RTJ's Rancho San Marcos opens for play

"It is rare to see a new course that exhibits so much maturity from the very beginning," said Michael Abbott, Director of Operations. "With its combination of hundreds of century-old oak trees, breathtaking views of Lake Cachuma and Robert Trent Jones, Jr.'s outstanding design - Rancho San Marcos is a golf course that has emerged as a spectacular natural extension of the surrounding landscape." Rancho San Marcos has some unusual and historic amenities, such as the outdoor, sandstone fireplace near the first tee for a little added warmth for those brisk, early-morning tee times; fresh fruit stands situated along the course to supply golfers with a refreshing snack that is also reminiscent of the orchards that were once part of the history of the San Marcos property; architecture that is authentic to the early 1900s when San Marcos was a working ranch; and an old stagecoach trail that has been preserved so golfers can relive a little bit of history as they ride the trail which has been incorporated into a segment of the golf cart path.

Developed and financed by Rancho San Marcos Golf Partners, a group of 25 local Santa Barbara families, the 7,000-yard course is the result of more than 10 years of work by the partners together with thousands of area residents who supported the project.

"As long-term residents of Santa Barbara County, my partners and I were committed to providing an environmentally sensitive, unique and powerful outdoor recreation experience for those who visit Rancho San Marcos Golf Course," said Rob Robinson, general partner of Rancho San Marcos Golf Partners. "We couldn’t have done it without the support of the local community and we think they will be pleased with what we have accomplished.”

$4.7M infusion dries up muddy Legion Memorial

EVERETT, Wash. — A mammoth subsurface remodeling that transforms city-owned Legion Memorial Golf Course from often-muddy conditions to one of the driest facilities in the Puget Sound area will open in mid-1998. Completed last fall, the project was carried out by Burns Golf Design of Fernandina Beach, Fla., and builder Daylen, Inc. of Fresno, Calif.

The $4.7-million project includes more than $1.3 million for drainage. In the past, the course, which averages more than 70,000 rounds a year, was plagued by extremely muddy conditions most of the time. Some 70 acres are being capped by a 6-inch sand layer over drainage lines installed on 50-foot centers.

The course dates back to the 1930s, and has basic greens, only a couple of sand traps, no irrigation and just a few tee spaces. The remodel includes four new lakes, a waterfall and recirculating stream, and more than 50 sand traps.

The course will play to par 72 from five sets of tees, ranging from 4,705 to 6,737 yards.

HAMLET WIND WATCH REMODELED

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. — Architect Stephen Kay has completed extensive renovations to the 18-hole, par-71 Hamlet Wind Watch Golf Club here. The course was bought last year by the Holiday Organization. Kay enlarged and remodeled greens on the 2nd, 5th, 8th and 16th holes, more than 70 sand traps filled with imported white sand, and selected tees lengthened by as much as 50 yards.

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