



Americans in lead Sunday

The U.S. needs 4½ points today to regain the Ryder Cup

Sports — C1

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Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Sunday, September 30, 2012

Vol. 119, No. 272 — 48 pages — \$2.00

SIDEVIEW

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Few showers, 60
Tonight: Few showers, 46
Monday: Mostly cloudy, 65
More weather, Page A8

SAVE MONEY

\$170

More than \$170 in coupons in today's paper.

The top values:

- Mir Crest 3D White \$10
- Olay Pro-X/Regenerist \$5
- Duracell Batteries/Charger \$3
- Venus Refillable Razor \$3
- Covergirl Simply Ageless \$3
- Natural Instincts hair color \$2
- Swiffer refill \$2
- Crest rinse \$1.50
- Tide detergent \$1
- ZZZQuil products \$1

LIFE / ARTS

The Frelinghuysen Morris House in Lenox is a time capsule of modern architecture and design, a nearly perfectly preserved art treasure open to the public for tours. Page E1.

BUSINESS

Harvard University is trying to graduate an essentially flat \$30.7 billion endowment, which had any gains this year wiped out by market declines. Page D1.

SPORTS

A pair of fourth-quarter touch-down passes was just what Trinity needed to come from behind and beat Williams on Saturday, 17-13. Page C1.

IN THE EAGLE

- Section A: World & Nation
- Section B: City & Town
- Section C: Sports
- Section D: Business
- Section E: Life/Arts
- Section F: Classified
- USA Weekend

- Advice/Dear Abby E4
- Books E6
- Brigade E7
- Community Notes B2
- Crossword E7
- Editorials A6
- Entertainment E3
- Letters A6
- Movies E3
- Op-Ed A7
- Public Notices A3
- Travel E5
- TV Listings E2
- Weddings E4
- World of Wonder E8

ON THE WEB

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The Berkshires

Mountain



Courtesy photos

lions

■ They're extinct in the East, so if you think you've seen one here, we've got some explanations ...

By Ned Oliver
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Christine Poke knows what she saw. The mountain lion, extinct in the eastern United States as far as biologists are concerned, nonchalantly cut through her Lenox neighborhood, making a surprise appearance during her otherwise uneventful morning stroll. "I was walking down the road here on Galway Court and it crossed right in front of me," Poke said. "It just

crossed the road; it was just very happy and just padded along." That was a year ago, and it's just one of hundreds, probably thousands, of mountain lion sightings in the Berkshires over the past decade — sightings of an animal that doesn't exist here, according to the U.S. government. There are thriving populations of mountain lions on the West Coast and throughout South America, but in 2011, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife declared them officially extinct in the East, where they lived and hunted until the entirety of the native breeding population was killed off in the 1800s by zealous settlers who deemed them a threat. The decision to classify them as extinct followed a years-long study conducted by biologists.

The last confirmed kill of a mountain lion — also known as cougars, pumas and catamounts — in Massachusetts was in 1858 on Mount Tom, near Easthampton. That specimen is still on display in a nearby wildlife center. In the debate over the species' fate here, science is pitted against lore, with the latter bolstered in its most extreme form by deliberate hoaxes, wild conspiracy theories and vehement believers. Caught in the middle are people such as Poke — residents who just happened across the elusive animal and now preface their sighting stories with disclaimers such as: "I'm not a crazy person, but ..." As it turns out, it's possible for a

LIONS, continued on A4

Mountain lions

Size: The fourth-largest member of the cat family — behind tigers, lions and jaguars — mountain lions typically are 24 to 35



Bobcat

inches tall. Males weigh 115 to 220 pounds, and females weigh between 60 and 100. The state agency MassWildlife said it gets hundreds of reports of mountain-lion sightings each year, but most turn out to be misidentification — either bobcats (much smaller), coyotes, big domestic dogs, or even house cats. Diet: They will eat any animal they can catch, but they usually survive on deer. They've also been known to eat moose, elk and livestock. An ambush predator, they leap onto the back of their prey and go for the neck. Social: Mountain lions are solitary animals and live in groups only as mothers and kittens. Adults meet only to mate. Habitat: Mountain lions live across western North America, with isolated populations found in parts of Minnesota and Florida. Before an extensive eradication

effort, they lived across the continent. There are still large populations in South America.

Sources: Encyclopedia Britannica and Eagle reporting



Coyote

High stakes at first debate

■ Mitt Romney looks to gain momentum over Barack Obama.

By Nancy Benac
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama is cruising into the presidential debates with momentum on his side, yet he's still struggling to revive the passion and excitement that propelled him to the White House. Mitt Romney is grasping for his last, best chance to reboot his campaign after a disastrous September.

The fierce and determined competitors in the tight race have a specific mission for the three debates, the first of which is Wednesday night in Denver.

Obama, no longer the fresh face of 2008, must convince skeptical Americans that he can accomplish in a second term what he couldn't in his first, restoring the economy to full health.

Romney, anxious to keep the race from slipping away, needs to instill confidence that he is a credible and trusted alternative to the president, with a better plan for strengthening the economy.

"The burden in many ways is heavier on Romney," says

DEBATE, continued on A4

Politics daily ...

Visit www.berkshireeagle.com/political-national for your daily fix of all things election-related.

Times ex-boss, 86, dies

Sulzberger changed face of the paper

By David B. Caruso and Karen Matthews
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former New York Times publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, who led the newspaper to new levels of influence and profit while standing up for press