

**'Inception': A film-lover's dream come true** VARIETY



**KOIVU SIGNS FOR \$47.25 MILLION**

**SPORTS**

# StarTribune Friday

MINNEAPOLIS • ST. PAUL • MINNESOTA'S TOP NEWS CHOICE • JULY 16, 2010

## After 86 days, BP stops Gulf oil spill

• New cap sealed the leak, at least temporarily. No one, however, is getting hopes too high yet.

NEWS SERVICES

With slow, carefully monitored half-turns of a valve 5,000 feet underwater, BP finally capped its hemorrhaging well at 2:25 p.m. Thursday, marking the first time in 86 days that oil was not gushing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Officials warned, however, that the capped well may be fleeting if its pipes below the ocean floor prove too damaged to handle a full seal over the long term.

But news that the gushing oil had stopped at least temporarily left a battered region — and officials from BP to the White House — suspended between hope and a knowledge that hope may be premature.

"As you can imagine, it felt very good not to see any oil going into the Gulf of Mexico," said BP Senior Vice President Kent Wells, who announced the closure. "What I'm trying to do is maintain my emotions. Remember, this is the start of our test ... and I don't want to create a false sense of excitement."

That was not much of a risk along the Gulf Coast, where countless livelihoods have been put in jeopardy and fishermen frequently and gloomily remark that Prince William Sound has never been the same since the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska.

"It's like putting a Band-Aid on a dead man in my opinion," said Jeff Ussury, 48, who considers his days as

**Spill continues on A12 ▶**

## Sex-assault victim calls for help on Facebook

• Man charged with sexually assaulting the 12-year-old girl, who tried to fight him off.

By JOY POWELL • jpowell@startribune.com

A desperate cry for help sent to Facebook via a pocket computer led to the arrest of a 42-year-old South St. Paul man suspected of sexually assaulting the 12-year-old daughter of his ex-girlfriend.

The girl told police that her ordeal began shortly after 3 a.m. Saturday when Raymond E. Cesmat came naked into her room after shining a flashlight at her and tried to pull off her pants. He left after "she kicked him and screamed at him to leave her alone," according to a criminal complaint posted Thursday in Dakota County District Court.

The girl had been living at Cesmat's rented Dale Place duplex with him and her mother. That night, her mother was away, staying with a new boyfriend.

After Cesmat left the room, she scrambled to find her iPod touch, used it to look for anyone logged on to Facebook and found someone — the defendant's daughter — who was able to get a message to her mother.

But even as the frantic girl pressed the send button, the alleged assailant, still naked, was back in her room, tearing off her clothes, climbing on

**Assault continues on A9 ▶**

# NEW RULES FOR WALL STREET

• Congress sent President Obama legislation that would spur the toughest restrictions on the financial industry since Great Depression.

By BINYAMIN APPELBAUM and DAVID M. HERSZENHORN New York Times

WASHINGTON — The sweeping expansion of federal financial regulation approved by Congress on Thursday and now headed to President Obama's desk reflects a re-

newed mistrust of financial markets after decades in which Washington stood back from Wall Street with wide-eyed admiration.

The bill, heavily promoted by Obama and congressional Democrats as a way to prevent a repeat of the 2008 meltdown that knocked the economy to its knees, cleared the Sen-

ate 60 to 39, largely along party lines, after weeks of wrangling that allowed Democrats to pick up the three Republican votes needed to ensure passage.

The vote was the culmination of nearly two years of fierce lobbying and intense debate over the appropriate response to the financial excesses that dragged the nation into recession.

The result — the toughest restric-

tions on banks and Wall Street since the Great Depression — is a catalog of repairs and additions to the rusted infrastructure of a regulatory system that has failed to keep pace with the expanding scope and complexity of modern finance.

It leaves a vast number of details for regulators to work out, inevitably

**Overhaul continues on A3 ▶**

**What the bill means for consumers A3**

## 35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

# Legal battle weighs on collapse victims

• The victims were in court to hear more legal maneuvering as they seek punitive damages for their injuries.

By CURT BROWN curt.brown@startribune.com

Nearly three years and 13 surgeries after the 35W bridge collapsed, Paula Coulter couldn't help but grimace Thursday in her front-row seat of a Hennepin County courtroom.

Lawyers were in the midst of an hour-long hearing about whether an engineering firm should face punitive damages in the upcoming bridge collapse trial. As they discussed forced interaction ratios, fatigue capacity and the bridge's under-designed gusset plates, engineering giant URS Corp.'s attorney George Eck said the fact "that good people suffered was irrelevant" to the legal clash over punitive damages.

That's when Coulter winced and shook her head. She was sit-



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • rtsong-taatarii@startribune.com

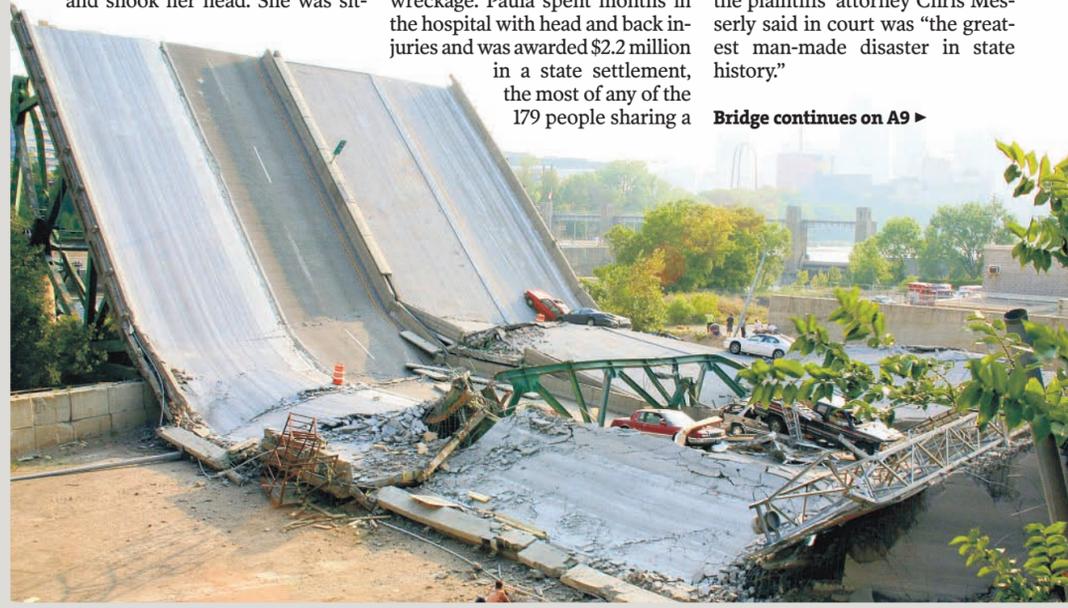
Brandi Coulter and her mother, Paula Coulter, as they left the Hennepin County courtroom on Thursday. Paula Coulter was among the most severely injured, spending months in the hospital with head and back injuries.

ting with her husband, Brad, and their college-aged daughters, Brianna and Brandi. Their van was the third-to-last northbound vehicle that failed to clear the bridge on Aug. 1, 2007. They flipped in mid-air, crashing upside-down on the wreckage. Paula spent months in the hospital with head and back injuries and was awarded \$2.2 million in a state settlement, the most of any of the 179 people sharing a

state victims' fund.

But just a few weeks shy of the bridge collapse's third anniversary, Coulter said it's "sad" that the tedious legal bickering drags on with no end in sight. Thirteen people died and 145 were injured in what the plaintiffs' attorney Chris Messerly said in court was "the greatest man-made disaster in state history."

**Bridge continues on A9 ▶**



TIM DAVIS • Associated Press file photo

## Get ready to take the long way home this weekend



Sources: ESRI, TeleAtlas

By JIM SPENCER • jim.spencer@startribune.com

When 38,000 baseball fans sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Target Field, they should concentrate on the line "I don't care if I never get back." It could be a long ride home.

Just as a Twins' home stand, the city's Aquatennial Festival and the Lilith Fair concert stand to draw 100,000 extra people to the city's center over the weekend, the Minnesota Department of Transportation will completely close downtown sections of I-35W and I-94

and divert 380,000 vehicles to other routes.

The decision to simultaneously shut down the two downtown interstates from 10 p.m. Friday until 5 a.m. Monday appears unprecedented. Unique or not, it will definitely cause travel headaches.

"We're sure there is going to be congestions due to event traffic," Bre Magee, of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, said of the diversion of 380,000 vehicles. "As long as we can get the word out, people can find an-

**Traffic continues on A9 ▶**

### WEATHER



**H88° L66°**

Sunny; heat is on the rise again. **B8**

### TOP NEWS

## VATICAN RULES STIR UP ANGER

Catholic Church releases policy on clergy sex abuse but hasn't adopted "zero tolerance," its critics say. **A4**

## State jobless rate dips to 6.8%

The unemployment rate fell in June, mostly because of workforce dropouts. **D1**

## Petters headed to Leavenworth

The fallen businessman is to be transferred to the Kansas federal prison. **D1**



## Argentina OKs gay marriage

It's first Latin American nation to legalize same-sex unions. **A11**

## A tearful apology in court

Drunken driver apologizes for crash that killed fetus. **B1**



## Driver keeps up hopes for trial

Koua Fong Lee maintains he did no wrong in fatal 2006 crash. **B1**

### HAVE YOU HEARD?

It appears **Sarah Palin** has weighed in on her daughter's engagement and whoa, she's not happy. **A2**

The rosary and sandals once belonging to **Mother Teresa** are making a brief stop for viewing in the Twin Cities. **B2**

Five fast-food chains really have cut back on **artery-clogging fats** in their food, the U of M found. **B3**