

The State

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010



IN SPORTS:

FROM USC TO USA

Jackie Bradley Jr. eager for next challenge, with U.S. summer squad. **C1**

IN WEEKEND: 'Inception' is a 4-star thriller

GULF OIL SPILL DISASTER

75-ton cap stops gusher

But government, corporate leaders say it's much too soon to declare victory

By COLLEEN LONG and HARRY R. WEBER
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP finally choked off the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday — 85 days and up to 184 million gallons after the crisis unfolded — then

began a tense 48 hours of watching to see whether the capped-off well would hold or blow a new leak.

To the relief of millions of people along the Gulf Coast, the big, billowing brown cloud of crude at the bottom of the sea disappeared from the underwa-

ter video feed for the first time since the disaster began in April, as BP closed the last of three openings in the 75-ton cap lowered onto the well earlier this week.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something sooner, though."

But the company stopped far short of declaring victory over the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and one of the nation's worst environmental disasters, a catastrophe that has killed wildlife and threatened the livelihoods of fishermen, restaurateurs, and oil industry workers from Texas to Florida.

Now begins a waiting period during which engi-

neers will monitor pressure gauges and watch for signs of leaks elsewhere in the well.

The biggest risk: Pressure from the oil trapped under the cap could fracture the well and make the leak even worse, causing oil to spill from other spots on the sea floor.

If engineers see any sign

SEE OIL SPILL PAGE A12

\$140 MILLION S.C. tax receipts jump in quarter

Significant increase called sign economy is getting better

By GINA SMITH
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Tax collections are up nearly \$140 million, a sign South Carolina's economy is expanding and improving, state economists said Thursday.

Still, it's too early to raise revenue projections for this budget year and give lawmakers more money for state operations, said John Rainey, the state's top economic forecaster and chairman of the state's Board of Economic Advisors.

"We're still on the bottom but the projection is clearly up," Rainey said, adding that it would likely be September before the board would seriously consider a state revenue revision.

State tax collections for the past three months have exceeded the board's predictions. Those three good

SEE RECEIPTS PAGE A12

Tumult at Trinity Cathedral



TIM DOMINICK/TDOMINICK@THESTATE.COM

The suspension of the Very Rev. Philip C. Linder, dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, comes as the downtown church completes a \$7 million renovation of the historic structure. The church is expected to reopen this fall.

Dean's suspension creates stir at Columbia church

By CAROLYN CLICK
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The Very Rev. Philip C. Linder, dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, was suspended Thursday by the new bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, apparently over a leadership dispute be-

tween Linder and the governing body of the historic downtown Columbia church.

Bishop W. Andrew Waldo issued the suspension after Linder violated certain ground rules, or "pastoral directives," issued for the mediation process, according to a four-paragraph statement from the

bishop circulated to lay leaders of the church. The statement did not elaborate except to say Linder did not violate any "breaches of moral standards," and church officials reached Thursday also declined to discuss specifics



Linder

SEE TRINITY PAGE A8

Newberry uneasy as Black Panthers' Saturday rally nears

Group wants slaying of a black man and dragging of corpse classified hate crime

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
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NEWBERRY — Dana Brooks understands why the New Black Panther Party is organizing a rally and march

Saturday through her hometown.

But she has no plans to be a part of it.

"It feels like they're stirring up more problems than they're solving," said

Brooks, 18, and a recent graduate of Mid-Carolina High School. "I know they're trying to call attention to a very serious situation. But I don't feel like I should be in a situation where there could be problems."

Fear and uncertainty are thick in Newberry as local

residents prepare for Saturday's rally. No one knows how many people to expect or what the mood will be. Downtown business owners were reluctant to speak this week about the planned rally but most said their businesses already will be closed by the time the Panthers assemble at the court-

house around 5 p.m.

The event is in response to the June 2 killing of Anthony Hill, a black man, was shot to death and his corpse was dragged nearly 11 miles along country roads behind a truck. Gregory Collins, 19, who is

SEE NEWBERRY PAGE A8

[IN THE NEWS]

Financial reform OK'd

Congress approves controversial legislation to prevent another recession. **A4**

Tax-free spree

Retailers are advertising deals that will extend through South Carolina's annual school-time tax-free holiday, which runs from Aug. 6-8 this year.

Learn more about South Carolina's tax-free holiday, including answers to key questions and where to get a list of what's tax-exempt next month. **Business, B6**



[IN METRO]

25 undocumented workers held at Shaw

They were on base to help build command center. **B1**



NewsViews

Local and national opinion at thestate.com/opinion

Today's Weather

8 a.m. Mostly sunny 80	1 p.m. Isolated t-storms 89	7 p.m. Scattered t-storms 82
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Weather, B8

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