

INSIDE TODAY

\$200
WORTH OF
COUPONS
Page 11

SPORTS

Martin, Andover girls full speed ahead after huge 2026 rebound
Page 9



MASSACHUSETTS

24 local young actors featured in latest North Shore Music Theater show
Page 5

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Plaistow welcomes 1st bilingual police officer
Page 6

The Eagle-Tribune

Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

EAGLETRIBUNE.COM

\$3.00



HAVERHILL YMCA/Courtesy photos

The Haverhill Fire Department sprayed a fire engine's hose overhead a crowd of campers to cool them off.

Old school buildings sought for housing

By **Teddy Tauscher**
ttauscher@eagletribune.com

METHUEN — The city is moving forward with an initiative to turn three city-owned properties into low to moderate income housing with a preference for seniors, veterans and residents.

The Pleasant Valley, at 180 Pleasant Valley St., and Currier School, at 36 Boylston St., buildings as well as a property at 30 Railroad St. may be hitting the market after the council gave initial approval to surplus the land this week.

Mayor D.J. Bearegard has committed to using the proceeds for the sales of at least the two shuttered schools to help fund infrastructure improvements in the district's aging, but still operational buildings.

Despite the milestone though, the projects are still far from approved and it's unclear how councilors will vote later on in the process.

Bearegard hopes the plan addresses two of the community's major needs.

"Anytime I am at the senior center you hear people clamoring for more opportunities for more affordable housing so that folks can stay here," he said. "Folks don't want to leave."

To be sold and redeveloped, each property will need to go through a bidding process, requiring further council approval

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 4

Cooling off

Haverhill, YMCA shared vouchers with 60 families

By **Jonah Frangiosa**
jfrangiosa@eagletribune.com

HAVERHILL — The kids were treated to free arcade games, cotton candy and tacos over the Fourth of July weekend, but not before cooling off, courtesy of their local firefighters.

In a holiday weekend initiative designed to bring smiles back to families, the Haverhill YMCA partnered with state and local leaders to provide 60 children with vouchers to Joe's Playland and Sin-a-loa Tacos in Salisbury.

State Reps. Andy Vargas and Ryan Hamilton, Sens. Barry Finegold and Pavel Payano and Mayor Melinda Barrett organized the event in response to the recent sewer force main break in Haverhill, which led to wastewater being discharged into the Merrimack River and affected beach communities and businesses downstream like



The Haverhill Fire Department personnel spray a fire engine's hose overhead to help a crowd of campers to cool them off during recent sweltering summer temperatures.

Salisbury.

"From the community of Haverhill to the community of Salisbury, thank you for your patience and understanding during our infrastructure failure," Barrett said. "We hope this small gesture helps."

Haverhill YMCA Regional

Executive Director Tracy Fuller said that while the YMCA remained closed for the federal holiday, staff opened the building so families could pick up the vouchers.

The vouchers included \$20 for Joe's Playland and another \$20 for Sin-a-loa

Tacos. They were valid from July 3 through July 5 and were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the community center.

Vargas described the wastewater discharge into the river as a "devastating incident," but shared his gratitude toward Barrett and the Haverhill Public Works Department for their response during the crisis.

He said legislators and local officials have participated in several ongoing whole-of-government meetings convened by Gov. Maura Healey, along with the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Division of Marine Fisheries, throughout the repair process.

"This incident has not only been costly for our community, but also for our surrounding neighbors who may

SEE YMCA, PAGE 2

Markey, Moulton trade jabs in fiery first debate

By **Christian M. Wade**
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey pushed back on claims that he's too old to run for reelection in a fiery debate with younger challenger Rep. Seth Moulton Wednesday, where the two veteran lawmakers squared off on the issues with less than two months until the Democratic primary.

During the hour-long live-streamed debate, hosted by WWLP 22News, the two hammered away over who had the best plans for lowering the cost of living and pushing back against the Trump administration's divisive policies.

Moulton, a six-term

congressman challenging Markey in the Sept. 1 Democratic primary, said while he "respects" Markey's 50 years of public service, he believes voters want a change in leadership.

"This is not about being critical of age," Moulton, 47, said in remarks. "It's about the fact that we need new ideas and a new playbook. We need new plans and new leadership."

But Markey, 79, said he is ready to return to Washington for another six years, regardless of his age.

"This is the most energized I've ever been, fighting Donald Trump's agenda to undermine families all across our country," the three-term senator said in remarks. "And I lead that fight



Markey-Moulton debate

on the Senate floor."

He argued that he is better positioned than Moulton — who would be a freshman senator if elected in November — to divert

money and resources back to the state as a ranking member on several key Senate committees if

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 2

Inside Today

- Classifieds.....13
- Dear Annie.....12
- Horoscope.....12
- Massachusetts.....3, 5, 6
- New Hampshire.....5, 6
- Obituaries.....4
- Opinion.....7
- Puzzles.....12
- Sports.....9-10
- Weather.....2

To subscribe, call (800) 836-7800



Staying connected is easier than ever ...

Get your daily news, sports, entertainment, business, breaking news alerts and so much more delivered to your inbox

SIGN UP AT WWW.EAGLETRIBUNE.COM/EMAILS

(800) 836-7800 • CustomerService@eagletribune.com
Subscriptions include access to Eagle-Tribune e-editions

Subscribers get free access to eagletribune.com



M. O'MAHONEY CO.
PAVERS • STONE
FIREPITS • SAND & CEMENT
READY MIX CONCRETE

175 Market Street • Lawrence, MA
978-686-6149
www.momahoney.com
Masonry & Landscaping Supplies