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Rain is likely tonight
and Thursday, with a
good chance Friday.
Highs: 55-65
Lows: 50-55

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Blazing the trail of progress in the State of Wilkes for over 101 years

35¢

\$36 million tennis resort announced

By JULE HUBBARD
Wilkes Journal-Patriot Staff

Preliminary plans for a \$36 million residential tennis resort development on Vannoy Road in Union Township of northern Wilkes County were shared with the Wilkes Joint Planning Board Monday night.

The 511-acre development, about a half-mile northeast of the intersection of Vannoy Road and Old N.C. 16, is a project of Concord-based Wild Hare Development, with Bo Quickel as president.

Quickel said in an interview this morning that the still-unnamed project will be western North Carolina's first full scale residential development focused on tennis in the same way that others are built around golf.

He said it could take about two years for the project to be fully developed as planned, with residential sales not starting for the general public until September.

Quickel said he has contracts for the purchase of the land in three parcels, each with different owners. Purchases are to be consummated in December, he added.

Quickel said the land includes a horse-shoe-shaped ridge on the north side of Vannoy Road, opposite the Everhardt chicken farm. Part of the land goes across Vannoy Road to the North Prong of the Reddies River, which he said will allow trout fishing as one of the development's amenities. A "trout-fishing shack" with fly fishing instructions is planned.

He said he's been looking for property across western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee and chose this location for its natural beauty and proximity to Interstate 77, urban areas of the Piedmont, the Wilkesboros and the Jeffersons.

According to plans shared with the planning board, it will

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\$36 million tennis resort planned

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have a tennis club house with a pavilion and center tennis court, 14 other clay or grass tennis courts, a 50-acre lake surrounded by cabins and 149 house lots consisting of one to seven acres.

There will be 29 house lots available for about \$150,000 each in the first phase of the project.

Quickel said they will be "signature" tennis courts, which means they'll be designed by a tennis professional. He said he couldn't yet announce the name of that person.

Professional tennis tournaments are planned as part of the year-round facility, he said adding that it will also be available for high school tournaments.

He said the cabins, each with about 1,100 square feet of floor space, will feature Asian-style architecture and be sold for around \$250,000 each. Owners will have the option of placing cabins in a rental pool. "It won't be your typical mountain neighborhood," he added.

The resort will also have two swimming pools and a spa. Quickel said the spa will be open to the public, regardless of whether people own or are renting in the resort.

The project will have about seven miles of roads.

Tennis and related facilities will occupy about 40 acres. The two-bedroom cabins, lake and spa will be part of a 177-acre planned unit development (PUD). A PUD includes development with greater density than normally would be allowed as part of a mixed use plan that includes commercial property and land set aside as undeveloped.

Chris Johnson of the Wilkes Planning Department said the spa fits the commercial spect. Quickel said he'll leave 170 of the 511 acres undeveloped.

Quickel said his company, Bo of North Carolina Inc., will handle construction in the development. Carlos Moore of Concord is the architect.

He said the development will meet standards of a "green" development. Quickel said this includes using water from a wastewater treatment facility for irrigation after it's treated and producing gravel on site from rocks encountered during work. He said it also included

providing hydroelectricity from the dam that impounds the 50-acre lake.

Since starting Bo of N.C. Inc. in 1992, he has been engaged in residential and commercial development in the Lake Norman and Charlotte areas and elsewhere in North Carolina, as well as resort areas in other states and the Caribbean.

Quickel is a graduate of North Carolina State University who started out working in construction.