

Sheriff's deputies to provide night security for fairgrounds

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Kogler said the base also will be concrete, so the bench could easily be moved if needed.

• Heard there are several new sponsors for fair events, including F&M Insurance for the motorcycle races and Modern Woodmen for the barbecue.

• Voted to restrict pets from the fenced-in area from the arena to the 4-H and livestock buildings during fair. Anderson said the livestock can get spooked by dogs and the barbecue can get chaotic when pets are running underfoot looking for food. He asked to have

have signs made up and posted around the grounds.

• Voted to charge entry fees for the practice and heat motorcycle races, which are during the day, as well as for the races at night. The board agreed to sell one-time admission tickets, which would be good for the rest of the day, including the evening races.

• Voted to give the ombudsman program - which provides advocates and mediators for nursing home residents - a booth at the fair for a reduced rate of \$30 because the program has a limited budget. The normal fee for an inside booth is \$75.

Escaped inmate re-captured in Colby

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met the employee outside. Officer Sam Steele and Sheriff's Deputy Lance Goodman also went to the bar and together, the officers found a Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck parked nearby.

A check of the license plate got a hit from the National Crime Information Center, Jones said. The truck had been reported stolen from Rice County with

Nickelson listed as the possible driver.

The officers went into the bar and arrested Nickelson without incident. The chief said he did not give any information about himself but he was identified by photos sent out after his escape.

Nickelson was taken to the Law Enforcement Center and has been turned over to Kansas Department of Corrections officers, Jones said.

Oil company uses robot to fit 150,000-pound cap onto well

By Harry R. Weber and Tom Breen

Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS - Undersea robots maneuvered a mile beneath the Gulf on Monday to delicately lower a new, tighter-fitting cap over BP's busted well, a fix the oil giant hopes can finally stop the leak after nearly three months.

The new cap, a 150,000-pound metal stack, was about 300 feet from where it's supposed to be installed on top of the leaking well, BP Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles said in a Monday morning news briefing.

A swarm of remote-controlled robots moved around heavy equipment near the seafloor on live video provided online by BP PLC. It was not clear how close the cap was to the well, but Suttles said the operation was complex and could take longer than they expect.

Oil could still be seen flowing freely from the top of the well where the cap will be attached.

The BP executive was careful to keep expectations grounded, stressing that once the cap is in place, it will take days to know whether it can withstand the pressure of the erupting oil and feed it through pipes to surface ships. The cap and vessels together make up BP's plan to stop oil from spewing into the Gulf for the first time since April 20.

"Until we have the cap on, securely fitted in place, and know it's operating per the design, we have to recognize this is a complex operation," Suttles said.

It is the nation's worst offshore oil spill. The well has spewed between 89.3 million and 176.4 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, according to federal estimates. The Exxon Valdez spilled about 11 million gallons.

Gulf residents were wary after weeks of failed efforts to stop the spill and downcast about the damage already done to the biologically rich Gulf and the coast's two leading industries, fishing and tourism.

Matthew Peterson, a crabber in Ysloskey, La., hasn't put out his traps since oil began washing ashore.

"The oil is still out there, and it's going to be there for, what, maybe 10 years?" he said. "Until it's cleaned up, nothing's going to get back to normal."

BP has tried and failed to counter the gusher with a giant concrete box over the well, mud and shredded rubber pumped into it and a pipe to siphon the crude.

"At this point, there have been so many ups and downs, disappointments, that everybody down here is like, 'We'll believe it when we see it,'" said Keith Kennedy, a charter boat captain in Venice, La.

First lady Michelle Obama was expected in Panama City, Fla., on Monday to meet with local community leaders and tourism officials. The Panhandle city recently opened a new international airport to draw tourists to the area but the oil spill has kept many away - even though pollution on local beaches has been minor so far.

BP's new cap is designed to snap into place atop the well, held

by a connecting piece that was installed overnight on top of the well pipe, said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute.

Once the cap is firmly in place, the company will begin "shutting in" the well by closing perforated pipe at the top. The company will be looking to see if the pressure rises inside the cap. If it does, that means there are no other leaks, and the cap is stopping oil from leaking into the Gulf.

But lower pressure readings may indicate leaking elsewhere in the well. In that case, Suttles said, the company will work to collect

the leak with surface vessels and by dropping yet another cap on top of the stack.

The testing should last about 48 hours, Suttles said.

Even if the tests show the cap is successfully holding in the oil, it will not be the final fix for the blown well. That will have to wait until one of two relief wells reaches the leaking well from underground and can inject heavy drilling mud and cement to form a permanent plug.

BP expects one relief well will do the job, but it's drilling a second as a backup. Officials have offered varying estimates for when

that work will be done, but mid-August is the most common timeframe.

Work on the new cap has been moving briskly, with the old, leaky cap coming off the well on Saturday. One snag in the operation has been a delay in the startup of a vessel called the Helix Producer, which is supposed to connect to the well by a link below the cap, ultimately collecting roughly 1 million gallons of oil a day.

The ship was supposed to begin collection Sunday, but two minor technical glitches prevented that, Suttles said. He expects the ship to begin Monday.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table with columns: Tuesday Evening, July 13, 2010. Rows include channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, and Premium Channels.

Table with columns: Wednesday Evening, July 14, 2010. Rows include channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, KSNK/NBC, KSAS/FOX, Cable Channels, and Premium Channels.

American Profile: We Celebrate Hometown Life. Stories from hometowns just like yours. Includes a list of featured stories.

Weather Corner. National Weather Service Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 100. Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m.

Picnic In The Park. Bring your lunch and lawn chair and enjoy the musical talent of....

Sappa Strings. Wayne & Millie Lauritsen. Photo of a man and a woman with musical instruments.

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