

INSIDE TODAY

\$200
WORTH OF
COUPONS
Page 6

LOCAL

Haverhill voters
decide 10 ballot
questions
Page 3



SPORTS

Santiago living
lifelong dream,
as starting QB
like his dad
Page 9

The Eagle-Tribune

Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize

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Emily Martin, 11, reads to Gilly, a special therapy dog from Therapy Dogs International, at the Plaistow Public Library. Gilly is available once a month at the library.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Relaxed reading

Plaistow comfort pup
proves she's all ears

By Jonah Frangiosa
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PLAISTOW — When they weren't handing out belly rubs and head scratches, the young readers were turning pages, joined by a four-legged furry listener who was all ears.

Gilly, a therapy dog with Therapy Dogs International, found a comfortable spot to lay on Tuesday afternoon at the Plaistow Public Library. Before the pup knew it, children gathered around her for "Barks and Books: Read to Gilly," a recurring program that gives early bookworms a chance to practice their skills by reading aloud to a furry friend.

For the children, Gilly made for a particularly attentive audience. The program is designed to give the boys and girls a relaxed, supportive environment in which to build confidence and strengthen their reading. They were able to select any of their favorite books throughout the library and practice reading aloud alongside Gilly and her handler.

Emily Martin, 11, laid down beside Gilly and opened a book, then Gabe LaClair, 8, also took his turn before offering his fair share of belly rubs to the dog. Aurora Fandetti, 5, was another young reader who found a chair beside the pup and got to page-turning.

The free program returns to the Plaistow Public Library once a month. Gilly will be back in action from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, for the next "Read to Gilly" session.



Gabe LaClair, 8, gives Gilly some belly rubs after reading a book to her at the Plaistow Public Library Tuesday.

New rules put the brakes on e-bikes, scooters

By Jonah Frangiosa
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HAVERTHILL — The crackdown on e-bikes and scooters has stretched past the school zone, as officers will now stop any riders along sidewalks, trails and other public spaces.

Bans on micromobility devices have been extended as the Haverhill City Council approved an ordinance Tuesday night. The use of e-bikes, motorized scooters and other recreational motorized vehicles is now prohibited on public sidewalks, bike paths, bikeways, natural-surface trails, school property and other city property.

The ordinance applies to riders of all ages, though some of the provisions specifically target juveniles under 16, as the sweeping changes in restrictions are mostly influenced by concerns for student safety.

"Obviously, there has been a huge influx of e-bikes in the community, and huge issues with them," Mayor Melinda Barrett said.

SEE EBIKES, PAGE 2

'No confidence' vote still under council review

By Jill Harmacinski
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LAWRENCE — The issue lacked momentum this week but city councilors will meet again Tuesday to discuss a potential "no confidence" vote on Mayor Brian DePena who is facing 26 federal and state charges.

A "committee as the whole" meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. Councilors are then expected to reach a recommendation for a vote at their next City Council meeting on Oct. 20.

DePena was reelected to his second term as mayor in November.

Both Councilors Ana Levy, vice president, and Stephany Infante, said they would be voting "no confidence" in DePena in remarks during Tuesday's meeting.

Infante noted one charge DePena is facing is witness intimidation. And throughout his tenure as mayor the issue of intimidation has come up repeatedly. Also, she said during her day job, she repeatedly keeps hearing DePena referred to as the "indicted mayor."

It was suggested to her to perhaps omit mentioning she is from Lawrence.

"This is embarrassing," Infante said, noting that she lacks the confidence in DePena to manage the city amid his criminal cases.

Levy said she would be voting "no confidence" in DePena to protect the future of the city.

On Tuesday night, a vote of six

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

NORTH ANDOVER

Marble Ridge Winery abutters want zoning enforced

By Angelina Berube
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NORTH ANDOVER — A group of abutters of a boutique winery are petitioning a town board to appeal the building commissioner's refusal of enforcement amid ongoing disputes between the winery and its neighbors.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is expected to hold a public hearing at Town Hall Tuesday on a petition of residents appealing a refusal of enforcement made by the building commissioner on the property at 11 Marbleridge Road — the Marble Ridge Farm and Marble Ridge Winery.

Neighbors assert building commissioner and zoning enforcement officer Scott Vanedwalle "erred in the

determination that viticulture is the primary use of the property" and want him to take action to enforce the zoning bylaw, ordering the property owners to immediately cease any and all unapproved uses, according to a legal notice for the meeting.

Vanedwalle determined the site of Marble Ridge Farm is a recognized farm use subject to a Dover Amendment review in a June 1 letter sent to Marble Ridge Farm owner Elbridge "Brig" Leland.

The petitioners seek to have the Zoning Board of Appeals reverse or modify the decision.

The hearing comes at the same time that the commercial property of 11



Marble Ridge Winery in North Andover is facing opposition from neighbors on Great Road.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

SEE WINERY, PAGE 2

Inside Today

Classifieds.....	12
Dear Annie.....	4
Horoscope.....	4
Massachusetts.....	3, 7
New Hampshire.....	7, 8
Obituaries.....	4
Opinion.....	5
Puzzles.....	13
Sports.....	9
Weather.....	2

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WEATHER



72° 48°

Details, Page XX.