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FRIDAY, August 29, 2014

'IT'S LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY'

Market Basket in Gloucester celebrates Arthur T. deal

By ARIANNA MACNEILL
STAFF WRITER

Customers began streaming in, taking up parking spots that had been mostly vacant during the time associates protested against the ousting of the company's CEO Arthur T. Demoulas and customer boycotts ensued.

Inside, customers greeted management and their favorite associates, while part-timers, who may not have seen each other for a few weeks due to a cut in their hours, did the same.

Less than 12 hours earlier, members of the Board of Directors that control the Market Basket supermarket chain agreed to a deal to sell a majority share of the embattled, 71-store chain to ousted CEO Arthur T. Demoulas, ending a six-week saga that included a work stoppage by drivers and warehouse employees, hour and essentially job cuts for nearly 20,000 workers — 200-plus part-timers at the company's Gloucester store alone — and a customer boycott carried out as a show of support for workers who insisted that their CEO — Arthur T., as opposed to his cousin Arthur S. Demoulas — be reinstated.



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Returning part-time cashier Faith LeBrun, right, receives a congratulatory hug Thursday morning from customer Ceclia Doucette of Gloucester, at the Gloucester Crossing Market Basket store. Doucette said she was breaking her boycott of Market Basket following the announcement that the grocery store chain's employees and management had succeeded in their efforts to pressure the board of directors to sell the business to ousted CEO Arthur T. Demoulas.

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Market Basket swings back into gear

By DOUGLAS MOSER
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of triumphant Market Basket employees, including Arthur T. Demoulas, returned to work Thursday as early as 2 a.m. to begin rebuilding the business they brought to a halt to force Demoulas' reinstatement as thousands more customers flooded the chain's 71 supermarkets.

Demoulas, in a brief speech outside corporate headquarters in Tewksbury Thursday morning, thanked the hundreds of employees who gathered there for their support since he was fired June 23, and then led corporate employees back into their offices to assume work from a skeleton crew of temporary employees hired during the standoff.

Red Market Basket rigs, idle since drivers and warehouse workers walked off the job July 18, lined up three rows deep at the

warehouse behind headquarters Thursday morning and nearly a dozen left pulling trailers within an hour of Demoulas' remarks.

Employees at both headquarters and the supermarkets veered from jubilation to disbelief to determination as they hugged, wept, laughed and promised to have Market Basket back in shape within a week or two, a bullish prediction that would beat industry experts' estimations.

Meanwhile, the prominent international investment and advisory firm Blackstone Group paved the way for a deal to happen with assistance for Demoulas to get about \$550 million in financing, a breakthrough that eliminated a key hangup over the terms of seller financing.

"We're ready to put Humpty Dumpty back together," said Stephanie Schwechheimer,

See RESOLUTION, Page 4



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Arthur T. Demoulas greets workers in the warehouse of Market Basket headquarters in Tewksbury on Thursday morning.

State poised to launch tax amnesty program

By ANDY METZGER
STATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON — A tax amnesty program in Massachusetts is set to begin on Labor Day, lasting two months and giving delinquent taxpayers and businesses the chance to avoid penalties if they fully pay outstanding tax liabilities by 5 p.m. on Halloween.

About 300,000 people will be receiving notices in September indicating they are eligible for the program, which proponents hope will bring in millions in state revenue without the need for raising taxes.

With the exception of the corporate tax, which is not included, the amnesty program covers the major tax categories for individuals and businesses, including personal income, sales tax, withholding tax, and tobacco and gasoline excise taxes. Other niche taxes are also not included.

Lawmakers added the tax amnesty program to the annual budget this year but expressed concerns that

such a program should not become routine, and barred participants in the 2014 tax amnesty from eligibility in a future amnesty program for 10 years.

Anyone subject to a tax-related criminal investigation will be ineligible as are people who signed a settlement agreement for the owed taxes or those who committed fraud in connection with the amnesty program, according to the Department of Revenue, which is implementing the program.

Lawmakers estimated the program would bring in \$35 million over its two-month span. House Minority Leader Brad Jones, who proposed the budget provision, said prior amnesty programs for fiscal years 2003, 2009 and 2010, brought in a total of \$167.4 million, including \$102.8 million in fiscal year 2003.

"The repeated success of this tax amnesty program is not by accident, and should

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Schooner fest aims for new 'rediscovery'

By GAIL MCCARTHY
STAFF WRITER

MORE ON THE WEB AT
GloucesterTimes.com

View full schedule for
Gloucester Schooner Festival.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

John Fuller stands in the old fish hold on the schooner Adventure while readying the vessel for this weekend's Schooner Festival.

Looking around Gloucester Harbor this weekend, a passerby may ponder whether it's 1904 or 2014 upon seeing plentiful schooners of all sizes in the historic seaport.

The nation's oldest fishing port will be filled with a record number of historic vessels for the 30th Gloucester Schooner Festival.

In an era when tweets and apps dominate the world's

attention, the Gloucester Schooner Festival celebrates the age of sail, which at one time was the height of the technology.

What began as a rendezvous of American and Canadian schooners in Gloucester Harbor in 1985 has evolved

See SCHOONERS, Page 2

AG candidate pledges plan for fisheries

By SEAN HORGAN
STAFF WRITER

State attorney general candidate Maura Healey is pledging that, if elected, she would not hesitate to initiate legal action against NOAA if it doesn't employ a "balanced regulatory approach and proven scientific methods" when calculating stock assessments and catch limits, or fails to consider the economic impact of its actions on fishing

communities. Healey's pledge is one element of a five-point plan to support the fishing industry and fishing communities released Thursday in advance of the Sept. 9 Democratic primary in which she is opposed by state Sen. Warren Tolman.

In that regard, Healey's plan closely mirrors Coakley's rationale for the failed lawsuit Massachusetts filed



MIKE SPRINGER/Staff photo

Maura Healey, candidate for state attorney general, speaks to supporters at the Fishermen's Memorial in Gloucester during a visit earlier this month. Healey has outlined a five-point plan for dealing with fisheries.

► Weather
Mostly sunny and delightful.
High, 70°; low, 53°.
Forecasts: extended, Page 26.

► Tides
Today
High.....2:07 a.m.....2:26 p.m.
Low.....8:11 a.m.....8:34 p.m.
Tomorrow
High.....2:47 a.m.....3:06 p.m.
Low.....8:51 a.m.....9:18 p.m.

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