

SPORTS
McILROY SHOOTS 63
TO LEAD BRITISH OPEN, B1



GAMBLING
GREENTRACK RALLY
SLATED FOR TODAY
IN MONTGOMERY, A3



144 YEARS OF SERVING THE GREATER GADSDEN AREA

The Gadsden Times

GADSDENTIMES.COM | FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010 | 50 CENTS

GULF SPILL

BP stops oil flow in Gulf; now wait begins

BY COLLEEN LONG
AND HARRY R. WEBER
 Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP finally choked off the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico Thursday — 85 days and up to 184 million gallons after the crisis unfolded — then began a tense 48 hours of watching to see whether the capped-off well would hold or blow a new leak.

To the relief of millions of people along the Gulf Coast, the big, billowing brown cloud of crude at the bottom of the sea disappeared from the underwater video feed for the first time since the disaster began in April, as BP closed the last of three openings in the 75-ton cap lowered onto the well earlier this week.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something

Now begins a waiting period during which engineers will monitor pressure gauges and watch for signs of leaks elsewhere in the well.
The biggest risk: Pressure from the oil trapped under the cap could fracture the well and make the leak even worse, causing oil to spill from other spots on the sea floor.

sooner, though."

But the company stopped far short of declaring victory over the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and one of the nation's worst environmental disasters, a catastrophe that has killed wildlife and threatened the livelihoods of fishermen, restaurateurs and oil industry workers from

Texas to Florida.

Now begins a waiting period during which engineers will monitor pressure gauges and watch for signs of leaks elsewhere in the well.

The biggest risk: Pressure from the oil trapped under the cap could fracture the well and make the leak even worse, causing oil to spill from other spots on the sea floor.

If engineers see any sign of a new leak erupting, the cap will be reopened, allowing oil to spill into the sea again.

Even if the well holds out for the whole two days, the vents will be opened again and oil released while engineers conduct a seismic survey of the ocean floor to make sure oil and gas aren't breaking out of the well into the bedrock, said retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the Obama administration's point man on the disaster.

PLEASE SEE OIL | A8



BP PLC | ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image, taken from video provided by BP PLC at 3:57 p.m. Thursday, shows oil has stopped flowing from the new 75-ton cap atop the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Engineers will monitor pressure gauges and watch for signs of leaks elsewhere in the well.

EDUCATION

AEA's Hubbert stepping down

BY PHILLIP RAWLS
 Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Teacher lobbyist Paul Hubbert is leaving his position as a vice chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, but a Republican leader says the Democratic Party will remain under the influence of Hubbert's Alabama Education Association.

Hubbert said Thursday it would be in the best interests of AEA for him not to be active in the Democratic Party.

"We support friends of education regardless of party, and our membership reflects the diversity of party membership in Alabama," Hubbert said.

State Republican Party Chairman Mike Hubbard said Hubbert's resignation won't make much difference because AEA's No. 2 official, Associate Executive Secretary Joe Reed, is the Democratic Party's vice chairman for minority affairs and that other employees of AEA serve in leadership roles in the party.

"The Alabama Democratic Party is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Alabama Education Association," he said Thursday.

Bradley Byrne, who lost the Republican runoff for governor Tuesday, had made an issue of AEA's top two officials being vice chairmen of the state Democratic Party and had called AEA a corrupting influence on state government.

PLEASE SEE HUBBERT | A9



MARC GOLDEN | GADSDEN TIMES

Etowah County Schools Superintendent Alan Cosby is seen Thursday at the Board of Education office in Gadsden.

Cosby no stranger to Etowah schools

BY ANTRENISE COLE
 Times Staff Writer

Alan Cosby may be new to his role as superintendent of Etowah County Schools, but he's definitely not new to the school system.

He attended Etowah County Schools from the first through 12th grades, then came back to work for the system as a math teacher at Rainbow Middle School after he graduated from college.

After teaching for seven years, Cosby served as the middle school's assistant principal for four years, then as principal for another four years.

He was principal of Southside High School for two years before moving into the superintendent's position to replace Michael Bailey, who retired.

"Being the superintendent was something that I always

'Being the superintendent was something that I always thought about. Did I really think it would become a reality? Probably not, but the reality is here.'

— ALAN COSBY
 New superintendent of Etowah County Schools

thought about," Cosby said. "Did I really think it would become a reality? Probably not, but the reality is here. And in a sense, it's a dream come true to be able to lead a school system like Etowah County Schools — a school system that I've been a part of either as a student or as an employee for my entire life.

"It makes it a little more spe-

cial because I've got a vested interest."

Cosby officially became superintendent July 1, but he said he's been in the office on a daily basis since the first of June.

"It has been a great transition," he said. "The staff at the central office and our schools has welcomed me. I've been able to really hit the ground running."

Cosby said his first few weeks have been spent reviewing the budget.

"We're still in the middle of a prorated budget, so we're trying to make sure that the things that we're doing financially are compatible with our goals and what we want to do in the future," he said.

"We're trying to make sure that we have mechanisms in place to access money as we

PLEASE SEE COSBY | A9

FINANCE

Wall Street crackdown: Consumer guards passed

BY JIM KUHNHEHN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Congress on Thursday passed the stiffest restrictions on banks and Wall Street since the Great Depression, clamping down on lending practices and expanding consumer protections to prevent a repeat of the 2008 meltdown that knocked the economy to its knees.

A year in the making and 22 months after the collapse of Lehman Brothers triggered a worldwide panic in credit and other markets, the bill cleared its final hurdle with a 60-39 Senate vote.

It now goes to the White House for President Barack Obama's signature, expected as early as Wednesday.

The law will give the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy, create a new agency to guard consumers and shine a light into shadow financial

The law will give the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy, create a new agency to guard consumers in their financial transactions and shine a light into shadow financial markets that escaped the oversight of regulators.

markets that escaped the oversight of regulators.

The vote came on the same day that Goldman Sachs & Co. agreed to pay a record \$550 million to settle charges that it misled buyers of mortgage-related investments.

From storefront payday lenders to the biggest banking and investment houses on Wall Street, few players in the

PLEASE SEE GUARDS | A9



DREW ANGERER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., signs the financial reform bill Thursday at a bill enrollment ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington after the Senate passed the bill.

INSIDE TODAY

- Ask Amy.....C3
- Business.....B4
- Classifieds.....B5
- Comics.....C1
- Crossword.....C1
- Features.....A5
- Horoscopes.....C3
- Lotteries.....A2
- NE Alabama.....A3
- Obituaries.....A7
- Opinion.....A4
- Police Report.....A2
- Sports.....B1
- TV Listings.....C3



NERD DOMAIN

This year's Comic-Con in San Diego promises film, TV fodder for fans of all kinds.
A5

TODAY'S WEATHER



Periods of clouds, sun with a passing storm during the afternoon.
 High **93** Low **72**
 For details, see **A10**

