

COUNTRY LADY

Hill brings hits to Ironstone
SCENE E-14



RISING STAR

Central Catholic standout gains
scouts' attention SPORTS C-1



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Today's Scoop



EXTORTION ALLEGED

An award-winning Modesto real estate adviser, Darrell Anthony Souza, was arrested Thursday on suspicion of grand theft and forgeries causing losses of \$3.2 million to developer Ron Malik. **Page B-1**

'VIRGINITY' IN DOUBT

Many of the olive oils on U.S. supermarket shelves are not the top-grade extra-virgin oils their labels proclaim, according to a report. **Page B-4**



HOLIDAY ANXIETY

It may be hot outside, but stores across the nation are getting a chill thinking about Christmas. Retailers are having second thoughts about orders they placed earlier this year, when the recovery looked stronger. **Page B-4**

SPY VERSUS SPY

Being spied on by the Russians is not an honor. It's just an old habit. The nations we need to worry about are those whose teachers, bureaucrats and innovators are beating us in broad daylight at our own game. **Opinions, Page A-13**



GROUND ZERO RELIC

At ground zero, experts are working to free a ship, likely from the 1700s, buried as landfill to expand old Manhattan. The weathered timbers smell like the low tide. **Page A-5**

COMING SATURDAY

Plan your kitchen remodel carefully, and you'll reap the rewards. Functionality shouldn't take a back seat to style. Luckily, many products look good and work well.

Jobless numbers for June will be released today. Once again, they are expected to reflect persistently high unemployment in Stanislaus County and much of the region.



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'Flavors of the Valley' spice up the fair



JOAN BARNETT LEE / jlee@modbee.com
Fair's 10-day run begins tonight.

New elements in mix as gates open

BY PATTY GUERRA
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TURLOCK — Most years, the Stanislaus County Fair board picks one or two goods to highlight: nuts, pigs, cheese, renewable energy. This year, the theme — and

the fair, which opens today — takes a more encompassing approach: "Flavors of the Valley."

The fair will showcase the variety of food products that come from the Central Valley, from wine and turkey to fruits and vegetables.

"The Flavors of the Valley theme at this year's fair is a salute to our local manufacturers and processors," said

fair spokeswoman Adrenna Alkhas.

Fair officials also brought in a wider variety of attractions, which they hope will attract more people during the fair's 10-day run.

This year's fair is a week earlier than in previous years; the board made the shift after the California State

For fair video snapshots, go to www.modbee.com/videos.

Fun for everyone.

Opinions, Page A-12

Today at the fair.

The Back Page

Presidential turkey.

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KC & the Sunshine Band play Saturday.

Scene, Page E-12

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Coast fishing trip claims three lives



Fourth man still missing after boat capsizes off Marin

BY KEVIN VALINE
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An annual fishing trip for four lifelong friends who grew up in Riverbank ended in tragedy Wednesday morning after their 24-foot sport fishing boat capsized off the Marin County coast.

Three of the men died and one is missing near Point Reyes, according to authorities and family members.

The bodies of Riverbank resident Henry Medrano, 62, and Arkansas resident Melvin Cox, 67, were recovered Wednesday. Family members said they were notified Thursday afternoon that the body of 65-year-old Riverbank resident Ronnie Fuentes had washed ashore.

Riverbank resident Jack Taylor, 62, remains missing.

The four men belonged to Oakdale Offshore Fishermen. Most of the group members grew up together in Riverbank and are in their 50s, 60s and 70s.

Over about two decades, the men have fished in Mexico, Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. But their big annual trip is to Bodega Bay in July.

About four dozen group and family members gathered at Westside Campground near Bodega Bay on Monday for six days of stories, good food and fishing.

They set up camp the first day and fished for halibut Tuesday and Wednesday, said Oakdale resident

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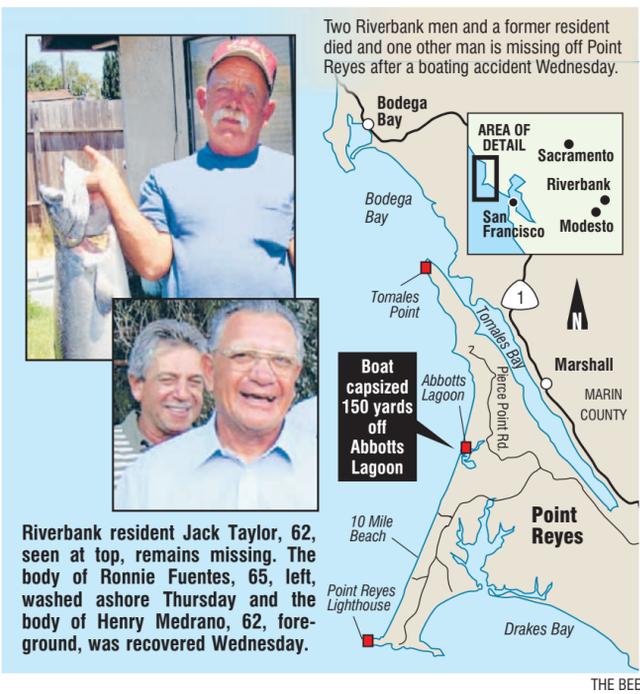


Above, the boat carrying four fishermen capsized near Abbots Lagoon on Wednesday.

PAUL HORR/
MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

At left, John Fagundes of Oakdale mourns the death of his friends, members of Oakdale Offshore Fishermen.

KEN PORTER/PRESS DEMOCRAT



Riverbank resident Jack Taylor, 62, seen at top, remains missing. The body of Ronnie Fuentes, 65, left, washed ashore Thursday and the body of Henry Medrano, 62, foreground, was recovered Wednesday.

Gulf gusher finally stops spewing oil

After 85 days, BP gains control over leaking well

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 the nation'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.

Although a temporary fix, the accomplishment was greeted with hope, high expectations — and, in many cases along the beleaguered coast, 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

Gulf oil spill altering marine food web.
Page A-3

was declaring any sort of victory beyond the moment.

The oil stopped flowing at 12:25 p.m. PDT when the last of three valves in the 75-ton cap was slowly throttled shut. That set off a 48-hour watch 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

SEE PAGE A-3, OIL SPILL

Financial reforms reach the president

Bill aims to block meltdown repeat

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN
Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday voted 60-39 to approve the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system since the Great Depression, clearing the historic legislation for President Barack Obama to sign into law.

Obama hailed the measure's passage, calling it "a Wall Street reform bill that will bring greater economic security to families and businesses across the country. ... All that reform puts in place the strongest consumer financial protections in history ...

"Because of this reform, the American people will never again be asked to foot the bill for Wall Street's mistakes."

Congressional passage of the 2,323-page bill was a striking triumph for Obama, the third landmark legislative victory of his 18-month-old presidency. Like the other two — last year's \$862 billion economic stimulus and the health care overhaul approved earlier this year — it came with little Republican support.

The financial overhaul bill aims to put government rules and tools in place to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial industry meltdown that helped send the nation's economy reeling into what's been called the Great Recession, whose ill effects still linger.

"It is not a perfect bill. I will be the first to admit that," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman of the Banking Committee. "But we believe we have done the best we could under the circumstances to see to it we never have another bailout of a major financial institution at taxpayer expense."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner saluted the legislation and its primary sponsors, Dodd and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services panel: "The Dodd-Frank reform will put in place new rules of the road for America's banks; to protect the financial security of Americans; to protect consumers and investors from fraud and abuse; and to enable businesses to finance future innovation and investment. These rules will make sure that banks — not the taxpayers — will pay for future bank failures."

Republican Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine and Scott Brown of

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