

Golfweek ranks Ballyneal 8th Best Course in the Country

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Tom Doak designed Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club in Holyoke has been ranked the eighth best golf course in the United States by Golfweek magazine. Golfweek's "Best Modern Courses" ranking identifies the best courses designed post-1960 and is determined by a nationwide team of 450+ evaluators who survey over 1,200 modern nominated courses. Since it opened in 2006, Ballyneal has ranked 43rd, 13th and now eighth on this prestigious list.

There are more than 17,000 golf courses nationally, putting Ballyneal in very elite company. Golfweek's top 10 modern courses include: Sand Hills Golf Club, Pacific Dunes, Whistling Straits, Pete Dye Golf Club, Bandon Dunes, Friar's Head, Sebonack Golf Club, Ballyneal, The Golf Club and Shadow Creek Golf Club

"We are very pleased to be considered one of the elite courses in the United States," said Rupert O'Neal who founded Ballyneal with his brother Jim. "It's a great honor that speaks to the extraordinary golf experience being offered at Ballyneal."

Golfweek is not the only group to recognize Ballyneal, which was ranked 53rd in the world by Top 100 Golf Courses, 82nd on Golf Magazine's Top 100 in the World list, fourth on Golfweek's Best New Courses 2005-2007 list and was Travel + Leisure Golf's Best New Course in 2006.

Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club is located in the sand hills of northeastern Colorado, just outside of the town of Holyoke (population 2,300). The specific area is referred to by locals as the chop hills due to the unique characteristics of the dunes. Ballyneal boasts an 18-hole links course designed by renowned architect Tom Doak.

In keeping with the traditions of the game, Ballyneal is a walking-only course with caddies. The course plays firm and fast at 7,130 yards with a par of 71.

Ballyneal Hunt Club offers members access to 4,000 acres of prime upland game bird hunting, national championship gun dogs and professional guides. Dozens of varieties of birds abound, dominated by the trophy ring-neck pheasant. The intimate village setting at Ballyneal includes the Clubhouse, a fine-dining restaurant and three lodges with private suites.

For membership information, visit www.ballyneal.com or call 970-854-5900.