

Over 1,000 holes hiked at Ballyneal for charity

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Ballyneal Golf Club southeast of Holyoke was the site of a Hundred Hole Hike event Monday, June 24. Nine golfers played 1,086 holes of golf to raise funds for charities or institutions of their choice. They are just one group of 84 total golfers participating in the HHH this summer, raising \$500,000 in pledges nationwide.



Golfers are pictured at Ballyneal, from left, front row, Van Nguyen, who golfed 116 holes; Wyatt Halliday, 108; John Penny, 144; and Brian Carruthers, 108; and back row, Doug Wright, 60; Stephen Wright, 108; Mitch Ehly, 116; Jim Colton, 155; and Rob Rigg, 171, which is a new HHH record.

HHH is inspired by the success of the 2011 Ben Cox 155, an event where Colton played 155 holes to raise more than \$110,000 for Cox—a Ballyneal caddie who was injured in a March 2011 skiing accident. Colton matched his 155 pace both last year and this year, but his new goal in 2013 is to play 500 holes at four different events this summer. Ballyneal is the second event for Colton, who already played 144 holes at Pinehurst in North Carolina. Next, he heads to Cabot Links in Nova Scotia, Canada, and St. Andrews in Scotland.

“Ballyneal is really the home of the Hundred Hole Hike,” said Colton, recognizing the birthplace of the event following the Ben Cox 155. He said it’s personally rewarding for him to see people rally around the event and to watch it grow. For more on the HHH, visit hundredholehike.com.

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