

Troubled Illinois project finds a new owner, ESM

FINDLAY, Ill. — ESM Development Corp. has purchased the financially troubled Eagle Creek resort here on Lake Shelbyville — which includes 138 lodging rooms and an 18-hole golf course — for \$2.5 million.

ESM Development, which has offices in Lincolnshire and Springfield, has pledged immediate improvements to the golf course as well as adding an outdoor swimming pool and increasing summer staffing levels. ESM also owns the Rend Lake resort in southern Illinois and manages

a variety of properties around the state.

The 400-acre Eagle Creek has had a rocky history going back to 1988 when developer Edgar Forrester built the resort using a combination of \$13.5 million in junk bonds and a \$3 million grant from the Build Illinois economic development program. Income and occupancy rates never lived up to projections after the resort opened in 1989, and it was forced into bankruptcy. Occupancy rates have averaged about 50 percent over the last two years but ESM said to expect improvement.

Cantigny to build 9-hole 'youth' course

WHEATON, Ill. — Cantigny Golf Club near Wheaton plans to build a nine-hole golf course especially for kids.

The course, with par-3 holes ranging from 50 to 150 yards, will be used to teach safety, golf etiquette and the rules of the game to young players between the ages of 8 and 15, according to Mike Nass, general manager

of Cantigny Golf, which runs a regulation-size 27-hole golf facility. Cantigny plans to build the "Youth Links" instructional course on 20 acres next to its regulation facility.

The course itself will feature sand bunkers, a water hazard and other conditions golfers experience on longer courses.

Some adult play will be allowed on the course. Youngsters will be allowed on the course alone once they have been certified through the club. Pending approvals, construction could start on the course this summer with a spring 1998 opening.

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Local consortium looks to upgrade Tenn. facility

LEBANON, Tenn. — Six Rutherford County businessmen have purchased the Indian Hills Golf Course and plan to turn the 18-hole daily-fee facility into a "top Middle Tennessee course." Indian Hills, opened in 1988, is located in the middle of one of the hottest growth areas in Murfreesboro.

The partners in the new Indian Hills L.L.C. are John Floyd, president of Ole South Properties, Inc.; Jack Holden, a retired president of Mid-South Bank and Trust; Jerry Benefield, chief executive officer of Nissan Motor Manufacturing Corp. USA; Bob Parks of Bob Parks Realty; Don Collins, owner of B&M Insulation; and Dave Normand, a former general manager and head professional at the Smyrna National Golf Course in Murfreesboro who will take on those same titles and responsibilities at Indian Hills.

Partner John Floyd told the *Lebanon Democrat*, "We are so excited about the prospect of turning Indian Hills into a top Middle Tennessee course, pro shop and restaurant. Anyone who has ever visited the facility knows the potential is there."

CLUB CAR NAMES NEW VP, SALES & MARKETING

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Club Car President and Chief Executive Officer A. Montague Miller has announced the promotion of Michael Harris to vice president, sales and marketing. Harris, an 18-year veteran of Club Car, most recently held the position of vice president, sales. In his new position, Harris will be responsible for all golf car, utility and transportation vehicle sales worldwide. In addition, he will assume responsibility for the Marketing Department and all support and promotional activities.