

Answers blowing in the wind: New company at Reese Center tests locations for wind farm development/B1

MAKE KIDS COUNT
.COM
United Supermarkets

GO! Buckcherry
 If you're looking to plan your weekend of entertainment, The A-J's got you covered. **GO!**

PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO

If you're looking to plan your weekend of entertainment, The A-J's got you covered. **GO!**

FIRED UP FOR COMPETITION

Feats of strength, endurance will be on display at regional qualifier for Firefighter Combat Challenge. **B1**



FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010 A1

Black Yellow Magenta Cyan

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

www.lubbockonline.com

75 CENTS
 88TH YEAR, NO. 246 © 2010

BP stops Gulf gusher — for now

NATION/Temporary fix brings relief, but still "far from finish line"

BY COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — 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 2:25 p.m. CDT 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 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.

President Barack Obama, who

SEE OIL, PAGE A5

Tech print shop closes to make way for research

TEXAS TECH/Workers say goodbyes as new faculty, staff prepare for move into 30,000-square-foot facility

BY MATTHEW MCGOWAN
 AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

A mechanical hum that has long filled Texas Tech's on-campus print shop went silent this week.

The shop's walls, lined with industry award plaques and artwork only a few weeks ago, stood bare Thursday morning as staffers hauled display cases, desks, chairs and computers outside to waiting trucks.



Bailey

PrintTech

Orders/jobs processed by fiscal year:
 ■ 2002: 2,578
 ■ 2003: 2,770
 ■ 2004: 3,337
 ■ 2005: 4,507
 ■ 2006: 4,109
 ■ 2007: 3,701
 ■ 2008: 5,099
 ■ 2009: 5,279

After serving many of the university's printing needs for the better part of the last century, Tech's Print & Design Solutions, or PrintTech, has closed its doors.

"The reality of it all," Randy Smith, who has headed the department for the past eight years, noted Thursday morning behind a desk in a skeletal office that once belonged to another member of his staff. His own office had already been emptied. "It's difficult to see it all disappear after all these years."

A succession of former staffers dropped in to say their goodbyes. Many hugged him.

"The fat lady has sung," Smith smiled. Soon the 30,000-square-foot facility will bustle with a new crop of faculty and staff.

University officials announced in April that Tech would close the shop this month to make more room for research and new faculty.

News caught the shop's roughly 30 full-time employees off guard.

The decision came without warning from the top after Tech President Guy Bailey met with key staffers who agreed the facility should be remodeled to accommodate the university's more critical aims.

SEE TECH, PAGE A5

Deep Losses



A car sinks into a flooded playa lake near 24th Street and Quaker Avenue after the driver was rescued during the Fourth of July weekend. There were more than 90 water rescues conducted during the early July flooding.

ZACH LONG • AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

LUBBOCK/County claims nearly \$9 million in damage from floods, hopes for relief from federal government

BY ADAM D. YOUNG
 AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

The July 4 weekend floods created more than \$8.6 million in damage and costs in Lubbock County — a tab community leaders hope to see covered, in part, by the federal government.

A disaster summary submitted to the state of Texas by Lubbock County claims the 5 to 10 inches of rain that fell over the area in three days racked up at least \$8,624,033 in emergency response costs and damage to area roads, infrastructure, agriculture and governmental or nonprofit agency buildings, according to the report filed Wednesday.

The report combines damage from the city of Lubbock and other towns in the county, but does not include estimated costs of homes damaged in the floods, said Clinton Thetford, Lubbock County emergency management coordinator.

Thetford said the county could be reimbursed by as much as 75 percent of that \$8.6 million through the Federal Emergency Management Agency because the county's claims will be grouped into a statewide claim for damage from Hurricane Alex.

The county had 10 days to file its damage estimate report with the state, which has 30 days from the time of the event to submit a report to the federal agency.

Claims from a county to receive FEMA emergency funds

SEE FLOOD, PAGE A4

BeyondTheCaprock Ship found buried at ground zero site

NEW YORK — Workers at the World Trade Center site are excavating a 32-foot-long ship hull that apparently was used in the 18th century as part of the fill that extended lower Manhattan into the Hudson River.

Archaeologist Molly McDonald said she wanted to at least salvage some timbers; it was unclear if any large portions could be lifted intact.

"We're mostly clearing it by hand because it's kind of fragile," she said, but construction equipment could be used later in the process.

McDonald and archaeologist A. Michael Pappalardo were at the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks when the discovery was made Tuesday morning.

"We noticed curved timbers that a back hoe brought up," McDonald said Wednesday. "We quickly found the rib of a vessel and continued to clear it away and expose the hull over the last two days."

The two archaeologists work for AKRF, a firm hired to document artifacts discovered at the site. They called the find significant but said more study was needed to determine the age of the ship.

● ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more state, nation and world news, see pages A2-4 and B3-4.

2 Things Inside

(That will make you smarter)

A Texas Tech researcher has published the first step in developing a blood test for Alzheimer's disease.

Page B1

Michael Duff tells how Old Spice has gone from obsolete to king of the Web.

Page B1

In Tomorrow's A-J

Campaign finance reports should give an idea of how the state House races are shaping up.

SECTION A

Words of Inspiration

The righteous perish, devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. (Isaiah 57:1) The godly have been swept from the land. (Micah 7:2)

Cándido Lira, Lubbock

On The Outside

Weather

● Partly cloudy

High: 92

Low: 68

Tomorrow: Sunny with a high of 97.

Find It Inside

Annie.....B4 Lottery.....B2
 Bridge.....C4 Markets.....B2
 Classified...C1-6 Movies.....GO!
 Comics.....D5 Obituaries.....B5
 Crossword...D5 Records.....B2
 Editorial.....A4 Sports...D1-4, 6
 Heloise.....B4 Sudoku.....C6
 Horoscope...D5 Sudoku.....C6
 Jumble.....C5 Weather.....B2

Buy A-J Photos

Local photos at www.lubbockonline.com



LISD board commits to balanced budget despite revenue drop

BY JOE GULICK
 AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Although the Lubbock Independent School District will have \$2 million less in revenue for the upcoming school year than it did for the past school

year, a work session of the board of trustees Thursday morning provided information to indicate the budget will be successfully balanced, said school board President James Arnold.

"This board is committed to having a balanced budget — and

not approving a deficit budget. We're just not going to do that," Arnold said.

He praised Superintendent Karen Garza and Chief Administrative Officer Berhl Robertson for hard work in reducing costs for the school district. Lower

revenues and rising costs faced by the district made the budget process challenging, and they did a good job, he said.

The budget for the upcoming school year will be about \$185.9 million. Declining state and federal revenues have taken about

\$2 million off the money available to the school district as compared to the previous budget year.

Much of the cost-reduction measures by the school district

SEE LISD, PAGE A5

©2010 City Bank Texas. **Join us for our 70th Celebration!** **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF LUBBOCK** **City Bank TEXAS** www.citybankonline.com See our ad on page A2