

DEMOLITION



Landmark building to be destroyed.

Region 1B

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Hubbert no longer vice chairman.

Region 1B



BULLETPROOF

Roy Rogers' dog fetches \$35,000

NEW YORK — Roy Rogers' stuffed and mounted dog, Bullet, fetched \$35,000 on the second day of an auction of the movie cowboy's belongings in New York City.

An executive of Nebraska cable TV network RFD-TV said the company bought Bullet to accompany Roger's horse Trigger, which the company snagged Wednesday for more than \$266,000. RFD-TV chief financial officer Steve Campione said the network hopes to start a museum one day.

The preserved remains of Rogers' wife's horse, Buttermilk, also were auctioned Thursday. Buttermilk sold for \$25,000.

THE LINDSAY DEFENSE

Man says ankle monitor for Lohan

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Border agents say a New York man tried to explain away the ankle monitor he was wearing while returning from Canada by claiming it was a show of support for actress Lindsay Lohan.

Customs and Border Protection officers said they found the bracelet around Eugene Todie's ankle July 9 after he tried to re-enter the United States using someone else's passport. They said he's on probation and not supposed to leave the country.

They say Todie told them a probation officer friend gave him the bracelet to wear for Lohan.



ONLINE TODAY

Watch the BP live feed to see if the cap remains affixed.



TimesDaily.com

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Thursday's question: Can obesity be controlled by a pill?

Yes: 12.5%
No: 61.7%
Don't know: 25.7%

Today's question: Where would you rather get a pet?

Vote daily online at: TimesDaily.com

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Florence • Muscle Shoals • Sheffield • Tusculumbia • Northwest Alabama

TEAMWORK



Local girls help North to All-Star victory.

Sports 1C

NEW ORLEANS

BP: No more oil leaking into Gulf



Dave Martin/Associated Press

Oysterman Manuel Meyer, of St. Bernard, La., discusses his feelings about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill being capped after bringing in a load of blue crabs in Hopedale, La., on Thursday. Oil from the well-head has been stopped and no more oil is leaking into the Gulf.

Wait begins to ensure cap doesn't burst

By Colleen Long and Harry R. Weber
Associated Press Writers

The oil has stopped. For now. After 85 days and up to 184 million gallons, BP finally gained control over one of America's biggest environmental catastrophes Thursday by placing a carefully fitted cap over a runaway geyser that has been gushing crude into the Gulf of Mexico since early spring.

Though a temporary fix, the accomplishment was greeted with hope, high expectations — and, in many cases along the beleaguered coastline, disbelief. From one Gulf Coast resident came this: "Hallelujah." And from another: "I got to see it to believe it."

If the cap holds, if the sea floor doesn't crack and if the relief wells being prepared are completed successfully, this could be the beginning of the end for the spill. But that's a lot of ifs, and no one was declaring

any sort of victory beyond the moment.

The oil stopped flowing at 2:25 p.m. when the last of three valves in the 75-ton cap was slowly throttled shut. That set off a 48-hour watch period in which — much like the hours immediately after a surgery — the patient was in stable, guarded condition and being watched closely for complications.

"It's a great sight," said BP Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles, who immediately urged caution. The flow, he said, could resume. "It's far from the finish line. ... It's not the time to celebrate."

Nevertheless, one comforting fact stood out: For the first time since an explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon oil rig killed 11 workers April 20 and unleashed the spill 5,000 feet beneath the water's surface, no oil was flowing into the Gulf.

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Riley: Damage won't end soon

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Writer

DAUPHIN ISLAND — Alabama Gov. Bob Riley was upbeat Thursday over the news that BP had stopped the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, but he cautioned that damage from the massive spill will not end any time soon.

At Dauphin Island for a news briefing, the governor's face lit up when he heard the news.

"That's great. I think a lot of prayers were answered today," said Riley.

He was joined by BP chief operating officer Doug Suttles to present a research grant to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Suttles smiled at the news but said it was far too early to celebrate since the flow was only stopped as part of a test.



Riley

FLORENCE



Daniel Giles/TimesDaily

Lauderdale County sheriff's investigator Richard Richey inserts dowel rods to determine the trajectory of bullets that were fired into Tammie Woods' car.

Officials probe shooting

Five bullet holes found in Woods' car

By Tom Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Investigators discovered five bullet holes Thursday in the black Pontiac Grand Prix driven by Tammie Woods when she was fatally shot, officials said.

Woods, 46, was shot as she drove down the driveway of her estranged husband's house on Lauderdale 2 in the Gravelly Springs community Tuesday night.

Tony Randall Woods, 45, 1359 Lauderdale 2, Florence, was arrested for capital murder Wednesday morning.

Investigators said Tony Woods is accused of standing at the end of his driveway and shooting at his estranged wife as she drove away.

Lauderdale County Sheriff Ronnie Willis said Tammie Woods' car crashed a mile from the residence on Lauderdale 2 just after 7:30 p.m. She was pronounced dead at the scene by Lauderdale Coroner Andy High.

The body was sent to the forensics lab in Huntsville for an autopsy.

On Thursday, Willis said investigators examined the car and returned to Tony Woods' house to collect evidence.

"This is all just a part of us trying to finish everything up and get the

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FLORENCE

Board chooses new principal

By Lisa Singleton-Rickman
Staff Writer

The Florence school board Thursday night hired Aimee Rainey, of Mobile, as Florence Middle School principal, replacing Bill Griffin, who retired this summer.

"I can't say enough good things about Aimee," said new Florence Superintendent Janet Womack, who conducted her first school board meeting Thursday. "I expect her to be a great fit in our system and she believes we can be number one in the state and is committed to working toward that."

Rainey was employed on a 12-month contract at an annual salary of \$90,950. She begins her new position in two weeks. Teachers report to work Aug. 5.

Rainey has been the principal of Calcedaevor Elementary in Mobile, a pre-K through sixth-grade school, for the past five years. She also has been an assistant principal, middle school science teacher and speech pathologist.

"She'll be a dynamic leader for Florence Middle School and comes to us with a tremendous reputation," Womack said. "She has led her current school to great heights, including being

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WASHINGTON

Senate passes financial overhaul

By Jim Kuhnhehn
Associated Press Writer

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. 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 financial world are immune to the bill's reach. Consumer and investor transactions, whether simple debit card swipes or the

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HIGHLIGHTS OF FINANCIAL OVERHAUL OVERSIGHT

A 10-member council of regulators led by the Treasury secretary would monitor threats to the financial system. It would decide which companies were so big or interconnected that their failures could upend the financial system. Those companies would be subject to tougher regulation. If such a company teetered, the government could liquidate it. The costs of taking such a company down would be borne by its industry peers.

EXECUTIVE PAY

Shareholders would vote on executive pay packages. But the votes wouldn't be binding. Companies could ignore them. The Fed would oversee executive compensation to make sure it does not encourage excessive risk-taking. If a payout appeared to promote risky business practices, the Fed could intervene to block it.

BANK RESTRICTIONS

Companies that own commercial banks could no longer make speculative bets for their own profits.

See more highlights, Page 5A