



**Monterey County**

**The Herald**

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**Sports**

Rossi gets OK to race this week, C1



**State OKs school transfers**



**STUDENTS AT LOW-PERFORMING SITES CAN SWITCH**

By CLAUDIA MELÉNDEZ SALINAS  
Herald Salinas Bureau

Starting this fall, students in California's low-performing schools will have the option to transfer to higher achieving schools anywhere they wish.

The State Board of Education approved regulations Thursday that will allow students in 17 schools in Monterey County to apply for a transfer to any school of their choosing, anywhere in the county.

Administrators for the schools in the low-performing list must notify parents no later than Sept. 15 that they can seek greener pastures. Districts, in the meantime, have to develop guidelines for accepting or rejecting

newcomers.

Students have had the option to transfer to any school within their district, but the option to transfer to other districts has been limited.

Although the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District has three schools on the list, a top administrator said she does not expect the new law would create major changes.

**"The schools in this list are bad schools."**

Benjamin Austin  
board member

Please see **Students** page A9

**BP hopes well cap will hold**

**NATION, REGION WATCH CLOSELY FOR NEXT TWO DAYS**

By COLLEEN LONG and HARRY R. WEBER  
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 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.

**HERALD QUESTION OF THE DAY**

**Do you think the latest cap will stop the oil leak for good in the Gulf?**

Yes  No  No opinion

Go to: [montereyherald.com](http://montereyherald.com) to place your vote

Herald surveys are unscientific

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 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

Please see **Oil spill** page A9

**CALIFORNIA RODEO SALINAS**



REG REGALADO/Special for the Herald

**OPENING NIGHT IN SALINAS**

The 100th anniversary edition of the California Rodeo Salinas opened Thursday at the Salinas Sports Complex. Above, Scottie Knapp of Albuquerque, N.M., rides a levitating bull out of

the chute under the watchful eyes of other cowboys. Right, official flag bearer Lindsay Rosser-Sumptner rotates atop her horse in a giant cowboy boot during the National Anthem. See story on page C1.



See [montereyherald.com/contests](http://montereyherald.com/contests) You could win 2 tickets to the California Rodeo Salinas. Pick your day to attend, and enter to win.

**State review of federally subsidized jobs program faults employers, documentation**

**County fires back on claims funds abused**

By JIM JOHNSON  
Herald Salinas Bureau

Workers who were laid off or fired by an employer were re-hired in the same or similar positions while their pay was being subsidized by a county workforce program funded by federal stimulus money.

Two men were hired to get work experience as electricians by installing a furniture warehouse lighting system — even though they had previous electrical experience. The warehouse owner didn't want to pay full price for the work.

That's according to a state review of federal stimulus spending aimed at hiring and job training efforts in Monterey County that found a lack of proper documentation, inaccurate accounting and questionable

**"The purpose of this report is to identify problems and find helpful ways to solve them while the stimulus dollars are still being spent."**

Laura Chick  
State inspector general

employment and training practices.

But a county official said the report failed to take into account the challenges and urgency of trying to help locals who were out of work during the depths of the economic downturn when

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Legislation moves to Obama's desk; he's expected to sign it Wednesday

**Congress OKs financial overhaul**

By 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 Bros. 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

**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, from left, Rep. Barney Frank, Rep. James Clyburn, Sen. Christopher Dodd, during a ceremony on Capitol Hill on Thursday.**



ALEX BRANDON/Associated Press

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