, and on-site construction supervision. Sterling, who is from Colorado, worked for Dye Designs for six years as a senior designer. While with Dye, Stirling was involved in the design of more than 80 courses, with over 20 completed. He played number one on his college golf team and holds a B.S. degree in business as well as a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Colorado.

ARCHITECTS RELEASE RFP GUIDE

CHICAGO — Looking to get a better understanding of golf course development? The American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) has just published a new free planning guide for golf course development called "Request for Proposal for Golf Course Architectural Services." The comprehensive document is designed to help developers address key elements of a golf course development project, including general notice, scope of services, owner's responsibilities, submittal requirements and the selection process.



The 6th hole at San Juan Oaks Golf Club in San Juan Batista, Calif., a Gene Bates design scheduled to open this month.

Bates coupled with success in design field

Gene Bates, 48, left the mining construction industry in the mid-1970s to enter the course design field with his father-in-law, architect Ron Kirby, a partner in Kirby/Player & Associates design. Bates moved in 1983 to Jack Nicklaus Design, where he rose to vice president of the design and construction services division, before opening Gene Bates Design in 1988. He has designed courses worldwide, including Vermont's first municipal course, Green Mountain National, which was scheduled to open in July. Bates' office is in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., where he lives with wife Faye and their two children, Denise, 15, and David, 14.

Golf Course News: You've worked with many widely known Tour pros and golf architects. Can you briefly



Gene Bates (right) and Fred Couples talk over the direction of a golf hole under construction.

QA & A

describe what most impressed you about Ron Kirby? Bob Cupp? Johnny Miller? Jack Nicklaus?

Gene Bates: I was Ron Kirby's site coordinator in the Philippines and South Africa. He taught me how to get a lot done with few resources and little equipment on those jobs.

I was always very impressed with the attention to detail Bob Cupp put into his plans and how professionally he dealt with clients.

Jack Nicklaus' No. 1 priority was

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Nelson, Haworth make stateside debut in N. Calif.

HONOLULU, Hawaii — The firm of Nelson & Haworth, Ltd. has been chosen to design The Grizzly — an 18-hole, par-72 championship course near Graeagle in northern California. This commission marks the firm's debut into the U.S. mainland market.

The Grizzly golf course is located in Gold Mountain, seven miles east of Graeagle and 45 minutes northwest of Reno, Nev. The 1,200-acre project is a recreational, 427-homesite community master-planned by Taliesin Architects, the perpetuation of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural practice.

"We've been looking for just the right project to mark our transition into the mainland U.S. market," said Robin Nelson, chairman of Nelson & Haworth. "This has everything: A great client, spectacular site, and superb location. And we'll be opening our first mainland office in the ... clubhouse."

Ground was broken on The Grizzly in May. Designed as a semi-private course for tourists and residents of Gold Mountain, it is being developed by Dariel, Peggy, Joe and Laurie Garner of Grizzly Golf Inc. They plan to open the first nine holes by the end of 1997, with the second nine to debut in early 1998. In addition to the 18-hole course, The Grizzly will include a practice facility complete with a driving range with target greens, an 18-hole putting course, and a nine-hole executive track — all to be completed in early 1998.

Nelson and Neil Haworth plan to lay the course onto the site's natural contours, leaving the mountain setting unaltered and the natural "hazards" of the environment in play. With the towering, snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountain range as the backdrop, the course will weave around giant boulders, ancient juniper trees, tall pines, and the Feather River. Other natural distractions include deep canyon gorges, mountain meadows, and canyon rims complete with rail trains.

Each hole will offer a choice of five tee locations. The course will be a par-72 and measure over 7,200 yards from the championship tees.

Mark Rathert remakes, beautifies Avondale in Idaho

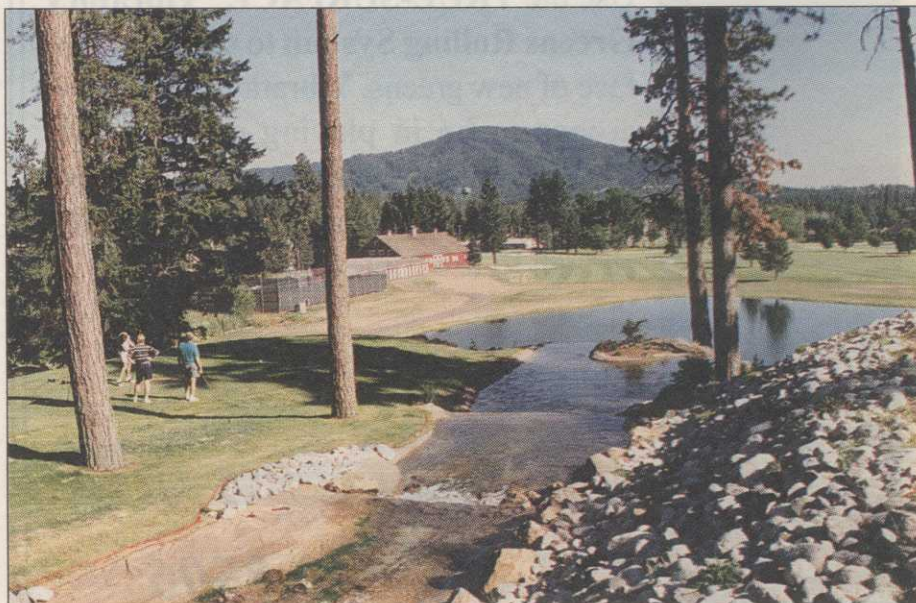
By MARK LESLIE

HAYDEN LAKE, Idaho — A major renovation of Avondale Golf and Tennis Club by course architect Mark Rathert has turned the 30-year-old track into a "must-play," according to the greens committee chairman

"What Mark did for the beautification of the course is unbelievable," said Keith Coultrap of the privately owned public facility. "We are very, very pleased with the results. It's something special, and I think we'll find that a lot of people who come to north Idaho to golf at Couer d'Alene Resort will want to find their way to Avondale for another round."

Anxious to reopen the course, Avondale's greens committee decided to sod most of it after a renovation that included nine new greens, all new tees, 42 "replaced" bunkers and three lakes.

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A new creek and waterfall provide "surround-sound" to golfers at the 10th tee at Avondale CC.

'Stunning' work, says Avondale official

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With that, they were able to re-open the front nine in early July and back nine at the end of the month.

"They wanted to play it this year and the weather this spring was not good for grass-growing," Rathert said, "so we sodded all the greens and a bulk of the fairways, landing areas and green surrounds."

Major among the improvements, Coultrap said, is "a 400-foot babbling brook coming out of the lake next to the 10th green which runs into a waterfall that splits behind a natural outcropping and falls into a new lake.

"It is absolutely stunning."

Rathert incorporated that brook and waterfall into a new 11th that has become Avondale's signature hole. The 11th was an uphill, blind par-3. Rathert lowered the green and created the lake on the right-hand side which falls into the brook Coultrap mentioned. The green is fronted by a bunker and backed by water.

The 2-1/2-acre lake at the bottom of the waterfall serves as an irrigation reservoir.

The original, pushup greens were very small — in the range of 3,000 square feet — and fell sharply off the back. The contractor, Adair Earthworks of Post Falls, took extra material from the lakes and incorporated it around the greens to enlarge them and hold shots.

Meanwhile, Rathert said, he "reshaped the bunkers into a [Alister] Mackenzie-esque style — with some noses and fingers — and used a soft approach, with no mounds. The land forms we created are smooth contours — not bumps."

Elsewhere, Rathert recontoured many of the fairways which had severe left or right slopes in the landing areas that pushed balls into the roughs.

"It's tight because of woods," he said. "We just tried to make it more fair, add some character and create an old-looking course. And we thinned out a few trees for better sunlight and air circulation."

"It started out as solely an irrigation project," Coultrap said, adding that the 500 shareholders of the public facility are glad they went the extra mile with an extensive remodeling.

...

Rathert, meanwhile, opened a nine-hole addition at Indian Creek Golf Club in Elkhorn, Neb., in June and has a new nine at Kissing Camels Club in Colorado Springs, Colo., under construction as well as three projects in Japan and Indonesia.

A privately owned daily-fee facility 15 miles west of Omaha, Indian Creek now boasts 27 holes.

Four of the new nine holes

boast lakes and water features, including a par-4 dogleg right with a second shot over a lake, followed by a par-3 that plays around the lake and across a stream.

Builders moved about 600,000 cubic yards of earth, digging lakes, flattening out landing areas and creating a huge practice facility, Rathert said. The practice area includes a chipping and sand trap green, a big putting green and a driving range that ac-

commodates 40 golfers.

Three existing holes also were remodeled, Rathert said, as a prelude to a future renovation of the entire original 18 holes.

The private, Press Maxwell-designed Kissing Camels Club also will be 27 holes when Rathert finishes adding four holes to part of the back nine and five to another part of the back nine to turn them into two new nines.

"We analyzed the original drawings and are creating similar character to the Maxwell rolls

on the greens," Rathert said. "The difference is, the original course has become very 'treed' over the last 30 years. Ponderosa pines have grown a lot."

The scenic new nine plays along a bluff and over some natural yucca and other native vegetation. Sitting on top of a mesa above Colorado Springs, the property offers panoramic views of Pikes Peak and the red rock of the Garden of the Gods.

The track, owned by Hill Development Corp. of Dallas, is being shaped and will be seeded this fall. A 1998 opening is expected.

IT'S A COMPLETE TRIUMVIRATE

ACME, Mich. — The new 18-hole signature golf course being designed for Grand Traverse Resort Village by Gary Player will take part of his nickname with regional identification. It will be called Northern Knight. Upon completion, Grand Traverse Resort Village will be the only resort in the world to boast signature courses designed by Jack Nicklaus, Player and Lee Trevino. Plans call for ground to be broken for Northern Knight this fall, with opening projected to be as early as 1998.

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