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***For immediate release***

**BIG EASY RANCH OPENS THE COVEY 18-HOLE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE**

**(Columbus, TX – April 11, 2023)** More than 90 people gathered on March 31 to celebrate the opening of The Covey, the new 18-hole championship golf course at Big Easy Ranch located in Columbus, Texas.

The crowd — all Legacy Members of the private club and many from the Houston area — posed for team pictures, heard a blessing of the course by Matt Barnhill and then teed off for the very first round to be played on the golf course. Owner Billy Brown was the first to tee off at the event, followed by Chet Williams, the renowned course architect who also designed the club's nine-hole par 3 golf course.

“This is an exciting time at Big Easy Ranch,” Brown said. “We’ve been watching this course take shape since construction began in September 2021, and anticipation has grown every day. The possibilities offered by this course and our expanded amenities take Big Easy Ranch to the next level.”

The par 72 course features more than 7500 yards of play, multiple tee boxes, Zeon Zoysia fairways and rough and TifEagle greens. The unique terrain of the ranch allows for 80-foot elevation changes with tree-lined fairways, meandering creeks and waterfalls that add to the complexity and beauty of the course.

“One of the best things I can say about The Covey is that when it matures, the course will feel like it has always been there. It belongs. I like to say it fits ‘into’ the property, not on it,” Williams said.

Native grasses planted along the course provide a natural habitat for quail and pheasant. Brown said it might not be unusual to see a 250-class buck running along the course, as well.

“Texas Golf Association has already approached us about hosting future events, including the Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play Championship and Texas Amateur Championship,” Brown said. “This is a great honor considering we were selected for these events before the golf course was completed.”

The Covey — named for popular upland bird hunting at the ranch — also will be home to The Eagle’s Nest, a two-story comfort station on a 60-foot hill behind the ninth green. The venue will provide 360-degree views of the golf course and ranch with indoor and outdoor seating on the second level and a grille and bar on the first level.

Newly expanded golf practice facilities include a 9-acre driving range, putting green and a 3-acre short game practice area with three greens and two bunkers.

Also planned is a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse with indoor and outdoor dining and lounge areas, a full-service bar, locker rooms and a wine cellar with a design and décor that will mirror the original Big Easy Lodge.

“With our premier hunting grounds, sporting facilities and luxury lifestyle amenities, Big Easy Ranch was already in its own category when it comes to private clubs,” Brown said. “The addition of The Covey really advances what we can offer our members and makes the ranch immensely appealing for those who want to enjoy big skies away from the demands and hectic pace of the city.”

Legacy Membership will be limited to only 300 full golf members with access to the ranch amenities along with exclusive access to The Covey. There were 135 Legacy Members prior to opening day.

“Three hundred members for an 18-hole golf course is practically unheard of,” Brown said. “But by keeping membership at this level, we can ensure available tee times and that everyone will have an exceptional experience.”

Located about 90 minutes from both Houston and Austin, Big Easy Ranch spans 2,000 acres along the Texas foothills in Colorado County. Members enjoy golf, fishing, sporting activities, wingshooting and whitetail deer and exotic hunting. A 12,000-square-foot Big Easy Lodge is complete with dining room, bar and wine cellar along with meeting rooms, outdoor patios and a fire pit. Wine Spectator awarded Big Easy Ranch a “Best of Award of Excellence” in 2020. Luxury overnight lodging consists of individual cabins and fully furnished houses. In addition, a limited number of real estate opportunities include estate homesites averaging one acre along with shared ownership villas. Learn more at [www.bigeasyranch.com](http://www.bigeasyranch.com).

### **Photo Information**

*The Covey 20.jpg*

Among those playing the first round of golf at The Covey at Big Easy Ranch were, from left, Larry Tolleson, owner Billy Brown, Jason Fertitta, golf course architect Chet Williams, Trey Vick and David Wuthrich.

*The Covey 15.jpg*

Many people drove in from Houston to play the first round of golf at The Covey, the new golf course at Big Easy Ranch. Among the players were, from left, James Stein, April Fayette, Cindy Taylor and Allan Taylor.

*The Covey 13.jpg*

More than 90 people gathered to play the first round of golf at The Covey, including, from left, Patrick Scott O'Neal, Ed Lester, Scott Ducoff, James Thompson and Terry Giles.

*The Covey 7.jpg*

From left, Peter Johnson, Dennis Woods and Luke Johnson were among the more than 90 people who played the first round of golf at the new golf course at Big Easy Ranch, The Covey.

*The Covey 17.jpg*

Attending the grand opening of The Covey golf course at Big Easy Ranch were, from left, Travis Overall, Renee Calhoun and Michael Calhoun.

*The Covey 10.jpg*

Enjoying a day at Big Easy Ranch to play the first round of golf at The Covey golf course were, from left, Glynn Johnson, Robby White, Jon Breuleux and Scott Arnim.

*The Covey 1.jpg*

Included among those playing the first round of golf at The Covey at Big Easy Ranch were, from left, Dave Weishoff, Ryan Miller, Phil Everson, Bucky Bryant and Danny Kash.

*The Covey\_1992.jpg*

Big Easy Ranch opened its new 18-hole championship golf course March 31. The course is designed to fit into the wooded, rolling terrain of the 2,000-acre ranch. Only 300 memberships will be sold.

### **About Big Easy Ranch**

Located in Colorado County with convenient access to Houston, Austin and San Antonio, Big Easy Ranch spans 2,000 acres of hill country terrain and with first class amenities that include a sporting clays course and rifle range, fishing lakes, infinity pool, wingshooting, and trophy whitetail and exotic hunting. Golf amenities include the new 18-hole golf course, a nine-hole par 3 golf course, golf practice facilities and golf academy. Luxury overnight accommodations along with a 12,000-square-foot lodge providing first class dining and wine program that was awarded "Best of Award of Excellence" in 2020 by Wine Spectator. Widely recognized as A Sporting Club Like No Other, Big Easy Ranch is a private sporting club providing exclusive access for its members and their guests.