

## BRIEFS



## STIRLING JOINS KAVANAUGH

TUCSON, Ariz. — Kenneth Kavanaugh Golf Course Design has hired Blake Stirling as senior designer. Stirling has worked in golf course design and construction for nine years, including seven years as a senior designer with Dye Designs, Inc. of Denver. Leaving Dye, he briefly operated Stirling Design Group. He has been involved in more than 80 golf projects worldwide. Before joining Dye, he was a high-ranking collegiate and amateur golfer in the West and apprenticed with Killian Design Group.



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## FREAM GETS CALIF. PROJECT

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Golfplan-Ron Fream Design Group is designing an 18-hole public golf course in this town in agriculturally endowed San Joaquin Valley. River Ranch will be a par-72, ranging from 4,650 to 6,650 yards, winding through a residential subdivision. Extensive earth-moving will contour the golf holes and raise adjacent building sites to enhance homesite views.

## COORE-CRENSHAW IN ARIZONA

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw broke ground in July on a 36-hole daily-fee facility here for the Pima Maricopa Indian tribe. Called Talking Stick Golf Club, it will be operated by Troon North Golf Management. Coore said the north course will be low-profile with crowned-off greens and holes of "great latitude where you can pick angles off the tee." Walking will be encouraged on the south course, which will feature the "club look," he said, "greener, more elevation change, more trees and a couple of streams and lakes."



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## PELICAN BAY ENLARGING GREENS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Golfers will experience larger greens and more consistent putting surfaces now that a \$260,000 greens improvement project has been completed at Pelican Bay Country Club's Members Course here is completed later this year. All greens at the 18-hole course were reconfigured and enlarged, and most bunkers and sandtraps changed, according to Jerry Broome, regional manager for International Golf Management, which oversaw the project.

## Maine busting out of slumber

By MARK LESLIE

BANGOR, Maine — Maine golf course construction, in hibernation for six years, has emerged with a bang, counting 17 new projects or expansions in the last year and another eight in planning.

Not since suburban Portland's Falmouth Country Club and The Woodlands opened in 1988 and nearby Sable Oaks Golf Club opened in 1989 has anyone built an 18-hole golf course in Maine. But this summer, construction began on The Meadows in Litchfield, Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, Felts Brook Country Club in Holden and Dunegrass Country Club in Old Orchard Beach which is ex-

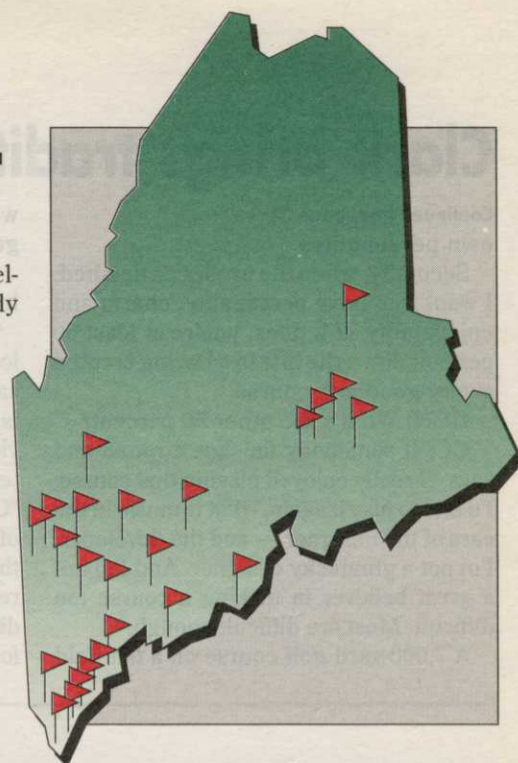
panding from nine to 27 holes.

"This is like the shopping center developments back in the '80s. Everybody seems to want to build a golf course," said Chuck Kellogg, a project director for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The surge has carried over from 1995 when construction began on several new nine-hole facilities and additions from nine to 18 holes. In this short time second nines have been added at:

- Bridgton Highlands late last year.
- Point Sebago in Naples this summer.
- Bath Country Club last year.

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## Belgrade Lakes is Clark's first American canvas

By MARK LESLIE

BELGRADE LAKES, Maine — Two score and two hundred years ago, Maine — as part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts — declared independence from England. This summer it reopened relations, welcoming British golf architect Clive Clark to build his first course in America.

The property is marvelous. The stakes are high.

"We hope this will be a catalyst [for economic growth]," said co-managing partner John Alford, grandson of Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, Inc. (BLGC) partner Harold Alford. "Central Maine needs a boost and this is it."

"This will mark the resurgence of Belgrade Lakes as a resort," agreed co-managing partner Kyle Evans. Evans, former superintendent of Waterville Country Club and now president of BLGC, was referring to the position the Belgrade Lakes Region held among wealthy vacationers until a 1958 fire destroyed the area's cornerstone hotel, The Belgrade, and its nine-hole golf course.

The 240-acre golf course property sits on very high, wooded ground overlooking Belgrade and Messalonskee lakes and Long and Great ponds. Seven holes, a putting

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Architect Clive Clark, left, and Belgrade Lakes Golf Club President Kyle Evans look over routing plans at the site.

## Brit Clive Clark brings design career to U.S.

Clive Clark. It's not a household name in the United States, but the Brit hopes to change that, starting with Belgrade Lakes Golf Club in Maine (see accompanying story).

After copping four National Amateur Championships, Clark was a touring professional for 12 years, representing both the Walker and Ryder Cup Teams, winning the Danish Open Championship and five European titles. For 10 years he was the playing pro at Sunningdale Golf Club and was head pro there for another nine years. He has either played in or broadcast the British Open Championship for 31 straight years, the last 18 from the BBC-TV

Q &amp; A

booth. He studied architecture at London University. He moved to La Quinta, Calif., 18 months ago.

**Golf Course News:** Your first course design in America is Belgrade Lakes Golf Course in

Maine. You're bringing golf back to an resort area that had it 90 years ago. What is your philosophy of golf course design — the traditional or modern?

**Clive Clark:** I wouldn't say I'm extreme at either end of the spectrum. My philosophy is simple. I like to design a course with different holes, for a

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Dave Axland, left, and Bunker Hill partner Dan Proctor.

## Colleagues hail Bunker Hill

By MARK LESLIE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Bill Coore of Coore & Crenshaw calls Dan Proctor and Dave Axland "fantastic." Golf course architect Ron Forse says they are "great to work with, and care intensely about the quality and authenticity of their work."

Sand Hills Golf Club owner Dick Youngscap was so impressed by their work that he cited them in his brochure on the Mullen, Neb., track which was voted *Golf Digest's* Best New Private Golf Course in 1995.

Coore, Forse, Youngscap... Even with these endorsements, who in the world are Dan Proctor and Dave Axland? Is the Dave and Dan Show

— officially called Bunker Hill Golf Course Design and Construction Co. — the best-kept secret in the golf industry?

"I'm probably shooting myself in the foot telling how great these guys are," said Coore, "because if they start getting their own [design and construction] work, we won't be able to get them."

Proctor and Axland's work should speak for itself, said Coore, the consummate "minimalist" designer. He cited Delaware Springs Golf Course, a municipal course they designed and built for the city of Burnet, Texas. "It is so good — low-key, strategic, an incredible

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## Maine welcomes Clark

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course and driving range will boast panoramic water views.

"It's a wonderful site and we're able to put a lot of features into the course," Clark said from his home in La Quinta, Calif. "I think off the back tees, at about 6,700 yards, Belgrade will be quite challenging. But off the forward tees it will be very playable."

Clark was named the best golf course designer in Europe in 1991 by the *London Times*, but his first American course is "exceedingly important," he said.

"It's a bit like winning a golf tourney. It's easier once you've won one. I've worked in Spain, Belgium, a number of countries putting designs together ... but I need to show the people over here what I can do."

Construction began in August on the property which features a 200-foot elevation change. It will be an 18-hole, public-access facility with no housing.

Walking will be encouraged and caddies available, according to Evans.

"The town is very much behind us," Evans added. "We're bringing golf back to Belgrade."

"We think we're right on with the public approach. The sky's the limit in marketing. People have approached us from hotel chains, from area youth camps... We're going to create a walking trail for the townspeople. And it's a great place for cross-

### Q&A: Clive Clark

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of golf?" I think balance is a great word in design.

The trend over here is to come back from that. Owners and designers are softening their courses quite a bit. I think it went through a phase where people were trying to build something that was more brutal than the last one.

GCN: Have you made a permanent home in La Quinta—a sort of "Americanized Mr. Clark"?

CC: I'm still Mr. England. I have a holiday home here at PGA West. I just love being here. For four or five years I've come over around Christmas time and spent a few weeks here. But this is a transition. Now I live here and will holiday back in England.

GCN: I understand you are working with Ernie Els.

CC: Yes, we will break ground this winter on a course in Capetown, South Africa. Sometimes we work together and sometimes I work independently.

GCN: Long-time St. Andrews superintendent Walter Woods is working with you as well.

CC: He will be doing some consulting with me over here.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

country ski races and running races. We want to fit into the community."

"Our philosophy was to provide enough land for the golf course and to create one that is playable and fair without a lot of forced carries," said Rizzo-Donahue Realty's Pat Donahue who with Gail Rizzo are the other partners in BLGC.

"This is a unique property and a unique team that can do the job."

## Pine Tree State busts out

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At least a half dozen new second nines are in the midst of construction from southern to western to central Maine. They are:

- Sanford Golf Club.
- Naples Country Club.
- Lake Kezar in Lovell.
- Nonesuch River Golf Club, formerly The Greens at Eagle Brook in South Portland.
- Turner Highlands.
- Hampden Country Club.

New owners of Lucerne Hills, formerly Pinewood, in East Holden redesigned the nine-hole track last year.

New nine-holers that have been built include:

- Highland Farm in York last year.
- Turner Highlands' first nine.
- Allen Mountain Golf Club, which opened last year and is adding nine.

Meanwhile, developers are planning:

- The Ledges, an 18-hole track in York.
- A nine-hole expansion at the 18-hole Samoset Resort Golf Course.
- A second nine at Wilson Lake GC in Weld.
- The first nine holes at Lincoln Golf Course, with an expected expansion to 18 holes later.
- A renovation of the nine-hole Evergreen Valley Golf Club, with a future expansion to 18.
- A second nine at Cape Neddick Golf Course.
- Ocean 18, a regulation 18-holer in Wells.

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