



South Coast squads capture trio of titles

SPORTS, 1B

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Standard-Times

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026 | SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THE MEANING OF REVOLUTION

Where to watch fireworks this Fourth in MA

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

The Fourth of July is a day away and, this year, towns all across America are preparing to celebrate the beloved summer holiday in a special way, as 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the country's independence.

From historical reenactments to family-friendly festivals to outdoor cookouts, Massachusetts is getting ready to celebrate Independence Day with an extensive lineup of fun-filled events. Of course, the state will also mark the holiday with numerous firework displays, all the way from the Cape to the Berkshires.

Ready to see the sky illuminated once again this Fourth of July? Here is a schedule of firework shows in Massachusetts where you can celebrate Independence Day in 2026, arranged by date and town.

See **FIREWORKS**, Page 2A



The Battles of Lexington and Concord are reenacted during Patriot's Day celebrations in Massachusetts on April 18. Americans still look to the Founding Fathers for inspiration – but they themselves didn't always agree on the revolution's meaning. JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Founders show ability to disagree, still work for common cause

Marianne Holdzkom
Kennesaw State University
THE CONVERSATION

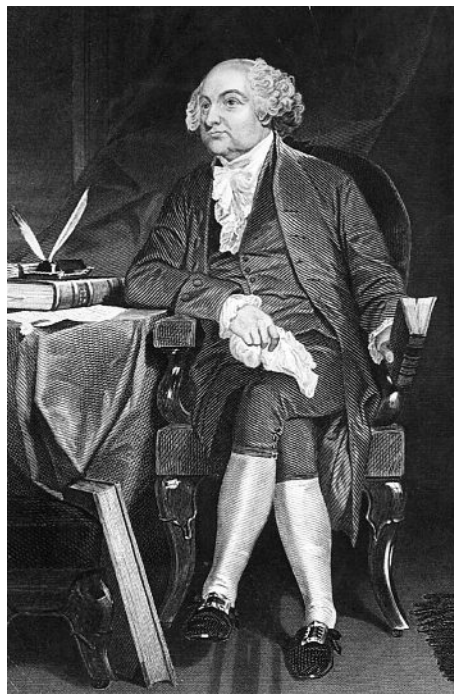
Like Americans today, the people living in the United States in 1826 were preparing to celebrate a milestone for their country. July Fourth of that year marked the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

As what was known as the "Jubilee" of American independence approached, Americans realized that the founding generation was dying off. They wanted to take advantage of the founders' insight while they still could.

This meant soliciting memories and advice from the signers of the Declaration, only three of whom were still alive. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were the men most closely associated with the independence movement, yet they both lay dying and both declined invitations to attend the festivities planned for July Fourth.

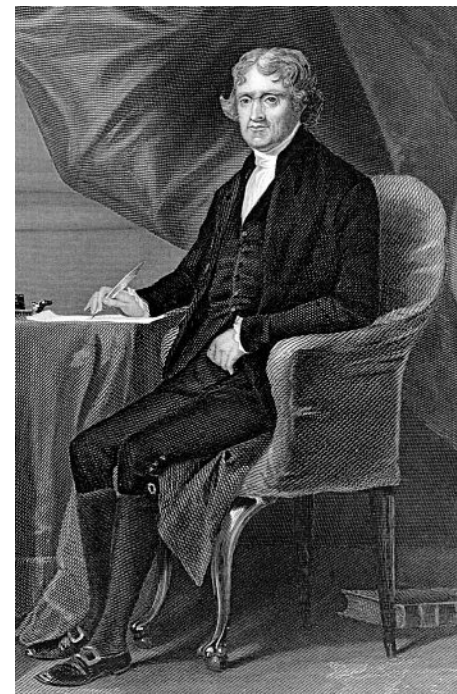
But they were able to answer letters from younger men interested in their perspective on the revolution and subsequent history they had helped shape.

See **REVOLUTION**, Page 6A



Founding Father John Adams, left, understood that people interpret history according to their own circumstances. He was a realist who could not bring himself to accept the fundamentally optimistic view that humanity was always moving toward liberty. Thomas Jefferson, right, was hopeful about the revolution's impact on the world. He believed that the declaration would be "the Signal of arousing men to burst their chains."

PHOTOS BY HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



5 Declaration of Independence signers were from MA

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

The Fourth of July is almost here, and this year, the holiday will commemorate 250 years since the founding of the United States.

As the birthplace of the American Revolution, Massachusetts produced many key Revolutionary figures who helped form the nation, multiple of whom even signed the Declaration of Independence.

The declaration was adopted by Continental Congress 250 years ago on July 4, 1776, a move which formally announced the separation of the American colonies from British rule. Two months later, on Aug. 2, 1776, the delegates of Congress signed the declaration, including five patriots from Massachusetts.

Here's what to know about the five Declaration of Independence signers from Massachusetts, as well as how to visit their gravesites.

See **SIGNERS**, Page 3A

Bay State Bath "In Just One Day!"
Complete Bathroom Remodeling In Five Days!

FOURTH OF JULY SAVINGS EVENT! ALL MONTH LONG!



Scan to Get Started
Licenses
HIC Registration
BYLO CSL 2027

Call Today To Schedule Your Free Estimate!

508-964-3623



"We make bathroom remodeling simple, fast, and stress-free."
— Jennifer Bylo, Owner



Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to southcoasttoday.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 185 | No. 63
To subscribe 800-445-7482
©2026 \$3.50

