80th anniversary of B-17 crash on Mount Tom

HOLYOKE – The 80th anniversary of the July 9, 1946, crash of a B-17 that killed all 25 aboard will be held at the crash site on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m.

The flight, enroute to New York from Greenland, was to stop at Westover Field in Chicopee as the port of entry into the United States before continuing on to its final destination.

For nearly three decades, the community has gathered annually at the crash site to honor their memory and ensure that their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

While making the approach to Westover on a dark, rainy night, the plane struck the 1200-foot mountain about 300 feet below the summit. After tearing through trees, the B-17 hit a rocky outcrop causing the aircraft to disintegrate and starting an intense fire that burned for much of the night.

Several people who were at the Mountain Park amusement park at the base of Mt. Tom that night climbed up toward the accident site via an old cable railway roadbed but could not get close due to the heat of the fires. In the morning, rescue crews found the bodies of the young men among the wreckage in the scarred and charred landscape. All were killed on impact.

The crash was, at the time, the worst air disaster in New England's history and the single largest loss of Coast Guard life outside of a maritime accident.

This year's ceremony marks not only the 80th anniversary of the tragedy but also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mt. Tom Memorial, which has become a place of reflection, education, and gratitude for generations of visitors.

Zonta Club offering fun golf day on Sept. 12

BELCHERTOWN – Join members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on Sept. 12 for a fun day on the links at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown and be a champion for women and girls. The $120 registration includes golf, cart, pastries/coffee, snacks, box lunch, beverages, prizes and more. If you aren't a golfer, you can donate a raffle prize or sponsor a hole.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with a shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration form and link are at www.ZontaQV.org/golf. Questions can be directed to Mary Knight at 413-219-8260. Your support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. We're working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate justice, education equality, and women in decision-making positions.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC MEETING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw and Regulations to consider a Request for Determination filed by the Town of South Hadley to conduct vegetation management within a resource area. The project involves mowing an invasive species (Phragmites australis) in two locations on the property. Both locations are Bordering Vegetative Wetland (BVW). The property address is 315 Amherst Rd (Map 58, Parcel 96).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 6pm** virtually. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website. A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30am to 4pm Mon - Thurs. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
06/19/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS26P0374EA
Estate of:
Thomas Anthony Hudock
Also known as:
Thomas A. Hudock
Date of Death: 11/14/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Thomas A Hudock, Jr. of South Hadley, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Thomas A Hudock, Jr. of South Hadley, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/08/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 10, 2026

Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
06/19/2026

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

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24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

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Obituary

Anne "Betsy" Merritt Grim

Anne "Betsy" Merritt Grim, 71, died peacefully on June 8, 2026 after a brief battle with an aggressive cancer. Surrounded by the family she loved so fiercely, she left this world in the same way she lived her life-with love, laughter, and those closest to her by her side.

Born to Cyrus and Barbara Merritt, Betsy grew up in a close-knit Irish family whose commitment to one another shaped the way she lived her life. She was often described simply as "the kind one." Family members knew they could count on her, whether they needed advice, reassurance, or simply someone to listen to them.

Betsy's greatest partnership was with her husband Kirk, with whom she built a life centered on family and unconditional love through 46 years of marriage. They began their life together in South Hadley, Massachusetts, before settling in Belchertown, where they lived for 35 years and built deep roots in the community. Belchertown became home in every sense of the word-where they raised their three children and grew lifelong friendships. Their home was the natural gathering place for neighborhood children, family, and friends.

As a mother and grandmother, she was a steady presence in the lives of those she loved. As her children established homes and families of their own, she remained their biggest supporter, offering encouragement, practical help, and the reassurance that she was only a phone call away. Known affectionately as "Gramma B," she delighted in being part of her grandchildren's everyday lives and special milestones alike.

Professionally, Betsy dedicated more than three decades to Community Options in Belchertown MA, where she served as Program Director. Helping individuals with developmental disabilities find meaningful employment and build independent lives was more than a career-it was her calling. She believed deeply in the dignity and potential of every person she served. The people whose lives she touched became much more than clients; they became part of an extended family.

Compassion guided every aspect of Betsy's life. Whether caring for aging parents, supporting family members through difficult times, welcoming new additions to the family with one of her handmade quilts, or simply showing up when someone needed help, she gave of herself freely and without expectation. Her love was expressed not through grand gestures but through a lifetime of presence, reliability, and care.

Betsy also treasured time spent with family and friends. She enjoyed summers on Cape Cod, traveling throughout Ireland and Europe, and gathering with the people she loved. Whether at home, traveling abroad, or sharing time with friends, she valued connection above all else.

Betsy will be remembered for her quiet strength, her warm hugs, and the way she made people feel seen and cared for. Though there are not enough words to fully capture the impact she had on the lives around her, her legacy lives on in the family she cherished, the community she served, and the countless people who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Betsy is survived by her husband, Kirk Grim of Fredericksburg, VA, her children Colleen Barlow of Fredericksburg, VA, Christopher Grim of Washington, D.C. and Bridget Grim of Springfield, MA, son-in-law Scott Barlow, daughter-in-law Lee Ann Grim, her grandchildren Connor, Ryan and Rowan Barlow and Cassady Grim, her siblings Mark Merritt of Isle-of-Palms, SC, Pamela Brisson of Naples, FL, Susan Trompke of Granby, MA, Patricia Pancione of Whately, MA, and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was pre-deceased by her parents and brother Timothy Merritt.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 8, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi

DEATH NOTICE

Grim, Anne
Died June 8, 2026
Services July 8, 2026
at 11 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi
Church, Belchertown

Wheels for Hope Car Show returns June 27

HOLYOKE – The third annual Wheels for Hope Car Show will return to High Street on Saturday, June 27.

The show, which will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is a fundraiser for cancer patients and their families. Money raised will be divided among Holyoke Medical Center's Oncology Department; Rays for Hope, a Western Massachusetts initiative dedicated to the fight against breast cancer; and children diagnosed with cancer.

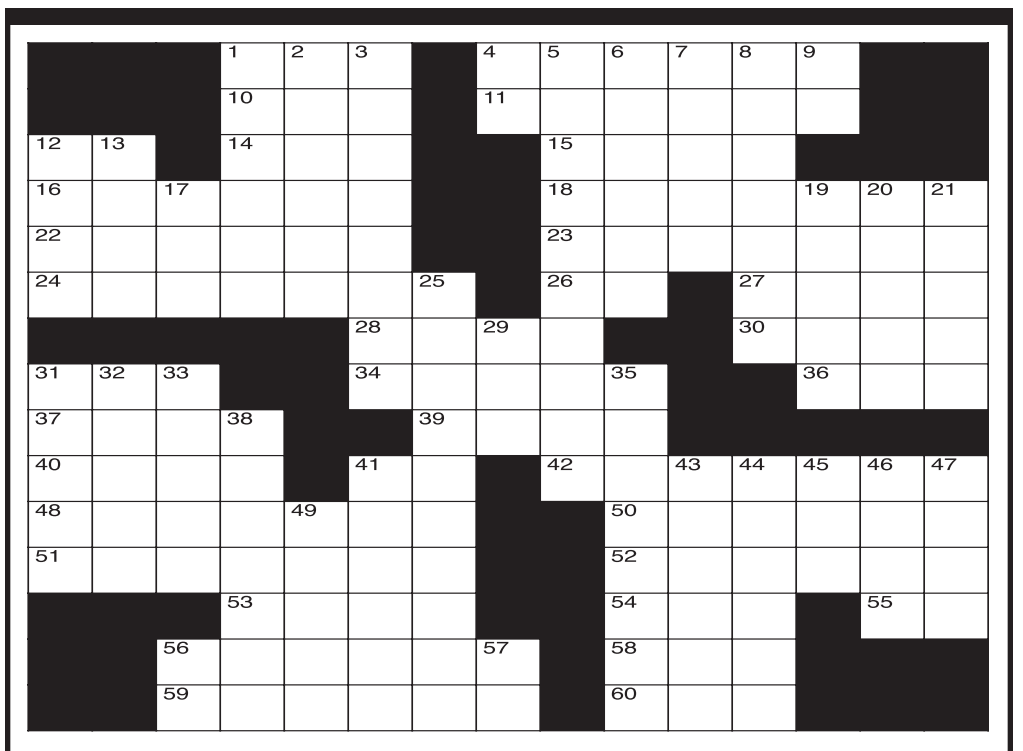
Holyoke's High Street, from Cabot Street to Appleton Street, will be closed to traffic during the one-day show.

The entry fee for exhibitors is $30. Motorcycles and power wheels are welcome. Prizes will be awarded in five categories. A special trophy will be presented by a cancer survivor.

The show includes raffles, food, music, face painting and more. Coolers will not be allowed.

The rain date is July 11.

For more information, contact Carmen Rodriguez, (413) 210-8896.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Similar
4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
10. No (Scottish)
11. __ Aires, city
12. Morning
14. Senior's son (abbr.)
15. A notable achievement
16. European nation
18. Endings
22. Puts into place
23. Former
24. Grenadier
26. Sea patrol
27. Algerian port
28. Norwegian river
30. Precipitation
31. Sunscreen rating
34. New York is one
36. Patti Hearst's captors
37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
39. Retired Brazilian footballer
40. An Indian nursemaid
41. Atomic #24
42. Immobile
48. Insignia of royalty
50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
51. Begin again
52. Round root
53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
54. What newlyweds just said
55. Empire State
56. Give back
58. College hoops tournament
59. Unstable situations
60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN
1. Administer a drug
2. Holy places
3. Contrary opinions
4. Blood type
5. Gags
6. Micturating
7. Silly
8. A type of "cuff"
9. Spanish be
12. Austrian river
13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
17. Consume food
19. California supermarket
20. Electronic communication
21. Cassia tree
25. Written works
29. Cool!
31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
32. One who was compensated
33. National symbols
35. Raising
38. A type of talk
41. Cloud
43. Middle Eastern peoples
44. Pouches
45. 007's creator
46. A cut of meat
47. Sports entertainment award
49. Christine __, actress
56. Relief organization (abbr.)
57. Canadian province (abbr.)