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Making new memories

New Irem Temple Country Club clubhouse will open May 12 above site of old building.

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

It's a place where just about everybody from the Back Mountain and beyond has visited.

For decades, the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas has been the venue for hundreds of weddings, bridal and baby showers, funeral luncheons, graduation parties and business meetings.

Although the building full of memories is being torn down, a brand new clubhouse will open on May 12 above the site of the old one. The first reception, a wedding, will take place on May 16.

The Irem Shrine Center established the Irem Country Club and golf course in Dallas Township in 1923 following the purchase of the Derr estate on the land in 1922. In 2007, Irem Shrine members and the Masonic Village's board of directors decided to build a new clubhouse instead of renovating the existing one because renovations would be more costly.

Construction on the new 26,868 square foot facility began in July of last year and, upon completion, will be available for the general public to rent. The total cost of the project is slightly more than \$7 million.

Mike Dobbs, of Kingston, was named clubhouse general manager in February. He previously managed the Westmoreland Club for 20 years and also managed Glenmaura Golf Club, Valley Country Club and Wyoming Valley Country Club.

Dobbs recently gave The Dallas Post a tour of the new clubhouse, which is almost complete.

Upon entering the first floor of the clubhouse, a visitor sees the men's and women's locker rooms which feature oak benches, lockers with brass and handicapped-accessible toilets and showers.



A porch area for golfers to relax after playing a round.

There are several meeting rooms with the largest one capable of holding 90 people with auditorium-style seating while an entertainment room will allow guests to socialize and play billiards and darts.

Business and administrative offices, as well as offices for the Shriners, will also be on the first floor. A fitness facility is planned for the future, but no equipment will be available upon the opening of the building.

A large, wooden stairwell leads guests to the lobby area of the second floor, which leads to the restrooms. Two elegant chandeliers hang from the ceiling and oversized windows offer a view of the valley all the way to Penobscot Mountain in Mountain Top. An elevator is also available to access the two levels.

Reception areas are off to the right. A small room provides access to two ballrooms separated by retractable walls. The first ballroom can hold 50 to 70 people while the second ballroom can accommodate 160. For larger events, the walls can be removed to form one grand ballroom capable of seating 250 people with a dance floor or up to 300 people without a dance floor.

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"If I'm in the dining room, I can have a burger and if I'm in the bar and I want filet mignon, I can do that."

Mike Dobbs
Irem Temple Country Club
general manager



The new Irem Temple Country Club clubhouse shines with the remains of the old clubhouse in the foreground.

FRED ADAMS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

They'll be first newlyweds in new clubhouse

They will be the very first couple to have their wedding reception at Irem Temple Country Club's new clubhouse.

Rebecca Hoffman, 26, of Dallas, and Robert Vanderveken, 28, of Tunkhannock, will marry on Irem's first tee followed by a reception in the grand ballroom at the new clubhouse on Saturday, May 16.

"We've been engaged for three years and picking the site was the very first thing we did, so we picked this long, long ago before there was even talk of this being remodeled," Hoffman said.

Hoffman says she doesn't know what would have happened if the new clubhouse was not finished in time for her wedding. She has known for approximately three months that the facility will be complete for the wedding.

"We're really excited about it," she said. "We love the fact that everything's going to be brand new. At the same time, we are a little bit nervous knowing we are the first wedding."

The couple is expecting about 100 guests at the reception. Following their wedding, they will reside in Shavertown.



Robert Vanderveken, left, 28, of Tunkhannock, and Rebecca Hoffman, 26, of Dallas, will be the first couple to have their reception at Irem Temple Country Club's new clubhouse. The couple will wed at the first tee followed by a reception in the clubhouse's grand ballroom on Saturday, May 16.

L-N students are K'NEX experts

By REBECCA BRIA
rbria@timesleader.com

Rich Cronin's sixth-grade homeroom at Lake-Noxen Elementary School recently came in first place in their grade level in the national 2009 K'NEXpert Classroom Challenge Contest.

K'NEX is "a dynamic, open-ended spatial building system made up of different-sized rods, connectors and bricks."

The company's K'NEXpert Classroom Challenge Contest encourages students to build different models using K'NEX.

Cronin's students placed first in the building challenge's grades five and six category, which was "Bridge Building 101." In order to meet the category requirements, the students

had to build a bridge spanning a distance of at least 36 inches and able to support a non-paperback dictionary.

The students constructed a suspension bridge that is a replica of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Calif. The bridge is 11 feet long and took approximately three months for the students to make.

Cronin says he and his students did several experiments to test the strength of the bridge, including one where they placed over 20 textbooks on the bridge. In a different test, the class placed a two-by-four on the two center supports of the bridge and had a student walk across the bridge.

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FISHING SEASON BEGINS



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lauren Rinehimer, of Dallas, tends the family boat before casting off at the Harveys Lake boat launch. The 2009 trout season officially began on Saturday, April 18, and fishermen and fisherwomen of all ages and sizes were out in full force on area waterways. For additional photos, please turn to page 3.

