

Board discusses uniforms, textbooks

Surveys seek parents' opinions on city school uniform policy

By Jamon Smith
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | The Tuscaloosa City Board of Education on Thursday night discussed school uniforms and ways to acquire funding to provide textbooks for all students.

During previous school board meetings, board members voiced strong support for instituting a student uniform policy as a way to reduce violence in schools and save parents money.

On May 28, the results of a survey given to Tuscaloosa City Schools faculty and staff revealed that a large majority of school employees are supportive of school uniforms — 563 faculty and staff members voted for it and 172 voted against it.

Dorothy Richardson, the Tuscaloosa City Schools assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said at Thursday's meeting that members of her department are sending student uniform surveys to PTA members and other parents' groups to find out if they also support the idea.

Board vice chairwoman Earnestine Tucker said the results of the parent survey would not dictate whether the board chooses to create

SEE POLICY | 11A

Greenetrack ex-workers to rally in Montgomery

By Dana Beyerle
Montgomery Bureau Chief

MONTGOMERY | Former employees of the Greenetrack bingo casino plan to rally at the state Supreme Court today to register concern with rulings that indirectly led to hundreds of people losing their jobs.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus has asked U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to hear complaints that action by Gov. Bob Riley's Task Force on Illegal Gambling nullified results of a constitutional amendment authorizing bingo in Greene County.

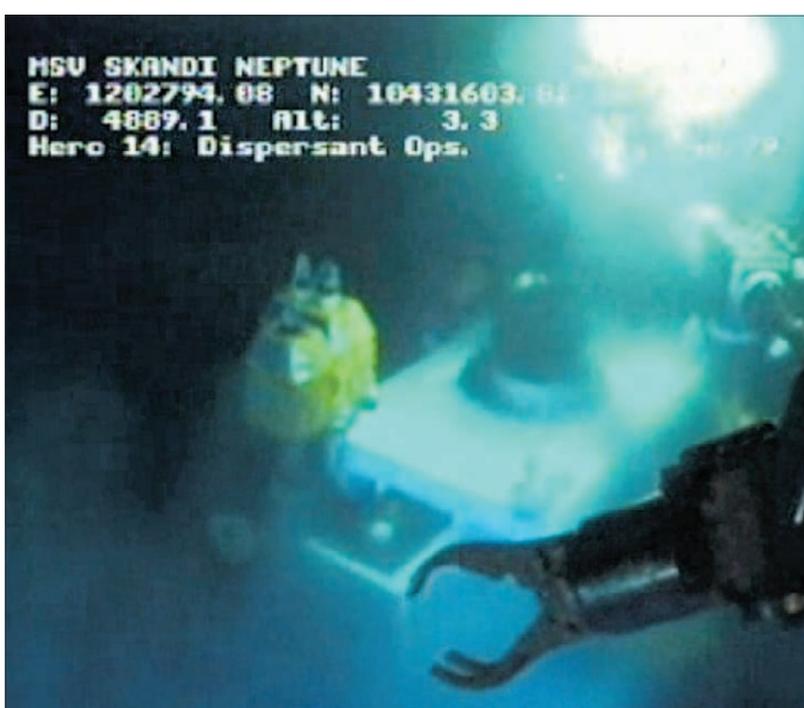
Riley sought and received Supreme Court opinions that paved the way for his task force to seize about 800 bingo machines at Greenetrack that he considers illegal slot machines.

The loss of the machines effectively eliminates Greenetrack as an entertainment destination.

With 400 employees, Greenetrack had been one of the largest, if not the

SEE RALLY | 2A

BP finally stops oil spewing from Gulf gusher — for now



PHOTOS | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOVE: The top of a new 75-ton cap atop the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill can be seen at at 17:56 CDT on Thursday, minutes after the flow of oil was stopped. **RIGHT:** Oil was still flowing from two of three valves at 17:04 CDT Wednesday. These images were taken from video provided by BP.



Cap will be monitored for next 48 hours

By Colleen Long and Harry R. Weber
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS | 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 belea-

guered 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 victory beyond the moment.

The oil stopped flowing at 3:25 p.m. EDT 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

SEE GULF | 11A

NEXT STEPS IN TEST OF OIL CAP

BP shut all three valves to close a new cap over its spewing Gulf of Mexico well Thursday, stopping the flow of oil into the water for the first time since April.

■ THE TEST: BP plans to keep the cap closed for 48 hours to see if it can withstand the pressure of the oil without blowing a new leak in the well. Every six hours, it will assess the pressure readings and other data to decide whether to continue. High pressure is good; low pressure indicates a possible leak in the well and BP could open the cap again.

■ WHAT CAN GO WRONG: A leak somewhere in the well's piping that extends down far into the earth could complicate the situation in two ways. Oil and gas could erupt into the sea floor and be harder to contain. Damage to the pipes underground could also make it harder to plug the well for good with cement and mud.

■ NEXT STEPS: After the test, it's not clear yet whether the oil will remain bottled in the cap or whether BP will chose to use the new device to funnel the crude into four ships on the surface.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: The fishing industry in particular has been buffeted by fallout from the spill. Surveys of oyster grounds in Louisiana showed extensive deaths of the shellfish. Large sections of the Gulf Coast — which accounts for 60 to 70 percent of the oysters eaten in the United States — have been closed to harvesting.

INSIDE
Healthy, well-tended pets being abandoned at shelters as oil spill saps owners' time, money. | **4B**
First group of rescued sea turtle hatchlings released far from oily Gulf Coast. | **4B**

McWane to pay \$4M to resolve violations

Pipemaker also will spend \$9.1M to protect communities near its plants

The Associated Press

PROBLEMS AT PLANTS

The settlement resolves more than 400 violations of air and water quality standards at 28 of McWane Inc.'s plants.

BIRMINGHAM | Cast iron pipe manufacturer McWane Inc. has agreed to pay \$4 million in civil penalties and spend \$9.1 million to protect communities near its plants in 14 states in a settlement with federal environmental regulators.

The settlement with McWane resolves more than 400 violations of air and water quality standards at 28 plants dating back a decade, the Jus-

tice Department and Environmental Protection Agency said in a statement. It said McWane, based in Birmingham, already has spent more than \$7.6 million on corrective measures.

Cynthia Giles, an assistant EPA administrator for enforcement, said the company "will go beyond compliance and take action to protect communities that are at the greatest risk for air and water pollution." She said children and pregnant

SEE MCWANE | 11A

Senate approves financial reform

Obama expected to sign bill next week

By Jim Puzzanghera
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON | Nearly two years after a financial crisis triggered the worst recession since the Great Depression, the Senate approved bold and controversial legislation aimed at preventing a repeat — and set the stage for a showdown over the issue in this fall's midterm elections.

The 60-39 vote Thursday was a major victory for President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders and marked the second landmark overhaul — the first was health care reform — that the administration has pushed through Congress this year.

Obama is expected to sign the financial reform bill next week in an elaborate ceremony touting it as evidence that Democrats are standing up for Main Street against the powerful financial industry and its Republican allies.

Supporters said it gives the government desperately needed tools to avoid future corporate bailouts and prevent financial companies from gouging consumers on mortgages and other financial products.

"Because of this reform, the American people will never again be asked to foot the bill for Wall Street's mistakes," Obama said. "There will be no more taxpayer-funded bailouts, period."

But the sweeping, 2,300-page legislation carries risks for Democrats, who hope to build this fall's midterm election campaign on their tough crackdown on Wall Street.

SEE REFORM | 2A

THE BILL: GOOD OR BAD?

SUPPORTERS SAY: It gives the government tools to avoid future corporate bailouts and prevent financial companies from gouging consumers on mortgages.

OPPONENTS SAY: It is an intrusion of big government into Americans' lives and will lead to more bailouts at taxpayer expense.

GROWING REPUTATION

Advocates say Tuscaloosa is becoming more bicycle-friendly. | **1B**

INSIDE: VOL. 192
NO. 197 | 5 Sections

Bridge 11E	IN TUSK
Business 6B	Comics 20D
Classifieds 2E	Dear Abby 22D
Crossword 11E	Horoscope 23D
Dear Abby 2D	Movies 6D
West Ala. 1B	Television 20D

