

Ballyneal season to open May 22

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Following debt restructuring at Ballyneal Golf Course in early March, the new company is encouraged by membership potential and looks forward to opening the golf season Tuesday, May 22.

Head golf professional and general manager Matt Payne said previous members who had contracts with Ballyneal, LLC had to sign new contracts with Ballyneal Golf, LTD.

With the debt restructuring, Payne said they lowered the Ballyneal initiation fee from \$50,000 to \$10,000 and also lowered the dues structure to entice people to membership.

“This allows us the opportunity to be more competitive with other destination courses,” added Payne.

Payne said he was pleased with the retention of members who re-signed with the new company.

Further marketing through e-mail and a print ad in last weekend’s Denver Post generated close to 100 more who are interested in membership, said Payne.

John C. Curlander of Boudler bid \$2.542 million for the Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club property southeast of Holyoke at a foreclosure sale on the Yuma County Courthouse steps March 7.

As the only bidder, his bid purchased Ballyneal. While Ballyneal will no longer include a hunt club, the golf course will essentially operate the same, said Payne.

The vision of the club will remain the same, in that it will operate as a private destination walking-only golf club utilizing a caddie program.

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Training and tryouts for caddies will be conducted Sunday, May 6 at 11 a.m. at Ballyneal, according to caddiemaster Nick Flaa. Depending on the turnout, another session may be held Sunday, May 20. Anyone wishing to become a caddie must attend one of the mandatory dates to receive the proper training.

Payne said the restaurant at Ballyneal will be open to the public. They will work around member reservations first.

Payne said he and Curlander are both aware of the value of the support of the local community and neighbors.

He cited specific appreciation for the Brinkemas and Bledsoes who own land adjacent to Ballyneal and who have been great neighbors through this process.

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