

Maryland governor hails board approval of Rocky Gap resort as tourism boost

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — After a 15-year quest to create a destination golf resort in western Maryland, the Board of Public Works here has approved a financing package allowing the Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort to take shape. Ground was broken May 20 on the hotel/conference center and Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course. It is expected to open in approximately two years and be a major economic boon to region's economy.

"This project will enhance

Maryland's status as a tourism and conference destination, while giving Western Maryland a major economic shot in the arm," Gov. Parris N. Glendening said. "This is exactly the kind of project Western Maryland needs — creating a resurgence in job growth through tourism by utilizing the region's beautiful natural resources."

The project will consist of a 220-room destination resort on the grounds of Rocky Gap State Park, located about five miles

east of Cumberland on Interstate 68. The project will offer 14,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, including a 5,000-square-foot ballroom; restaurant and lounge facilities; a swimming pool; two tennis courts; and fitness facilities.

The key amenity is the Nicklaus course, with pro shop, driving range, a putting and chipping green.

The board approved a financing package, including \$31.3 million in bonds issued by the

Maryland Economic Development Corp. (MEDCO), a quasi-public agency created to assist state and local governments with economic development projects.

"This project will be a cornerstone for the tourism industry that can provide significant job generation and economic value to the region," said MEDCO Executive Director Hans Mayer.

The Rocky Gap project team consists of: Whiting-Turner Construction Co. of Baltimore, gen-

eral contractor; Buena Vista Hospitality Group of Tampa, Fla., operator; DNC Architects Inc. of Rockville, Md., architects; Rauch, Walls and Lane Inc. of Easton, Md., engineers; and Nicklaus Design of North Palm Beach, Fla., Jack Nicklaus' company which has designed and will oversee the golf course construction.

"I am delighted to be moving ahead with this project," said Nicklaus. "We'll give Maryland a course it can be proud of."

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Kay hits century mark in courses

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Golf course architect Stephen Kay is in the midst of his 100th project, a championship 18-hole daily-fee course called Harbor Pines Golf Club that is expected to open this summer.

Harbor Pines is located in Egg Harbor Township just across the bay from Ocean City and includes a residential community. Max Gurwicz & Son, Inc., of Northfield, N.J. is the developer.

Kay's centennial course project is set among 520 wooded acres with numerous lakes. Each hole has five sets of tees and large undulating greens.

"What visually differentiates Harbor Pines from other South Jersey courses is its manicured look, generous fairways and extremely short rough — reminiscent of Augusta National," said Kay, who lives in Pelham, N.Y.

"The course is designed so that golfers can "read" each hole, and strategically assess risk and reward before playing the shot."

School hires Weed Design

GLEN MILLS, Pa. — Robert C. Weed Design, Inc. has been selected to design and oversee the construction of an 18-hole golf course on the grounds of the Glen Mills School here.

School officials have indicated the project is a "win-win situation" for the school and the town as it will provide recreation for the staff, students and general public as well as vocational opportunities for the students interested in golf course maintenance and management. The daily-fee course is scheduled to be open in early 1998.

Weed said he is delighted to be given the opportunity to build a "pure golf course in the traditional style of the great Northeastern courses. The property at Glen Mills lends itself to a very natural style golf course using the existing features of the property."

Construction is scheduled to start this summer. The par-71 layout with cover 6,700 yards.

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