

BRIEFS

PINEHURST, N.C. — Pinehurst officially re-opened its No. 4 course in mid-April. Later this year, ground will break on No. 9, which is slated to open in spring 2002. Also, a 28,000-square-foot spa and golf fitness center will debut in late 2001.

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HONOLULU — North Korea and Korean Golf Association of Hawaii will host the Millennium PyongYang Golf VIP 2000, the first-ever golf event in North Korea. LPGA Professional Pearl Sinn, along with 50 Korean-American golf enthusiasts, will play at Taesong Golf Club in the suburbs of PyongYang on June 12-13.

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OKLAHOMA CITY — Cala Corp. tendered a revised offer to buy Oklahoma City Twin Hills Golf and Country Club for \$3.2 million, to be paid directly to each equity member upon approval of a vote of the shareholders.

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A U.S. District judge dismissed the class action litigation filed against Golden Bear Golf (GBG) and approved a \$3.5-million settlement, after its restatement of earnings, that will result in GBG becoming a private company. GBG also reported 1999 revenue of \$11,238,421, compared to \$11,385,040 in 1998.

Texas golf bites water bullet — or bites dust

By FRANCES G. TRIMBLE

Between April 1 and 3, rain fell in varying amounts across Texas, but even the 2-plus inches in the Houston area was "just noise," a drop in the bucket, according to a National Weather Service representative. The drought statewide was borderline desperate until a few light rains fell in mid-April.

At that time, U.S. Golf Association Green Section agronomist Brian Maloy, based in Dallas, called the recent rainfall "significant."

"In 1999, we were 11 inches under our average precipitation total of 32-36 inches," he said. "Though we have not totally recovered that 11 inches, and while aquifers are still not recharged, we are closer to normal than forecasters predicted."

Maloy noted that several clubs in his area are incorporating larger irrigation ponds in their long-range plans. Some older courses are remodeling on-site ponds and irrigation systems, while others are dredging to remove silt.

"We are still dependent on what (water) we capture," he said. "And even with the rain, there could still be a point this season when superintendents are forced to scale back their water use on the golf course."

However, while turfgrass can eventually recover from a prolonged drought, the dry conditions in Texas are "devastating for trees," according to said Jack Swayze, a forestry expert with Davey Golf Services of Kent, Ohio, who works out of Houston.

"Though we have had some recent rain, the damage is far-reaching and will be with us for years," said Swayze. "Damage caused by such a drought can have a four- to six-year effect, with trees developing secondary diseases brought on by drought stress."

Swayze said trees compete with turfgrass "because they can

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Trees on new courses suffer from stress due to construction and possibly poor clearing techniques.

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