

Three more courses possible for Southern California

ONTARIO, Calif. — Sierra Lakes Golf Club broke ground in October and rough grading is underway on the 18-hole, 6,700-yard Ted Robinson-designed layout. The course will be a part of a 2,000-residence, Lewis Homes development. The project is due to be finished in October 1999.

Two more projects are underway in the

Ontario Inland Valley area. The city of Chino is in negotiations with the state of California for lease of 120 acres of land adjacent to the Ayala Golf Center. Plans call for a 6,600-yard, 18-hole course.

Additionally, Harvest Development Co. is awaiting approval from the city of Chino Hills for the proposed Oak Crest Golf Club.

Atlanta's Cherokee T&CC receiving major facelift to 36-hole complex

By PETER BLAIS

ATLANTA — "We've got everything torn up," said former GCSAA President Randy Nichols of his home course, Cherokee Town & Country Club here.

The original 36 holes, designed by Willard Byrd and Joe

Lee, are in the midst of a \$14 million renovation project overseen by Tom Fazio, said Nichols, Cherokee T&CC's director of golf maintenance.

Nichols closed down 18 holes in November 1997 so work could begin. Another nine closed in September 1998 and the final nine in mid-October. All 36 holes were out of play until the first 18 to go under the plow reopened in November.



Randy Nichols

In addition to the 36-hole renovation, cart storage is being relocated under the parking lot behind the clubhouse and a new course maintenance building is under construction.

"Since the last [GCSAA] conference, I've only missed four days here," noted Nichols of his schedule since last February's Anaheim show. "We were working 12 to 13 hours a day during the summer. We're down to 10 now."

The grand opening of all 36 holes is scheduled for November.

"This warm, dry fall has really helped us out," Nichols said. "A couple small rains have slowed us down a bit, but nothing has stopped us yet. We're putting down about 80,000 square feet of sod a day."

Cherokee's course crew is laying the sod, installing the irrigation, completing the landscaping and removing trees. Medallist Golf is the course contractor.

"Fazio's been here himself probably eight times and has a representative who tries to get here every week," Nichols said.

Nichols said the members have been very understanding and patient during the two-year disruption.

"They went out and bought a lot of tee times at two real nice public courses," he said.

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HILTON ACQUIRES TORREY PINES RESORT

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Hilton Hotels Corporation announced the purchase of the Sheraton Grande Torrey Pines December 29 from Torrey Pines Hotel Associates for a reported \$82.5 million. The renamed Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines sits adjacent to the world renown 36-hole Torrey Pines Golf Course.