

Weather

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Tonight, mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms.

High: 91 Low: 72

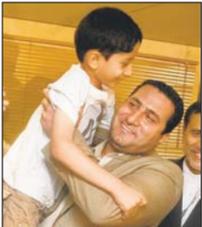
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Obituaries

■ Patricia Ann Harpole
■ William "Bill" Biggers
Whatley Jr.

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Washington



Amid a burgeoning propaganda war between Tehran and Washington, a missing Iranian scientist has returned to Iran.
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Nation



Getting bashed by disgraced former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is a distinction politicians are wearing with pride.
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World



One Holocaust survivor has caused a stir by dancing atop what could have been his grave.
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American and Swiss authorities are disputing who was responsible for a miscommunication concerning sealed transcripts in the Roman Polanski case.
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Hubbert leaving Democratic position

PHILLIP RAWLS
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hubbert

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," Hubbard 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.

Hubbert sent a letter to Democratic Party Chairman and Auburn resident Joe Turnham announcing his departure and

saying he would not run again for the party's vice chairmanship.

Hubbert estimates that AEA turned out 50,000 votes for the winner of the Republican runoff for governor, Dr. Robert Bentley, by getting AEA's Republican members to agree to go vote and to take another voter with them.

Hubbard, the GOP chairman, said he expects AEA's influence in state government, particularly in the Legislature, to be an issue in the general election Nov. 2.



This North End Style Italian Sub is one of a host of regional flavors featured in a challenge between chefs.

'Finally!'



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image taken from video provided by BP at 3:57 p.m., shows that oil has stopped flowing from the new 75-ton cap atop the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday.

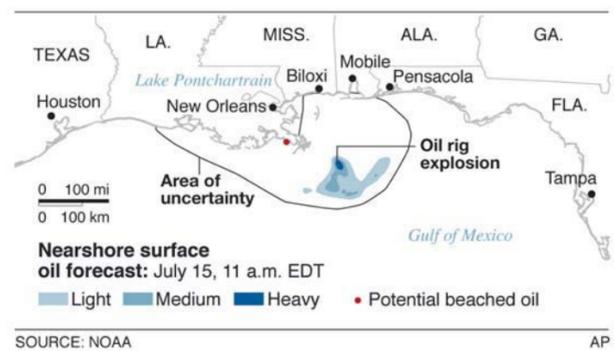
BP chokes off oil leak; wait begins

COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — BP finally choked off the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico on 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



SOURCE: NOAA

AP

counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something 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 catastro-

phe 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

SEE SPILL, PAGE 8A

Congress passes financial overhaul

JIM KUHNHENN
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 in their financial transactions and shine a light into shadow financial markets that escaped the oversight of regulators.

Large, failing financial institutions would be liquidated and the costs assessed on their surviving peers. The Federal Reserve is getting new powers while falling under greater congressional scrutiny.

From storefront payday lenders to the biggest banking and investment houses on Wall Street, few players in the financial world are immune to the bill's reach. Consumer and investor transactions, whether simple debit card swipes or the most complex securities

SEE OVERHAUL, PAGE 8A

History to come alive again at Opelika museum

DONATHAN PRATER
STAFF WRITER

There's a display featuring one of only two magnetic tape recorders in existence, an exhibit with information about the city's former prisoner of war camp, as well as a display featuring the first and last tire to be produced at the Opelika Uniroyal/BFGoodrich plant.

That and much more await visitors attending the official re-opening of the Museum of East Alabama in downtown Opelika

on Saturday.

The museum's re-opening is in conjunction with the city of Opelika and Opelika Main Street's hosting of "Celebrate Opelika" as part of Alabama's Year of Small Towns and Down-towns.

Although much of what past visitors to the museum will see may look familiar, there will be a number of new features they will find at its re-opening.

"The museum's exhibits will

SEE MUSEUM, PAGE 8A



WILLIAM WHITE | OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Textile manufacturing was a large part of the Opelika community's economy over the years. This loom is on display in the Museum of East Alabama, which is re-opening Saturday in downtown Opelika.