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**EAGLE RIDGE RESORT & SPA HOSTS THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
GREAT GALENA BALLOON RACE**

Largest Balloon Race in the Midwest Arrives at Eagle Ridge

GALENA, Ill. (May 19, 2009) – **Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa** (444 Eagle Ridge Drive) hosts the eighth annual **Great Galena Balloon Race**, June 19-21, 2009. The eye-catching annual event features over 20 hot air balloons and benefits the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**. All the activities take place at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa's North Course driving range, with a number of family-friendly events occurring throughout the course of the weekend.

Night Glow Extravaganza

The weekend kicks off with a night of food, fun and glowing balloons. Spectators can enjoy food and beverage concessions, live music and kids' activities including face painting and an obstacle course. After the sun sets, the participating balloons will light up the night sky, creating a glow that can be seen for miles. In addition, the Ale Fest will commence, where guests can purchase tickets for \$20 to sample more than 100 of the finest craft beers.

Great Galena Balloon Race

On Saturday, early risers can watch the Crack of Dawn Balloon Race, starting at 6 a.m. with balloon rides available by Galena on the Fly, Inc. The evening events include the Collectors Car Show, kids' activities, food and beverage concessions and live music. At 6:30 p.m., the Great Galena Balloon Race will

officially begin, followed by the Camp Hertko Helium Balloon Launch, where for \$1, kids can purchase their own miniature helium balloons and launch them as a group at 7:45 p.m.

Crack of Dawn Balloon Race

Early Sunday morning, spectators will have one last chance to view the Crack of Dawn Balloon Race, as the balloons take flight one last time beginning at 6 a.m.

Hot air balloon rides are available throughout the weekend. To purchase tickets, please contact **Galena on the Fly, Inc.** at 800-690-1287.

About Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

Located on 6,800 acres, amid the rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa is a full-spectrum resort recognized nationally by outlets including *Wine Enthusiast*, *Midwest Living*, and *Travel + Leisure Golf*. The property provides a superior golf experience with 63 holes on four acclaimed courses. The resort offers distinctive dining options including The Woodlands Restaurant & Lounge and Spikes Bar & Grill, each catering to guests and locals alike. Amenities on the property include the tranquil Stonedrift Spa, state-of-the-art fitness center with an indoor pool and sauna along with an endless array of seasonal outdoor activities including hot air balloon rides, horseback riding, cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating, biking and hiking on miles of trails and fishing and boating on the 220-acre Lake Galena. For reservations or more information call (800) 892-2269 or visit online at www.eagleridge.com

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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