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Waiting game begins after BP caps gusher

'Hallelujah': 13-week Gulf oil spill ends; next 2 days critical

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 ac-



BP PLC PHOTOS

Oil stopped flowing Thursday afternoon (right photo), when the last of three valves on the 75-ton cap atop the spill site was closed. The first valve was shut down Wednesday afternoon (left) and the second valve Wednesday night (center).

complishment 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 seafloor 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 12:25 p.m. Tucson time when the last of three valves in the 75-ton cap was

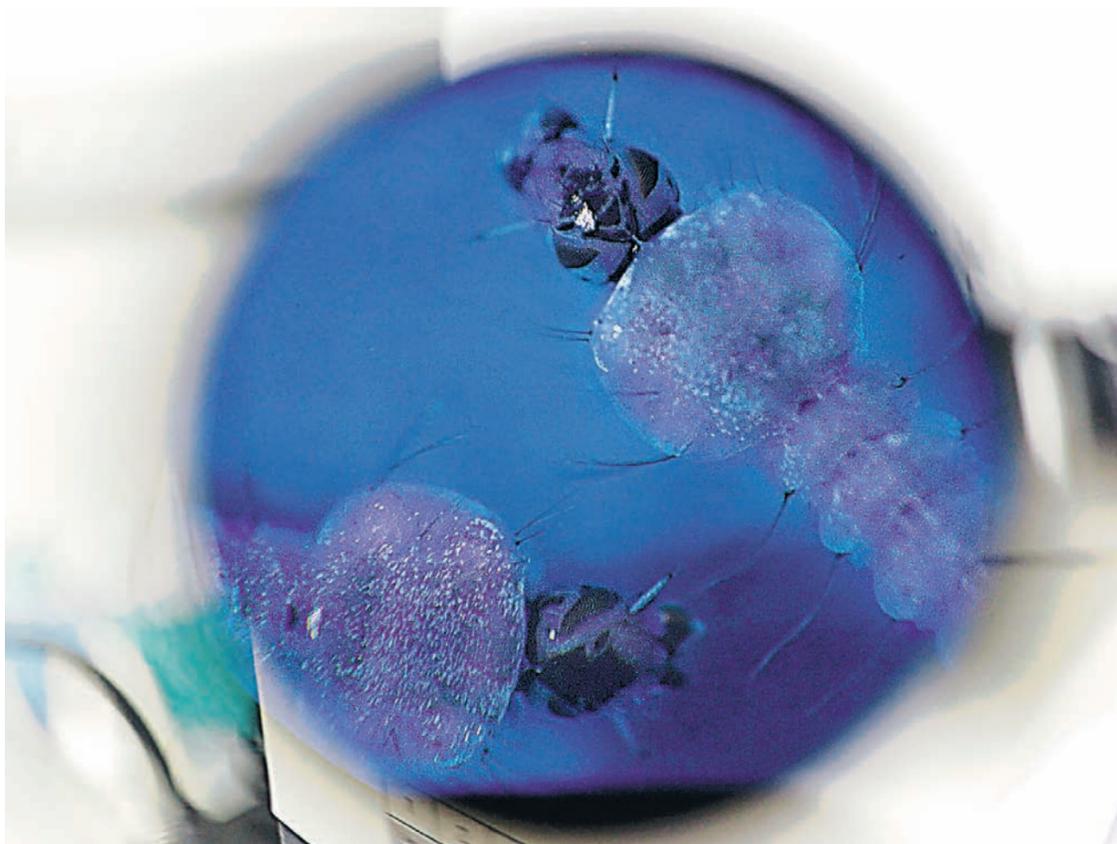
slowly throttled shut. That set off a 48-hour watch period in which — much like the hours immediately after a surgery — the patient was in stable, guarded condition and being watched closely for complications.

"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."

The next 48 hours are critical. Engineers and scientists will be monitoring the cap around the clock, looking for pressure changes. High pressure is good, because it shows there's only a

See SPILL STOPPED, A4

UA MOSQUITO TO FIGHT MALARIA



PHOTOS BY JAMES GREGG / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Michael Riehle, a University of Arizona entomologist, bio-engineered these mosquito larvae, under a microscope in the Marley Building on the UA campus. Tests have shown them to be incapable of hosting the parasite that causes malaria.

Designer insect 'a big step' vs. disease fatal to millions

By Tom Beal
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A University of Arizona entomologist has bio-engineered a mosquito that is completely resistant to the parasite that causes malaria — a significant step toward creating a malaria-free "super mosquito" to replace current populations.

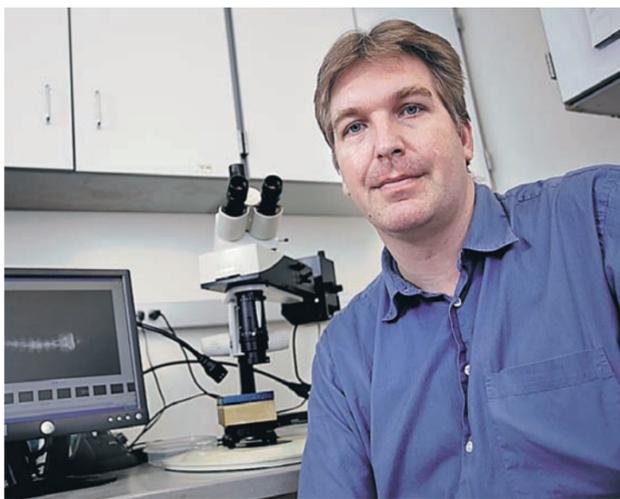
Michael Riehle predicts it will take another decade to produce a malaria-free mosquito that is engineered to out-compete wild populations of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Then the world's governments will have to decide whether the unknown risks of replacing mosquito populations with transgenic mosquitoes are outweighed by the opportunity to eradicate a disease that kills more than 1 million people annually, Riehle said.

"I personally think the benefits will outweigh the risks," Riehle said.

The discovery is a collaboration between Riehle's team at the UA College of Agriculture and Life Sci-

See MALARIA, A4



"I personally think the benefits will outweigh the risks."

Michael Riehle, University of Arizona entomologist

Lawyers debate merits of SB 1070

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — In the first of what will be many court hearings, attorneys for Gov. Jan Brewer told a federal judge Thursday that the state and its taxpayers will suffer if she delays enforcement of Arizona's new immigration law.

A Phoenix police officer wants U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton to block the law, contending he could be subject to termination or hit with a civil lawsuit if he refuses to enforce the law, which he considers unconstitutional, or sued for civil rights violations if he enforces it improperly.

The judge made no rulings on Thursday, saying she wanted to

See SB 1070, A8

SEE MORE INSIDE

Border governors will meet in Santa Fe, N.M., after Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer canceled the meeting scheduled for Phoenix. **A2**

SN On StarNet: Find extensive coverage of immigration issues at azstarnet.com/news/local/border

Regents put off change to free-ride scholarship system

By Becky Pallack
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A regents committee rejected a proposal by the three state universities to change a free-ride scholarship program for the second time this summer.

Regent Dennis DeConcini said he will work with the universities on another proposal to reduce spending on the growing AIMS scholarship program.

If that plan isn't approved by the full Arizona Board of Regents in August, it will be too late for changes to apply this school year.

Sandy Mitchell, a mother of five in Sahuarita, said she would be disappointed if the regents reduced the

See SCHOLARSHIP, A8

SN On StarNet: Go to azstarnet.com/aims for the database of AIMS test scores. See a PDF of the AIMS scholarship brochure at azstarnet.com/pdf

COMING SUNDAY

High school sports

The Star Cup rankings reveal the top athletic programs in Southern Arizona.



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TV listings.....Classified

Monsoon's first month a dry one

Trace amount of rainfall officially in Tucson so far. **Page A2**

Financial overhaul bill passes

Obama expected to sign it into law by Wednesday. **Page A9**

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 104 / Low: 82
40% chance of rain