

Ballyneal foreclosure sale complete

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

John C. Curlander of Boulder bid \$2,542,071.87 for the Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club property southeast of Holyoke at a foreclosure sale on the Yuma County Courthouse steps Wednesday, March 7.

As the only bidder, his bid purchased Ballyneal.

Curlander, the sole secured lender/investor at Ballyneal, initiated the foreclosure proceedings Nov. 3, 2011.

The bid total of \$2.542 million included \$1.7 million for the original principal. The remaining \$842,000 was primarily interest, but also included legal fees, attorney fees, abstractor charges, court expenses and public trustee fees and expenses.

Ballyneal to operate essentially the same

Ballyneal will no longer include a hunt club, but the golf course will essentially operate the same, according to Matt Payne, head golf professional and general manager.

Payne said Curlander plans to operate Ballyneal as a private destination walking-only golf club, utilizing a caddie program.

The first order of business will be to get members. Payne said they plan to reach out to previous members of the old Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club to invite them back to membership in the new Ballyneal. From there, they will try to find new members, as well.

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In the past, Ballyneal opened for the season around the middle of May or beginning of June, and Payne anticipates that will be the timeline for the 2012 season as well.

Payne came to Holyoke in early 2007 as a golf professional at Ballyneal. By the end of that year, he assumed the role of head professional and general manager. He continues in that capacity for the new owner.

Ballyneal opened in 2005 and has earned numerous honors among the golf course ranks.

Recent rankings have been high in four major golf publications.

Golf Magazine has ranked Ballyneal #46 in top courses in the U.S. and #79 in top courses in the world; GolfWeek, #6 in modern courses; GolfDigest, #95 in America's greatest courses; and Links Magazine, #20 in the USA and #35 in the world.

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