

First nine opens at unique resort north of Atlanta

YOUNG HARRIS, Ga. — Nine holes of the 18-hole, 7,100-yard course at the new Brasstown Valley Crowne Plaza Resort here in the mountains of northeast Georgia are expected to open this month.

The resort is a unique arrangement: the state Department of Natural Resources has contracted with Holiday Inn franchiser Stormont Trice Inc. to manage the state-owned land.

The course, designed by Denis Griffiths and Associates, is one of the main attractions at the new \$25 million luxury resort, which is about a two-hour drive from downtown Atlanta as well as Asheville, N.C., Greenville, S.C., and Chattanooga, Tenn. The remaining nine holes are scheduled to open in September, when a gala grand opening is planned.

Palm Bay, Fla. plans new muni

PALM BAY, Fla. — Construction of an upscale municipal golf course here could start by August if the 248-acre site passes environmental inspections. JTH Development of Riviera Beach is contracted to build the \$5.1 million, 18-hole course. The city recently agreed to a 30-acre land swap with abutting landowner Atlantic Gulf Communities, which owns about 2,000 acres surrounding the site. The swap will allow the city to smooth out the parcel and improve the routing. The course is projected to draw 30,000 to 40,000 rounds of play in its first year. The only other public courses in Palm Bay are Summit View Golf Club in Grant and The Habitat at Valkaria.

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Old Georgia family bitten by golf bug

TUCKER, Ga. — A family influential in the development of the town of Tucker for 110 years is leasing land to developers to build a new, upscale 18-hole golf course and golf complex.

Sanford Burns, a lifelong Tucker resident, is leasing land to developers Maurice and Susan Whyte to build the Heritage golf course on 176 acres at the corner of Britt and Old Norcorss roads in

Gwinnett County just outside Atlanta.

The Whytes approached Burns with the idea of building a 7,200-yard, 18-hole golf course, an 8,000-square-foot clubhouse overlooking a 14-acre lake, a golf academy for public lessons and dining facilities. The Whytes have said the daily-fee public-access facility will be "one of the most ultramodern facilities in the Southeast."

Project seeks grandfather clause

MADISON, Wis. — An 18-hole golf course between Madison and Sun Prairie that suffered a setback this past spring may be back on track.

Madison officials who want to build the course were thwarted earlier this year when the Legislature barred the state from giving them conservation funds to help buy a 251-acre parcel. Now, however, it looks like the Madison-Sun Prairie project could be exempted under a "grandfather" provision.

Madison officials are looking

for \$1.5 million to help buy the land that could cost about \$3 million. Si Widstrand of the Madison Parks Division said a golf course in the area has been planned since 1991 and would preserve open green space between the two cities. The provision to allow conservation funds to go to the Madison-Sun Prairie project still must be approved by several state committees and the Legislature. The provision would apply to the Madison-Sun Prairie project only and no other courses in the future.

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