

Mississippi Classifieds inside today!

# Energy for learning

## Chevron acknowledges millions in donations/1C



OLE MISS  
**SIDELINE MASCOT LIST AT 5**  
SPORTS, 1B

# THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

FRIDAY gulflive.com Mississippi Edition of the PRESS-REGISTER 50 Cents July 16, 2010

## DIGGING HISTORY

### College team excavates Pascagoula landmark

COAST/LOCAL, 1C



Lindsey Gorum, left, and Raven Christopher work in a large pit at the La Pointe-Krebs Plantation on Wednesday

## Locally designed skimmer christened



Photos by HARLAN KIRGAN/Press-Register

A new 40-foot oil skimmer, named Mississippi Sound, arrives in the Ocean Springs Harbor on Thursday. It is a product of Overing Yacht Designs and Oil Piranha

► First of 14 vessels to be delivered to state today

By HARLAN KIRGAN  
Staff Reporter

OCEAN SPRINGS — The first of 14 skimmers designed by an Ocean Springs man and to be bought by the state was christened Thursday by Ocean Springs Mayor Connie Moran.

The 40-foot vessel is a product of Overing Yacht Designs and Oil Piranha, and will be stationed at Point Cadet in Biloxi.

Designer Jon Overing said the skimmer can operate in water as shallow as 13 inches, as well as offshore.

"The whole idea is to develop a vessel that can operate in the sound," he said.

Overing said the 40-foot skimmer, named Mississippi Sound, cost \$525,000. The 30-foot models will cost \$355,000.

The skimmer, christened in Ocean Springs Harbor, will be delivered to the state Friday, Overing said. Another two skimmers are to be delivered Monday, and four more by the end of next week, he said.

Overing said he began designing the skimmer on Mother's Day, and construction was completed in the past 11 days.



Ocean Springs Mayor Connie Moran christens the skimmer Mississippi Sound. At right is the skimmer's designer, Jon Overing, while at left is Overing's mother, Charlotte.

mer on Mother's Day, and construction was completed in the past 11 days.

See *New skimmer* Page 2A

### GULF OIL SPILL: DAY 88

## OIL LEAK STOPPED?

► Wait begins to see if new oil cap holds

By COLLEEN LONG and HARRY R. WEBER  
Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS — The oil has stopped. For now.

After 88 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.

The oil stopped flowing at 2:25 p.m. 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.



AP, BP PLC

This image shows no oil flowing Thursday from the new 75-ton cap atop the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

### INSIDE OIL COVERAGE

- Photos of spill material hitting Horn Island/2A
- How you can help/2A
- Oil tracking map/4A
- Prayers for the Gulf services set/5A
- Oil Q&A/5A

"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 comforting fact stood out: For the first time since an explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon oil rig killed 11 workers April 20 and unleashed the spill 5,000 feet beneath the water's surface, no oil was flowing into the Gulf.

See *New cap* Page 4A

## BP tries to buy up scientists

► Issue roils academic community

By BEN RAINES  
Staff Reporter

For the last few weeks, BP has been offering signing bonuses and lucrative pay to prominent scientists from public universities around the Gulf Coast to aid its defense

against spill litigation.

BP PLC attempted to hire the entire marine sciences department at one Alabama university, according to scientists involved in discussions with the company's lawyers. The university declined because of confidentiality restrictions that the company sought on any research.

The Press-Register obtained a copy of a contract offered to scientists by BP. It prohibits the scientists from publishing their research, sharing it with other scientists or speaking about the data that they collect for at least the next three years.

"We told them there was no way we would agree to any kind of restrictions on the data we collect. It was pretty clear we wouldn't be

hearing from them again after that," said Bob Shipp, head of marine sciences at the University of South Alabama. "We didn't like the perception of the university representing BP in any fashion."

BP officials declined to answer the newspaper's questions about the matter.

See *BP buying* Page 4A



### Old Crab

I'm good at digging, but I'm afraid if I volunteer to help at Old Spanish Fort that I might find the first dadburn crab pot.

Today 89°  
Tonight 77°  
Scattered T'storms  
Overcast  
Rain 40%  
Rain 40%

Welcome to PASCAGOULA  
Complete Weather 6C

Vol. 197 No. 68 Mobile, Ala. 54 pages 7 sections

**COASTAL Ford**  
Our Goal: Every New Ford \$1,000 LESS!

JUST ANNOUNCED  
**0% 60MO**  
ON ALL 2010 F-150 MODELS OR UP TO \$11,000 OFF MSRP

New 2010 Ford **FOCUS** \$13,988 #AW250655

New 2010 Ford **RANGER REG CAB** \$14,988 OR 0% UP TO 72 MO. #10T117

2 YR. FREE MAINTENANCE ON NEW RANGERS

Prior sales excluded. Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit limited-term financing. All offers with approved credit and include all costs, except, tax, tag, and doc. fee. Dealer retains all factory rebates. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.

7311 Airport Blvd (Between Schillinger and Cody) • 1.866.904.3972 • www.coastal-ford.com • se habla español