

Tri-City Herald



BROTHERS TO PLAY PENDLETON

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Sulfurlike smell halts Hanford landfill work. | D1

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Friday, July 16, 2010

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Oil stops spilling into Gulf

BP's cap working, but company official not ready to celebrate

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 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

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ROLLERZ REJECTED



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Jaime Contreras, treasurer of the local Rollerz Only club, stands next to his 1987 Cadillac with the license plate "BLU DMN." Contreras said his plate refers to a Mexican wrestler, a card board cutout of whom can be seen in the background, whom he was a fan of in the 1980s. The Tri-Cities chapter of Rollerz Only planned to hold a car show Sunday at the Benton County Fairgrounds, but Benton County officials feared possible gang connections, Contreras said.

SHELTER FROM THE SUN



Paul T. Erickson | perickson@tricityherald.com

Andrew Tuley, 6, and his friend Collin Brown, 6, both of Pasco, hunker beneath an automatic water fountain Thursday at the Playground of Dreams spray park in Kennewick's Columbia Park. Today expect sunny skies again with highs in the mid-90s in the Tri-Cities, according to the National Weather Service. For more weather, see Page A10.

County cancels car show on gang fears, club says

Police officer says group didn't have insurance for planned rap concerts at low-rider event

JOHN TRUMBO

HERALD STAFF WRITER

The first of what was planned to be an annual car show, intended Sunday at the Benton County Fairgrounds, has been pulled over and had its license yanked, say its sponsors.

A new low-riders club, the Tri-Cities chapter of Rollerz Only, had billed the event as an open car show so it could attract car owners from any special-interest car club in the Mid-Columbia. It was planned as a family event, suitable for adults and children.

But Benton County officials saw the car show as something else and feared possible gang connections, said Jaime Contreras, treasurer of the local Rollerz Only club.

"They told our club president it was gang-related and the contract was canceled," Contreras said.

The club had paid the county

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BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

Leaders voice frustration over Hanford waste disposal

Officials say they want Yucca Mountain considered

ANNETTE CARY

HERALD STAFF WRITER

Expectations have been dashed that Hanford will be relieved any time soon of some of its burden of nuclear waste, said a parade of frustrated elected officials who spoke Thursday to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

The commission, appointed to recommend a path forward for the nation's high-level radioactive defense waste and used commercial nuclear power fuel, visited the Tri-Cities for two days to learn

how a large nuclear facility affects a community.

"The intensity of feeling was a surprise," said Lee Hamilton, co-chairman of the commission, and former vice chairman of the 9/11 Commission.

But "it's understandable that the people of this community would have deep concerns about a permanent repository," he said. "They've had a long and difficult experience at Hanford."

The commission repeatedly was told that proceeding with the Yucca Mountain, Nev., repository would be the right thing to do.

HANFORD NEWS ONLINE

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"Over the last 30 years, Congress, independent studies, and every previous administration have voted for, pointed to and funded Yucca Mountain as the nation's best option for a nuclear repository," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., in a statement read by her staff because Congress was in session Thursday.

President Obama ordered the commission appointed after his administration moved to shut down the Nevada repository, as he

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Congress passes major financial regulations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Congress on Thursday passed the stiffest restrictions on banks and Wall Street since the Great Depression, clamping down on lending practices and expanding consumer protections to prevent a repeat of the 2008 meltdown that knocked the economy to its knees.

A year in the making and 22 months after the collapse of Lehman Brothers triggered a worldwide panic in credit and other markets, the bill cleared its final hurdle with a 60-39 Senate vote. It now goes to the White House for President Obama's signature, expected as early as Wednesday.

The law will give the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy, create a new

“

Unless your business model depends on cutting corners or bilking your customers, you have nothing to fear.

President Obama

”

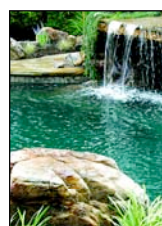
agency to guard consumers in their financial transactions and shine a light into shadow financial markets that escaped the oversight of regulators.

Large, failing financial institutions would be liquidated and the costs assessed on their surviving peers. The

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COMING TOMORROW

Learn how to use fewer chemicals to make your swimming pool beautiful and sustainable. | **Home & Garden**



CHURCH GETS ADVOCATES

Most groups who file briefs supporting church that protests military funerals don't appreciate its message, just its right to free speech. | **Nation, A6**



COUPLE CONVICTED IN STAMOS EXTORTION CASE

A Michigan couple were convicted Thursday of extorting \$680,000 from actor John Stamos by threatening to sell old photos of him with strippers and cocaine to the tabloids unless he paid up. Allison Coss, 24, and Scott Sippola, 31, were found guilty of conspiracy and using e-mail to threaten a person's reputation. Stamos said he was shocked by the "false stories" offered by Coss. Coss, who met Stamos when she was 17, said she had a photo of him with cocaine but that it disappeared during an FBI raid on her home. Agents denied it.



HIGH **95** LOW **60**

MORE WEATHER, **A10**

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