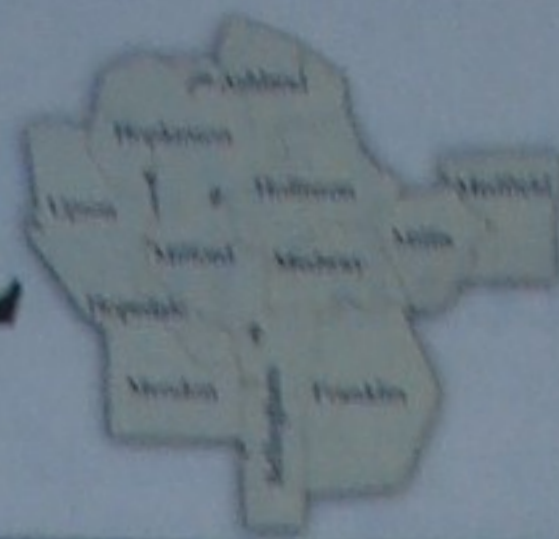


LOCAL

News for Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton, and Surrounding Communities



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Stevens gives first State of the City speech **B5**



JULIA SPITZ

Read Julia Spitz Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

Please show me the bunny!



Chubby, fuzzy bunnies are so last Easter. This is the year of the stretch-out hare, a creature as tall and lanky as any guard on the high school basketball varsity squad.

And they're multiplying like rabbits at a store near you. There are still a few hints of religion attached to this year's observance, but they're primarily confined to a Bible display near the checkout lanes at Wal-Mart, and two rows out of 30 tiers of Easter cards at CVS.

Passover cards got even less space, and Passover decorations are limited to blue tablecloths, a few festive paper plates and a tin seder dish at Party City in Natick.

The Jewish celebration remains a time for families and friends to remember the Israelites' freedom from slavery and exodus from Egypt, a time to gather at the table and reflect on God's blessings.

Even though church attendance skyrockets on Easter Sunday, it's pretty hard to find any reference to Jesus in the store aisles devoted to the celebration of Easter.

It's not even just about Peeps anymore. Not that there's a Peep shortage. You can certainly get your fill of yellow and pink chicks. You can also find stuffed-animal versions of the spotty treats bound to end up in kids' mouths Sunday morning.

Both faux and real Peeps are right near the SpongeBob candy. And the SpongeBob eggs. And the Dora the Explorer bucket of plastic stuff.

Discount stores have plastic eggs shaped like footballs and soccer balls, a plastic hand-held Foosball with little plastic rabbit players, an egg-shaped mini Etch-A-Sketch.

Maybe you'd prefer the Disney Princess sunglasses for your little girl's basket. Or the NASCAR-themed concoction packaged in cellophane.

Nothing says Easter like a Potty or an Earnhardt in the living room.

Unless it's That's Gross! Ooze, a vial of slime your boy will love to rub on his new spring jacket.

Ooze was one of the more unusual Easter gifts on display yesterday at CVS. Wal-Mart's strangest offering was a pink military camouflage fabric container designed to serve as an Easter basket. Girls want to sneak into enemy Barbie camp unobserved and steal her pastel candy corn, I suppose.

Party City had bunny pinatas and an inflatable lawn decoration on sale. It's the Easter Bunny driving a carrot car with "Happy Easter" written on the gray vinyl smoke coming out of the exhaust pipe. It's probably on a lawn near you.

Petco mercifully didn't have a single pet Easter basket on display. The bunny photos in the window represent contributions to the company's "Spring A Pet" fund-raiser for animal welfare causes.

But the Christmas Tree Shops had plenty of elongated bunnies for the home and garden. Those who long for something even longer might appreciate homespun rabbits attached to tiki torch sticks. They're almost as scary as the fact shoppers here are straight out of the TV ads. The women really do hunt in multigenerational packs and really do cluck about how cute an object is and such a bargain, too.

Mothers and daughters alike were gushing over the long-limbed wooden rabbit selection.

There's something else puzzling about Easter in our corner of America.

No one seems to have sued yet.

Town recreation departments sponsor egg hunts and yet the staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts said yesterday she wasn't aware of any pending suits.

"I think this is an issue that it's more like a treasure hunt than a religious event," said Sarah Wunsch.

"There is a question, why is the town having an Easter egg hunt? Why not a spring vacation activity?"

Recreation directors such as Ashland's Kolly Rund say that's because they're just egg hunts, not religious celebrations. Those of any faith can enjoy the traditional annual event at Stone Park this Saturday.

The Franklin Recreation Department is hosting Peter Cottontail's Eggcellent Adventure tomorrow morning at Fletcher Field for children ages 1 to 9.

Events include face painting, an egg hunt, games like a bean bag toss and pictures with the Easter Bunny, said Recreation Department secretary Lynne Marchand.

No theology involved. On the other hand, the fact the events are so secular could be offensive to those who are "very religious," said ACLU attorney Wunsch.

"Easter is not like Christmas, which has become more of a secular holiday," she said.

Apparently she hasn't been shopping lately. Julia Spitz can be reached at 508-626-3968 or juliaspitz.com.



Bob Foster of the Hopkinton Athletic Association unveils the "Spirit of the Marathon" statue yesterday during a ceremony at Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton. The statue depicts 1946 Boston Marathon winner Stylianos Kyriakides.

'SPIRIT' UNVEILED

Hundreds gather in Hopkinton to view Marathon statue

By Theresa Freeman
DAILY NEWS STAFF



HOPKINTON — About 200 Metro-West residents and local and international dignitaries got the first look yesterday at a new statue meant to inspire all to reach for new goals.

U.S. and Greek flags flapped in the breeze and the countries' national anthems played during yesterday's

unveiling ceremony for a statue called "Spirit of the Marathon." It depicts 1946 Boston Marathon winner Stylianos Kyriakides, gaunt and weakened from the Nazi oppression of his wartime homeland, yet determined to win.

"It really does touch the heart and soul," said state Sen. Karon Spilka. D-STATUE, Page B2

Hanging 'em up

Bob Mangan says he will run his 25th and final Boston Marathon on Monday

By John Hilliard
DAILY NEWS STAFF

FRAMINGHAM — Running the Boston Marathon has been a regular rhythm in the life of one local music teacher — and he plans on running his 25th and final race next week.

"It's just a whole lot bigger than me," said Bob Mangan, a Hemenway Elementary School music teacher. "I have a lot of respect for it."

Mangan, 53, has spent nearly half his life on two full-time jobs: teaching children music and training each year for the "Big Dance" — what running veterans call the Boston Marathon.

But after Monday's race, he will retire from the Marathon, where his best time was 3:08.

Growing up in Hopkinton, Mangan played baseball. MAGNAN, Page B2



Hemenway Elementary School music teacher Bob Mangan says he will retire from running after Monday's Boston Marathon.

FRAMINGHAM

Chase subject is found in shed

Cops say police dog sniffed out man who fled from stolen car

By Norman Miller
DAILY NEWS STAFF

A Worcester man was arrested early yesterday after speeding away from Wayland Police in a stolen car, ditching the car in Framingham and hiding in a shed on Old Connecticut Path, police said.

Anthony Clarke, 36, was tracked down an hour later when a state police dog tracked him to the shed, Wayland Police Chief Robert Irving said.

"It was a good arrest," said Irving. "There was a lot of cooperation between the Wayland officers, the Framingham Police and the state police. The canine was actually the arresting officer in this case."

CHASE, Page B4

Suspects in BB gun case were 'bored'

By Sara Withee
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Two teens and a 31-year-old woman suspected in a two-month BB gun vandalism spree in several towns say boredom prompted them to shatter thousands of dollars worth of windows, police said.

Kenneth Loblan, 17, of 90 Oakland St., Medway, Megan Burnett, 31, of 33 Granite St., Walpole, and a 15-year-old male from Natick were all arraigned yesterday on six counts of defacement of real or personal property.

The trio was arrested Tuesday night in a parked Jeep Cherokee outside Loblan's Medway home after Millis Police received VANDALISM, Page B6

Geese leave their mark

MILFORD

By Andrew Lightman
DAILY NEWS STAFF

MILFORD — There's a problem afoot on the local athletic fields. Actually, most would say the problem is underfoot.

Plains Park is littered with goose droppings, and the mess has prompted town officials to stop it before it becomes a public health catastrophe.

"Five-, 6-year-old kids are playing on the DROPPINGS, Page B7

Developer builds field for Framingham High

FRAMINGHAM

By Tyler B. Reed
DAILY NEWS STAFF

FRAMINGHAM — A developer building luxury condos downtown is now moving earth behind the high school.

Rosewood Companies, whose condos on Howard Street are still under construction, is building a \$300,000 artificial turf athletic field as part of a negoti-

ated deal with the Planning Board dating back to 2002.

The synthetic turf will smooth a chewed-up field in the northwest corner of the property that has caused several season-ending injuries for Flyer athletes.

"It was so bad, just so bad," said Athletic Director Gary Duberry. "We've lost kids for the season because of that field. We lost one kid for a year

who dove and landed on a rock."

The upgraded field will stage varsity girls lacrosse games next year, as well as practices in the early spring when other natural grass fields.

Construction is under way for a new artificial turf athletic field behind Framingham High School.



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY ADRIAN PAVANOS