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**MOVIE TIMES E11**

**Weekend market coming to Pioneer Square**  
**BUSINESS > A11**

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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010

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# Tense watch over oil fix

**SPEWING STOPS FOR FIRST TIME AS CRUCIAL TEST BEGINS**

**'It's a great sight,' says a cautiously optimistic BP exec**

BY COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER  
*The Associated Press*

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 p.m. EDT Thursday when the last of three valves in the 75-ton cap was slowly throttled shut. That set  
**See > GULF, A6**



**BEFORE:** This still image from a live BP video shows robots working Monday to replace the cap on the gushing well in the Gulf.



**AFTER:** This image taken from video provided by BP on Thursday shows that oil has stopped flowing from the new 75-ton cap.

**By the numbers**

- 85 days, 16 hours and roughly 25 minutes:** Time that oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico.
  - 184 million:** Estimated number of gallons of oil released into the Gulf since April 20.
  - 572:** Miles of Gulf Coast shoreline oiled.
  - 2,700 square miles:** Size of the visible slick of surface oil.
  - 83,927 square miles:** Size of the area still closed to fishing.
  - \$3.5 billion:** Amount that BP has spent on the response.
- Sources: AP reporting; National Incident Command; SEC filings

## SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Bob Kehoe, with O'Mega Graphics, paints the Qwest Field roof Thursday. Crews started repainting the roof in May and expect to be finished by next week. Around 1,000 gallons of paint will be used to cover the 210,000-square-foot roof. Painting weather will continue into the foreseeable future, with cloudy mornings, sunny afternoons and highs in the low 70s. **> WEATHER PAGE B10**

## Paul Allen to donate his fortune

**\$13.5 BILLION ESTATE**

**Microsoft co-founder, who has kept philanthropy close to home, points to scientific research as major focus**

BY KRISTI HEIM AND SANDI DOUGHTON  
*Seattle Times staff reporters*

If the past is any indication of what's to come, science in Seattle could get a boost as billionaire Paul Allen makes good on his pledge to give away most of his wealth.  
 The Microsoft co-founder has already established a cutting-edge brain-science institute in his hometown, helped build a computer-science center at the University of Washington, and funded local research on tuberculosis drugs.  
 Allen, whose charitable giving reflects his wide-ranging interests, announced Thursday that he intends to leave the bulk of his \$13.5 billion estate to philanthropic causes. He singled out scientific research as a major focus and the Allen Institute for Brain Science as a model of the type of project he wants to emulate.  
 "His past investments have been significant both for the Seattle area and for science as a whole," said Ed Lazowska, UW professor of computer science and engineering. "His future investments will be dramatically greater and dramatically higher impact."  
 Allen's old friends Bill and Melinda Gates,  
**See > PAUL ALLEN, A10**



Paul Allen has backed a variety of causes.

## Financial overhaul wins Senate approval

**LANDMARK LEGISLATION**

**Backers say it's standing up for Main Street; foes warn of government intrusion**

BY JIM PUZZANGHERA / *Los Angeles Times*  
 WASHINGTON — Nearly two years after a financial crisis triggered the worst recession since the Great Depression, the Senate on Thursday approved bold and controversial legislation aimed at preventing a repeat — and set the stage for a showdown over the issue in this fall's midterm elections.  
 For President Obama and Democratic leaders, the 60-39 vote marked their second landmark overhaul; the first addressed the country's health-care crisis. Obama is expected to sign the finan-

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cial-overhaul bill Wednesday, touting it as evidence that Democrats are standing up for Main Street against the powerful financial industry and its Republican allies.

Supporters said the bill gives the government desperately needed tools to avoid future corporate bailouts and prevent financial companies from

**See > FINANCIAL, A3**

## Mayor's tunnel expert says costs still up in the air

BY MIKE LINDBLOM AND EMILY HEFFTER  
*Seattle Times staff reporters*

The true costs of the planned Highway 99 tunnel can't be known because the project is still at the conceptual stage, an engineering expert hired by Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn said Thursday.

The report by Thom Neff, a longtime project manager and soil expert in Boston, New York and Portland, Ore., seems unlikely to change many minds about the tunnel. McGinn remains at odds with the state and most Seattle City Council members about the estimated \$2 billion project.

However, Neff did point to several reasons



Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn

**See > TUNNEL, A10**

<b>Index</b>	NWTKICKET/MOVIE/TIMES E SECTION
ASK AMY	SPORTS ON TV, RADIO SPORTS C2
NICOLE BRODEUR	YOUR FRIDAY NWFRIDAY B1
BUSINESS	CLASSIFIED ADS
COMICS, PUZZLES	NWALOTOS D SECTION
DEATHS, FUNERALS	GAR. SALE, MERCH. DIRECT. B3
EDITORIALS	PETS DIRECTORY B4
LOTTERY, CORRECTIONS	RENTALS DIRECTORY B3
MOVIE LISTINGS	PUBLIC NOTICES C4

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