OKLAHOMA CITY facility geared to perfecting game

OKLAHOMA CITY — The new Traditions Golf Club is being built on the idea that practice makes perfect.

The 149-acre complex, which is scheduled to open Nov. 1, will feature:
- A 4,500-yard, par-60, 18-hole course with six par-4s and 12 par-3s. The par-4s average 350 yards, the par-3s average 180 yards.
- A nine-hole "wee course" with shots ranging from 20 to 60 yards.
- A 250-acre driving range that is 340 yards long and 250 yards wide with a three-tiered tee area.
- Four massive putting greens totaling two acres, an idea patterned after the putting course at St. Andrews in Scotland.
- A 4,800-square-foot clubhouse where golfers can have their swing analyzed, browse golf books, take clinics on rules and etiquette, be fitted for golf clubs, have their clubs repaired, and track their progress in a database.
- A residential district for 107 homes.

John Rooney is chief executive officer of Traditions. Rooney, a regents professor emeritus of geography at Oklahoma State, has been a pioneer in the geographic analysis of sport and has authored several books on the subject. The Traditions was designed by Ray Hearn and Jerry Matthews.

Dennis set to open addition at Okla. layout

KINGFISHER, Okla. — A nine-hole addition to the Kingfisher Golf Course is expected to open by late fall. The new layout was designed by Mike Gogel, a design associate for Tripp Davis and Associates, a Norman, Okla., based firm.

The nine-hole addition was built on a former wheat field. Bulldozers and graders moved more than 60,000 yards of dirt around the formerly flat 781-acre site, creating gentle slopes and contours. The new nine sits directly south of the Kingfisher's existing nine-hole course, which was built in the mid-1960s east of town on Highway 33. The city purchased the land for the addition several years ago, when it became apparent the town had outgrown the present facility.

A private group, the Kingfisher Golf Association, borrowed $300,000 to pay for most of the construction costs. City workers and volunteers provided labor for the addition, including installing a computerized watering system that uses an on-site irrigation pond.

A tree service employee was accidentally killed earlier this summer on the grounds of the Camino Del Mar Country Club in west Boca Raton while operating a large wood chipping machine. The man was working on the 17th hole when he was pulled into the wood chipping machine and killed instantly.

Police told The News of Boca Raton that the 53-year-old man, who was an employee of Twin Tree Service of Parkland, Fla., was feeding palm fronds into an approximately 8-foot-wide machine and was working alone at the time of the accident.

A foreman for the Twin Tree Service told police he was part of a crew of three men working in the area. Police said the victim may have been pulled into the machine when he was feeding leaves or dislodging debris.

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