

The Patriot Ledger

It's Christmas Eve, 65 degrees and a great golf day









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New Englanders' dreams of a white Christmas didn't come true this year. Instead, golfers got to spend Christmas Eve on the greens.

The temperatures Thursday remained in the 60s and teetered close to 70 degrees, sending some local residents to Granite Links Golf Course. Tee times there were

booked solid from the time it opened at 7 a.m., said group starter Chris Williams, who was wearing a Red Sox Santa hat.

Stephen Clancy, the head golf professional at Granite Links, said it was the busiest they've been this late in the season since he started working there 12 years ago.

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Page 2

"We'll have over 100 people today," Clancy said. "Everyone's excited to be here. They're in great moods, getting their bonus days and wearing their Santa hats."

Clancy said the only late-season day that possibly came close was Jan. 7, 2007, when warm weather drew a crowd. Thursday was Granite Links' last open day of the season.

"I was supposed to (play)," said Courtney Lee, a member at the course. "But I kind of got the look that meant if I played 18 holes there'd be trouble."

It was a familiar sentiment on the course: trying to balance holiday traditions with extra golf.

"I have to go; I can only play nine," another member announced in the clubhouse. "It's moving too slow, and I have to be at church by 3."

Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory in Milton said Thursday's high temperature, 67 degrees, set a record for Dec. 24. The old record was 61 degrees in 2014.

Stephen Murphy of Braintree said he's usually skiing around this time of the year. But when his 6-year-old grandson came up to visit for the holidays, he figured they'd take him to the course.

"Why bother going to San Diego, that's what I say," Murphy said.

His son-in-law, Dominic Sankar, said the mild weather this year reminded him of Christmas time in his native Guyana, which is just north of the equator.

Sankar said his son, Ayden, was excited when he learned he'd be spending Christmas Eve on the links.

"Look, Dad, I made one," Ayden yelled over from the practice green.

Sankar laughed and said: "You know what, we'll take this."



Stephen Murphy of Braintree teaches his grandson Ayden Sankar, 6, how to swing a go...
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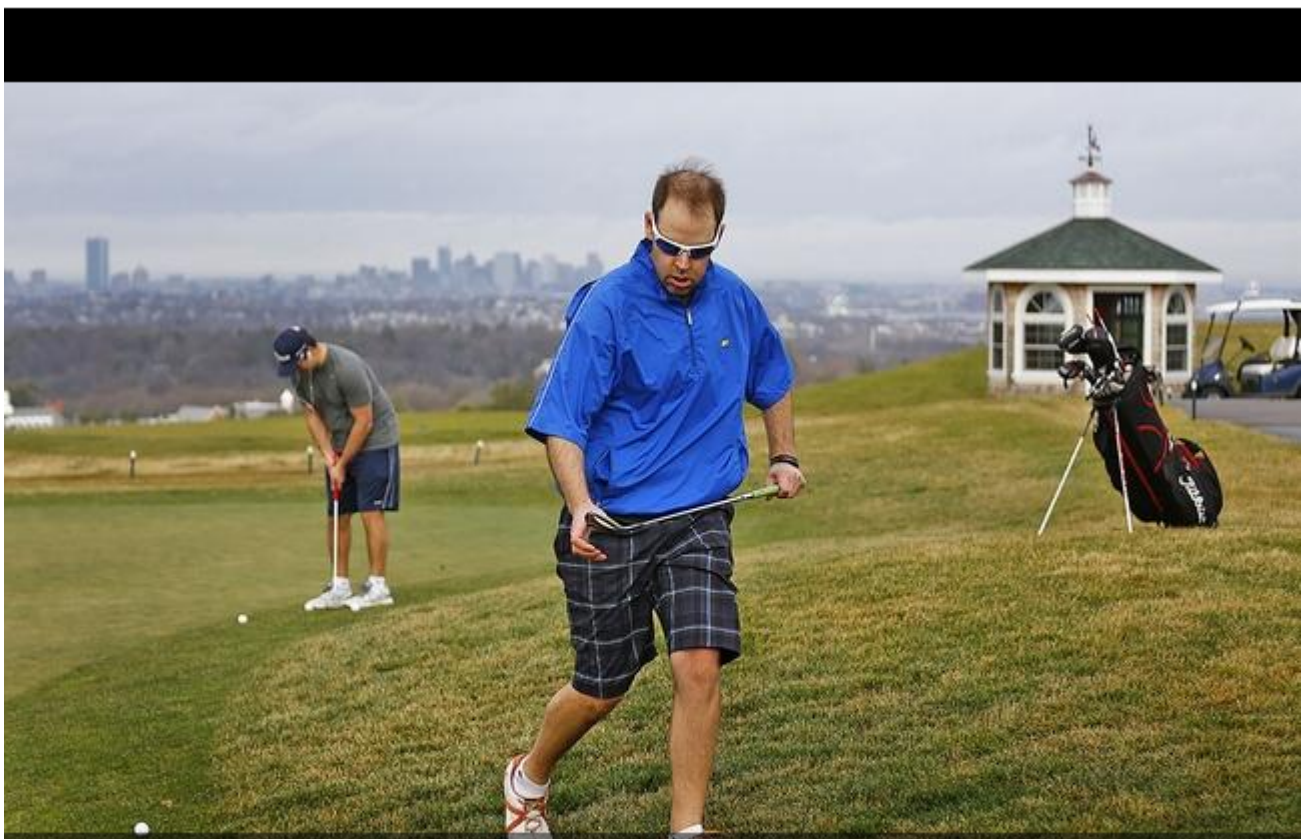
Brad Myers of South Boston drives off the first tee. Golfers take advantage of reco...
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Mike Calderone of Milton chips on the putting green at Granite Links. The course wa...
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Adam Barron of Boston, center, and Mike Calderone of Milton on the putting green at...
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