



Hopkinton second in first trip to golf championship

SPORTS, 1B

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On May 27, at the Gillis Bridge in Newburyport, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and MassWildlife banded four recently hatched peregrine falcon chicks. Efforts are being made to protect these birds by building nesting boxes around the state. PROVIDED BY MASSDOT

Why town administrator is suing two elected officials

Norman Miller
The Milford Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hopedale Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti, who has filed a lawsuit against the Select Board chairwoman and the Water & Sewer Commission chairman, may be leaving his job.



Ruscitti

According to the Herald News, the Swansea Select Board on May 21, chose Ruscitti to be the new Town Administrator. The Herald News is part of the USA TODAY Network and reported he is expected to start on July 1.

Ruscitti on Monday would not comment on the job offer.

"I have no comment on the rumors of a new job, other than to say that I've been asked by my department heads and most board and committee members I work with to stay, which is rewarding, so it's a big decision for me to weigh," he said.

Ruscitti has been Hopedale Town Administrator since June 2023. On Jan. 9 of this year, Ruscitti, through his attorney Ernest Horne, filed a lawsuit in Worcester Superior Court against Select Board chairwoman Glenda Hazard and Water & Sewer Commissioner Edward Burt.

He referred all questions regarding the lawsuit to Horne.

The lawsuit, seeking \$500,000, originally included the entire Select

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Peregrine falcon population returning

Seth Jacobson
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

They were once all but extinct in Massachusetts, but Peregrine falcons have made a comeback in the Bay State.

And Massachusetts officials are trying to make sure these falcons are protected.

Massachusetts is now home to more than 40 territorial pairs of Peregrine

falcons, which are known to be the fastest birds on Earth.

On May 27, at the Gillis Bridge in Newburyport, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and MassWildlife "banded four recently hatched peregrine falcon chicks."

The MassDOT and MassWildlife officials also installed artificial nesting boxes across the state to provide a safe location for falcons to nest and raise their young.

Nesting boxes installed throughout Massachusetts

MassDOT and MassWildlife maintain Peregrine falcon nesting boxes at 16 bridges across the state.

"Through this partnership, MassWildlife and MassDOT support the conservation of peregrine falcons on bridges, which in turn controls pigeon

See **FALCONS, Page 2A**

When The Bird was the word

50 years ago, Mark Fidrych became a major league hero

Henry Schwan
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fifty years ago, in the summer of 1976, the nation had a big party, celebrating its 200th birthday with fireworks, parades and cookouts.

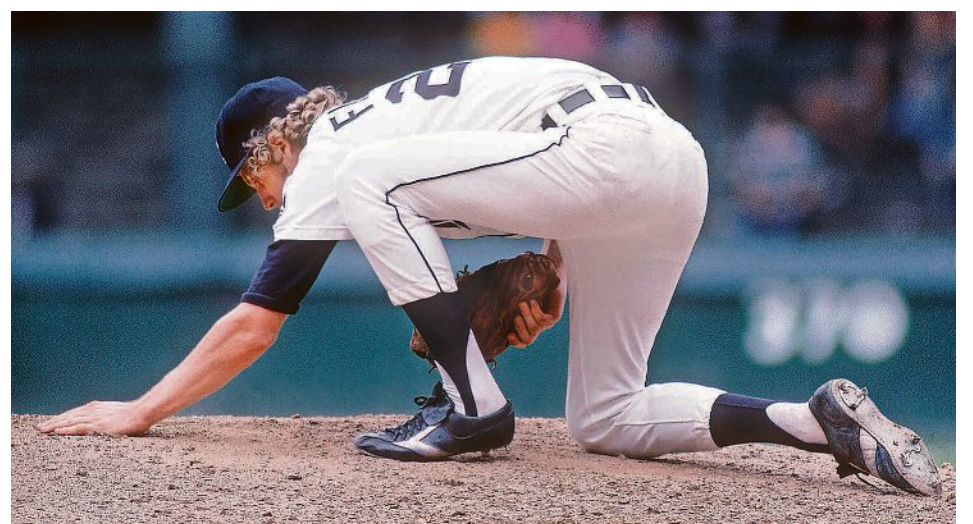
As the country's 250th birthday bash on July 4 is approaching, it's time to remember a man from Northborough known as "The Bird" who captured the country's imagination in that bicenten-

nial summer.

Mark "The Bird" Fidrych seemingly came out of nowhere to become a pitching sensation, his popularity rivaling the biggest rock stars, political figures and entertainers of his day.

The small-town Fidrych was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 1974. He got his first major league start in May 1976 because the scheduled starter that day was ill. Fidrych won that game, then went on a tear that drew not only the excitement of Tigers fans but also millions of people across the country, whether or not they liked baseball, or even cared

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Pitcher Mark Fidrych on the mound at Tiger Stadium during the 1978 season. TONY TOMSIC/USA TODAY SPORTS



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