

Business in Brief

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QUINCY — State: 2 Milton landlords discriminated

BOSTON — Attorney General Martha Coakley accused two Milton landlords of housing discrimination for allegedly trying to evict a tenant shortly after she had a child. In a complaint in Suffolk Superior Court, Coakley claims Ellen Cronin and Gerard McMahon of Milton initiated eviction proceedings against a Hyde Park woman because they did not want to comply with the state lead paint law and Section 8 program requirements. The state's lead paint law requires that landlords abate lead hazards in a unit occupied by children under the age of 6.

Stop & Shop reports sales increase

QUINCY — Third-quarter net sales rose 4.4 percent over the previous year to \$3.9 billion at Quincy-based Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. and its sister chain Giant Food. Sales at stores open for at least 12 months rose 4.6 percent at Stop & Shop and 0.7 percent at Giant Food in the quarter that ended Oct. 5. The chains' parent, Dutch conglomerate Royal Ahold, reported that its net quarterly sales rose 3.9 percent to 5.8 billion euros.

Suffolk Downs owners sued

BOSTON — A disabled Dracut man has sued the owners of Suffolk Downs, claiming he went to the racetrack's biggest race of the year last month and found that parts of the facility are difficult for someone in a wheelchair to access.

Dino Theodore, a 48-year-old attorney who is paralyzed from the waist down, claims in a suit he filed earlier this month in Boston federal court that Suffolk Downs made it tough for him to enjoy the Massachusetts Handicap race on Sept. 20. Theodore says he left early because of the facility's "treacherous topography." He says that because the track has been renovated since the Americans with Disabilities Act took effect in 1992, the track needs to be made easier to traverse for a wheelchair-bound patron. Theodore has filed several lawsuits that cite the federal disabilities law in Boston federal court, including lawsuits this year against Massachusetts General Hospital and Linchris Corp., a Hanover-based hotel operator.

A spokesman for Suffolk Downs declined to comment about the suit against Suffolk. Nicholas Guerrero, the lawyer who filed the suit on behalf of Theodore, also declined to comment.

Globe, Telegram dropping in value

BOSTON — The New York Times Co. expects to report an impairment charge of \$100 million to \$150 million as the media company continues to write down the value of its Massachusetts media holdings, which are primarily The Boston Globe and the Telegram & Gazette. The Times Co. has already accounted for a significant drop in value in the two papers with a charge it reported in January 2007 of \$814 million. The company originally paid \$1.1 billion for the Globe in 1993 and \$296 million for the Worcester paper in 2000. Revenue at the two papers fell to \$125.6 million in the Times Co.'s third quarter, down 12.3 percent from the same time a year ago.

CHA hospitals face major budget cuts

CAMBRIDGE — Cambridge Health Alliance — the parent organization for Cambridge Hospital, Somerville Hospital and Whidden Hospital in Everett — may have to cut as much as 20 percent of its work force because of Gov. Deval Patrick's drastic state budget cuts. CHA will see \$55 million sliced from its coffers as part of Patrick's statewide emergency budget cuts, according to the Cambridge Chronicle. The cuts would be tacked on to the \$22.4 million in reductions CHA made to its fiscal 2009 budget. The Harvard-affiliated health organization is scrambling to meet with legislators to find a way to limit the severity of cuts before making any major staffing moves. A CHA spokesman said the cuts could mean the loss of as much as 20 percent of the work force, or up to 850 jobs.

Earnings up for Rockland Trust parent

ROCKLAND — Independent Bank Corp., the parent company of Rockland Trust, earned \$8.8 million in the quarter that ended Sept. 30, up 6.1 percent from the same time a year ago. The bank's deposits grew by \$64 million from June 30, to end the quarter at \$2.5 billion. CEO Chris Oddleifson attributed the growth to the bank's conservative management philosophy and its strong relationships with communities in the region.

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