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Latest cap stops oil flow

Though a temporary fix, the accomplishment was greeted with hope, high expectations.

By COLLEEN LONG and HARRY R. WEBER
Associated Press Writers

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.

The oil stopped flowing at 3:25
See GULF, Page 14A



Image taken from video provided by BP PLC Thursday shows that oil has stopped flowing from the new cap atop the damaged well.

Schools boss backs hiring

Wilkes-Barre Area's appointment of the daughter of a controversial ex-board president stirs criticism.

By MARK GUYDISH
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WILKES-BARRE — The day after Wilkes-Barre Area School Board hired the daughter of former board president Frank Pizzella Jr., Superintendent Jeff Namey rigorously defended the appointment of Renee Pizzella only months after her father pleaded guilty to corruption charges and left the school board.

Namey responded to a wilting barrage of community criticism.

The Times Leader received numerous calls and e-mails, and the online story about the hiring drew dozens of negative comments, but Namey stuck to his claim at Wednesday night's board meeting that Renee Pizzella got the job on merit.

Namey said she has a bachelor's degree, though it was not in education, and that she was brought into the district initially as a substitute teacher with an emergency certification. This occurred after her father was elected to the school board in 2007. Namey conceded the timing and use of emergency certification

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INSIDE: See editorial, Page 13A.



"Anytime you get a relative of the board member, they are viewed as a political hack. And that's unfortunate and not fair. These are quality people. ..."

Jeff Namey
W-B Area superintendent

TAKING IN THE SHOW AT THE VANS WARPED TOUR



S. JOHN WILKIN/THE TIMES LEADER

Fans of the band Sum 41 enjoy the music during the Vans Warped Tour show at the Toyota Pavilion at Montage Mountain Thursday afternoon. The event is a touring music and extreme sports festival. The BMX/skateboarding shoe manufacturer Vans has sponsored the tour every year since 1995. For the story, see Page 3A.

Hold the phone! We're going to get 10-digit numbers

State authorities move to install a second area code within the area's existing 570.

By STEVE MOCARSKY
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If you live in the 570 area code, you better get your telephone dialing finger in shape — it's probably going to have to do more work beginning next spring.

Unless a phone number conservation plan is

First reported online at
12:03 p.m.
Thursday.

successful, anyone living in the 570 area code will have to dial 10 digits to place a local call beginning March 1, the state Public Utility Commission decided Thursday.

With the availability of new numbers in the area code running low, the PUC voted 5-0 to approve an "all-service distributed overlay" as the form of area code relief

in the 570 area, calling it "the least disruptive" option.

An overlay plan means that once the existing numbers in the 570 area code are exhausted, new telephone services in that geographic region would be assigned numbers with a new area code. Ten-digit local dialing would then apply to all calls.

The administrator that oversees numbering
See PHONE, Page 14A

Moses admits his financial troubles

The case of the former LCCC official charged with theft goes to the jury.

By SHEENA DELAZIO
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WILKES-BARRE — Peter Moses considers his whole life to be a financially difficult one, he testified Thursday.

He has had a travel agency fold, filed for bankruptcy in 2005 and borrowed money from his brother George Moses on several different occasions, he said.

But, he said, that didn't lead him to steal \$17,000 and two laptop computers from Luzerne County Community College between November 2005 and November 2006.

Moses said people who testified against him were either inaccurate or perhaps weren't telling the truth about him. He



Moses

denied being a part of any corruption.

His statements came on the last day of testimony in his trial. A jury began deliberating his fate Thursday afternoon, but after more than four hours of deliberation, it could not reach a verdict.

County Senior Judge Kenneth Brown released the jurors Thursday night and ordered them to resume deliberations today.

Moses, 59, of Terrace Street, Wilkes-Barre, faces two charges of theft. He was charged in September 2008 for allegedly taking more than \$17,000 and two computers from the college.

See MOSES, Page 14A

WEATHER

Brianna Phillips
Mostly sunny, a shower. High 88, low 68.
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE | GOP opponents Marino, Barletta showing strength as Congress races go on

Carney, Kanjorski rolling up fundraising leads

By ANDREW M. SEDER
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Campaign committees for the four area congressional candidates seeking two local seats filed financial reports for the second quarter of 2010 Thursday. Both incumbents maintained distinct fundraising leads over their opponents for the year but neither challenger is about to raise the white flag.

The widest disparity is in the race for the 10th Congressional District where two-term Congressman Chris Carney, D-Dimock Township, raised \$247,017



Carney



Marino



Barletta



Kanjorski

in the three-month reporting period that ran from April 1 through June 30. His challenger, Republican Tom Marino, from Lycoming Township, raised about one-half of that total, reporting \$122,073 in total contributions.

The Carney campaign raked in

the bucks from political committees, including political action committees.

Carney for Congress received 114 contributions totaling \$128,798 from those types of committees. Marino for Congress reported two such contri-

butions totaling \$4,500. Marino's campaign reported 97 donations from individuals, the majority of them living within the district. Carney's campaign received contributions from nearly 400 individuals.

Carney's Campaign Manager Max Cummings heralded the strong fundraising figures.

He said the tally "is the campaign's best three months of fundraising in nearly two years and it illustrates the strong support for his candidacy from Democrats,

See FINANCE, Page 14A