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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Sick sea lions washing up on SM shores

Early blooming algae to blame for 'unprecedented' number of ill marine animals, birds

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A poisonous algae has caused a large number of dazed and confused animals to wash ashore in Santa Monica and other Southern California beach communities in recent weeks.

Usually the algae, which is known as bridal plank-

ton, blooms during a two-month period each summer. However, for some unknown reason it has bloomed months early this year, catching many animals — especially sea lions, dolphins and pelicans — off-guard.

"This is unprecedented," said Jackie Jaakola, director of the non-profit San Pedro Marine Animal Care Center. "I have treated over 150 animals in this year alone."

"Other entire years go by when we treat only 50 animals."

When the algae blooms it releases a toxic substance called domoic acid, which is ingested by small fish like sardines. Larger animals then eat those fish and become sick.

The toxin affects the animals' nervous systems and can cause disorientation, violent seizures, comas and death.

The substance doesn't appear to affect people because they do not swim far enough from the mainland to come into contact with it. But scientists warned that humans can become ill after eating fish



Tim Murphy/Special to the Daily Press

Peter Wallerstein, a marine mammal rescuer, calls to a sick sea lion Thursday to gauge the severity of animal's illness.

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Rescuer working overtime to save poisoned sea lions

BY TIM MURPHY

Special to the Daily Press

Peter Wallerstein has had his work cut out for him the past two weeks.

The marine mammal rescuer spends his day driving up and down the coast searching for sea lions that have washed up on shore. Because of an abundance of natural algae that produces domoic acid, marine mammals are dying daily. In the past two weeks, Wallerstein has rescued more than 30 sea lions and two dolphins.

During his patrol Thursday, he found a sea lion on the beach near the Venice breakwater.

"Hey baby, how you feeling," he yelled, checking the sea lion's responsiveness. The animal eyeballed him, but didn't lift its head.

Wallerstein snuck around and tapped the sea lion's back. The animal responded by snapping backward to

See RESCUE, page 5



Tim Murphy/Special to the Daily Press

Wallerstein drives up and down the coast of L.A. County tending to sick marine animals.

Judge goes over city's head

Meets with L.A. County officials to stop athletic fields

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica judge has asked Los Angeles County officials to help him stop the city from building athletic fields near the Santa Monica Superior Courthouse.

West District Supervising Judge Alan B. Haber met with county officials earlier this week to ask them to halt plans to build such a field because he believes the noise generated by athletic activities would adversely affect courtrooms, judges' chambers and jury deliberation rooms along the south wall of the courthouse.

County officials said they would not comment on the specifics of the meeting with Haber or what actions they plan to take, if any.

"At this time nothing has been drafted," said Judy Hammond, a Los Angeles County spokesperson. "It would be premature to say what stance on the issue we are taking."

However, some Santa Monica City Council members and the mayor believe the issue can be resolved easily. They suggested sinking the field into the ground to contain the sound, like an amphitheater, or sound-proofing the courthouse.

Mayor Mike Feinstein said the city would even be willing to throw in some solar panels to seal the deal.

"It could be a money maker for them," he said. "They could cut down on some of their heating and electricity bills."

Feinstein said the courthouse and the fields are compatible because they would keep different hours. While the courthouse is open during the day, the fields would likely be used in the late afternoon and evening, he said.

Haber wrote to the city earlier this month to inform them of his opposition to the athletic fields in a proposed \$120 million redevelopment plan for the civic center.

In that letter, dated April 8, Haber threatened to send all Santa Monica Police Department arrests to the Airport Courthouse if the city chose to push forward with plans for the fields.

Haber said he had the opportunity

to send those cases to the Airport Courthouse ten years ago. However, he wrote that he declined at that time because such an action would burden officers with driving to and from the airport and because it would have been "unfair to the residents of Santa Monica."

"...You should know that disruptions to the court's operations may make such transfers necessary," Haber wrote.

Haber is in charge of superior courts in Santa Monica, Malibu, Culver City, West L.A., Beverly Hills and the Airport Court, which usually handles overflow cases.

The civic center, located on Main Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard, is the city's symbolic geographical point. It serves as an integral part of town because of its proximity to downtown, Santa Monica Place, Palisades Park, the Santa Monica Pier, the Ocean Park neighborhood and Main Street.

The city purchased the 11-acre site from the RAND Corporation in 2000 for \$53 million with the intention of completely overhauling the civic center area so it would better

See JUDGE, page 3

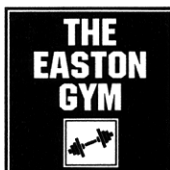
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by what another dumps in your lap. Raising the roof simply might not be worth it. Juggling finances could definitely backfire. Make sure everything you do is on the up-and-up. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You cannot change another's opinion. Stay focused on what is important to you. You're vulnerable to another's criticism. Make sure you have all loose ends tied up at work and financially. Accept an invitation. Give up standing on ceremony. Tonight: The only answer for now is "yes."

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Realize that you cannot always be the focus of attention. Today's Full Moon hits you where it counts. You might have to pick up the pieces for others who decide to head out the door for the weekend. Take your time with details. Tonight: Do errands on the way home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination, when funneled into your work, could make you a leader. This same ingenuity charged into your love life could have passions running high. Use your innate skills to better your life. Someone comes closer. Tonight: Go for an old-fashioned date.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Concentrate on the basics with others. Your ability to get past a problem could relieve you and others again. Though responsibilities call, you know when to call a halt to them and deal with emotional sensitivities, even during work. Another appreciates your efforts. Tonight: Mosey on home.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Finally, you find that others listen. You might feel you're on a whirlwind ride with information, calls and visitors coming in left and right. Understand that you might need to close your door or screen your calls. Postpone personal matters until later. Tonight: Hop out the door.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Finances need to be carefully guarded. You could make a flamboyant expenditure, causing yourself angst later. Check in with a partner or your more-reasonable self. Remember, you have many assets, not necessarily material. Tonight: Pay bills first.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Count on change. A swing comes from behind the scenes to thrust you into the limelight. You could find yourself in a position where you need to decide what your boundaries and limits are. On the other hand, you might be enjoying all the action. Tonight: Go with your impulse.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Use the morning to get what you want. You'll discover that pressure mounts as the day ages. Keep your own counsel and don't spill the beans. Subtly stay on top of a problem. Know that someone cares more than you realize. Tonight: Vanish quickly.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You're on top of a personal matter. Relax and worry less. Maintain a high profile at work. Attend a meeting or get-together later in the afternoon. Get together with others. Don't be all business; allow others to express their sense of fun. Tonight: Join the crowd.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Make long-distance calls and follow through on priorities. How another handles a change could tell you a lot more about him or her than you previously knew. Pressure builds as you juggle work and your home life. Honor priorities. Tonight: Clear out of work as soon as possible.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Deal on a one-on-one level. Stand a partner better by giving this person his or her head. Let this person reveal what might be on his or her mind. Return an important call in the afternoon, even if you find yourself reorganizing your schedule. Tonight: Do something you've always wanted to do.

QUOTE of the DAY

"I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up."
— Tom Lehrer

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LOCAL



People warned not to pet sick marine animals

SEA LIONS, from page 1

poisoned by the algae.

Compounding the problem, female sea lions usually give birth in April and May. The poisonous algae has caused some sea lions to give birth prematurely.

At the San Pedro hospital, which takes in animals from Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, veterinarians have treated hundreds of cases stemming from the poison.

The animals are given intravenous fluids and treated with heavy doses of antibiotics.

"We're spending thousands of dollars each week treating the animals we have in-house," Jaakola said.

Perhaps because of that, only a small number of sea lions have been lost.

"Most are surviving," Jaakola said. "We were told to expect a 50 percent mortality rate, but thankfully it hasn't been nearly that high."

The Whale Rescue Team, a non-profit group that patrols Los Angeles County beaches picking up injured sea life, reported it is being inundated with sick marine life.

Peter Wallerstein, who runs the organization, said his team is getting 50-60 phone

calls a day from concerned residents. Last week alone they rescued 45 sea lions.

The situation has become so severe that Wallerstein and his crew are triaging animals on the beach before deciding which ones need medical attention most urgently.

"On average, we might see a few cases a year — more in the summer time," Wallerstein said. "But nowhere near this level."

"There has been nothing ever like this."

On Thursday morning, Wallerstein was called to an area of beach just below Strand Avenue in Santa Monica, where a pregnant sea lion had gone into a coma before reaching the shore.

Wallerstein crept into the water and pulled the giant mammal to the sand, saving her from drowning in the shallow water.

"After she came to, she waddled back into the water," he said. "It's sad because she'll get sick again and wash up on the shore. Hopefully we'll be there next time to give her another chance."

The safest place is for a sick sea lion is the beach, Wallerstein said. The warmth from the sun and the fresh air is good for them.

However, people should not approach

any sick animals, he said.

On Saturday, a woman was badly bitten by a sea lion on Venice Beach when she tried to pet it, Wallerstein said. The disorientated sea lion then charged animal control officials who were trying to subdue it.

Wallerstein recommended calling the

Whale Rescue Team or the local animal control office.

"This isn't Sea World, these are wild animals," Wallerstein said. "People need to respect them. They can cause severe injury to people and children, and they have transmittable diseases."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Helena Chavez Villarino, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, speaks to students at Edison Language Academy on Thursday.

Cesar Chavez celebrated at elementary school

By Daily Press staff

Smack dab in the middle of Santa Monica's troubled east side neighborhood, a "seed of hope" was planted Thursday by the granddaughter of a beloved labor organizer.

Helena Chavez Villarino, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, along with school district officials and students gathered at bilingual Edison Language Academy to honor the man whose leadership brought peace and lessons of non-violence.

More than 100 young children of all nationalities assembled for peace at Edison, located in Santa Monica's most gang-ridden area, the Pico neighborhood.

"Cesar Chavez's values were service to others, sacrifice, a preference to help the most needy, determination, non-vio-

lence, tolerance, respect for life, celebrating community, knowledge and innovation," said Chavez Villarino.

"My grandfather's values were a motivating force that urged him forward every day of his life."

After her brief speech, Chavez Villarino was inundated with children who wanted her autograph.

April 23 marked the anniversary of Chavez's death. But the event was one of celebration as the community gathered to complete five "seeds of hope" banners that express Chavez Villarino's message.

The banners, draped around Edison's courtyard, were created by more than 700 students, teachers and parents. Kids expressed their feelings through words, poetry and drawings.

Judge's proposed retaliation could burden cops, residents

JUDGE, from page 1

connect to downtown Santa Monica.

Current plans for the area include a town square, a garden walk with botanical and sculpture gardens, plenty of open space and bicycle paths, as well as a child development facility and a revamped city hall.

Originally the plan did not call for athletic fields, which outraged many coaches, parents, students and sports enthusi-

asts, who believe such amenities are necessary in the city's civic area.

The Santa Monica-Malibu School District lobbied for fields to be included so their students, particularly from the adjacent Santa Monica High School campus, could use them.

City and school district officials have said they may form a joint partnership to split the cost of the new field.

The Q-Line

This week's question:

"If you had to choose from any merchant in the land to occupy the pier, whom would it be and why?"

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line.

— "I think ideally it should have been The Reel Inn, the fish place that's on the Promenade, or The Enterprise Fish Company which is down in Venice. They are both very good fish houses. Both are very woody and perfect for the pier. I'm sad to see the Boathouse going. I'm not

so sure about this Bubba Gump Shrimp. It's more chains and more money coming into the city. The greed in this city has become very blatant."

— "I'm a visitor to Santa Monica. I live in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I've gotten out here several times in the past 20 years and I always enjoy your beautiful

See Q-LINE, page 5



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OPINION

LETTERS

The 'theme' is protecting your property

Editor:

In your April 25 article relating to the Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative, council member Richard Bloom is quoted as saying, "This whole idea of personal choice is some kind of campaign theme." As one of the supporters of the Initiative, I plead guilty — personal choice will be a theme in the campaign to pass the initiative after it qualifies for the ballot.

Mr. Bloom also says that he "can't understand the motivation of this initiative other than it stems out of political motivation." This is nothing more than calculated obtuseness — the motivation is, and has been, obvious. Those who are circulating and signing the initiative do not believe the city has the right to reach down to the level of a single home and dictate what that home must look like. Private homes are not outdoor museums subject to the whims of those who don't own them.

Customary zoning laws apply to everyone. This makes them less susceptible to abuse because the affected constituency is very broad. However, an ordinance that permits the city to significantly restrict discrete homes is substantially more dangerous to the rights of the owners of those homes. This is why we believe that historic preservation laws should be incentive-based and voluntary. Does anyone believe that the city would have the right to force owners of important art to make them available for public viewing? Or to prevent them from being transferred, or even destroyed?

Jerry Rubin unwittingly demonstrated the precise point at Tuesday's public hearing when he said that "the community" doesn't want this initiative. Why is it that my house or anyone's house is a community resource? By what right does "the community" tell me that I am prohibited from building the type of house I desire within the limits of the general zoning laws?

One of the risks of being pro-choice is that you won't like some of the choices people make. However, the history of this country compared with others shows that in the long run maximizing freedom generates a great deal more happiness than does governmental control. If this is a political theme, one could do a lot worse.

Tom Larmore
 Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



Blaze delays firehouse opening another year

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's newest fire station won't be ready for another year after a fire last week gutted the second floor.

Fire investigators said oil-soaked rags, used for finishing woodwork, were left by construction workers balled up on the floor. Fumes from the rags could not escape and caused them to heat up until they burst into flame.

The two-alarm fire at Fire Station 2 on Hollister Avenue caused an estimated \$500,000 in damages to the second floor and attic of the facility.

The new fire house has been under construction for more than a year and was

only weeks away from completion at the time of the fire.

The blaze gutted the upstairs rooms and parts of the building's attic. The large garages used to house the fire trucks suffered only minor smoke and water damage.

All 39 on-duty Santa Monica fire fighters were called to the scene to combat the flames that torched their new home. They were joined by six fire fighters from Los Angeles Fire Department Station 63 in Venice Beach.

Nobody was in the building when the fire broke out, and the fire department did not have any equipment stored at the station.

Man rescues sick animals up and down the coast

RESCUE, from page 1

bite him.

"That's a good sign," Wallerstein said. "If she couldn't lift her head she'd be a candidate."

"She'll probably be a candidate tomorrow."

Most likely, the sea lion will be a candidate for San Pedro Marine Animal Care Center where rescued animals are taken. The center is so overcrowded now that only severely injured or sick animals are taken in.

"We're forced to leave animals on the beach that we'd normally rescue," Wallerstein said. "Some squeeze out their pups way too soon. I hate to leave the animals there to suffer."

After the rescue attempt, Wallerstein's pager goes off. It's a Los Angeles County lifeguard reporting another sick animal.

"None of this would be possible without the lifeguards," Wallerstein said.

Wallerstein's rescue truck doubles as his

office. He carries a pager, cell phone, extra clothes and all of the rescue equipment.

"With the equipment I have I can capture the animal and with help of a couple lifeguards, get it on board," he said.

On Thursday, Wallerstein cruised from the Ventura County Line to South Bay, performing triage on sick animals. Triage entails locating and evaluating the animal, and then transporting the most serious ones to the care facility.

"The most important thing is that people give the animals distance," Wallerstein said. "Otherwise it's dangerous for the animal and the people. Last weekend a woman in Venice was bit so hard she was rushed to the hospital."

Wallerstein operates the Whale Rescue Team, a non-profit organization. Private funding pays for equipment and facilities, and more than 40 volunteers do the work.

"I hope we can get the word out, we could use the support," he said.

For more information, contact the Whale Rescue Team at 1-800-39-WHALE.

The QLine

Q-LINE, from page 3

city but I did have one disappointment and that was that the Boathouse restaurant on the Santa Monica Pier was closed. I went there to eat dinner on Sunday and then I read in your paper about the shrimp place. I would like to see the original ownership return if at all possible. That probably won't happen but that's what I would like to cast my vote for. I enjoy your beautiful city and hope to return again soon."

— "I'd like to see that Boathouse back on the pier. Sheffield would have put in the time to fix it up had she been given the opportunity."

— "I think they should have left The Boathouse. Her grandfather built it. This is insane. I would have left her right where she is. I would have approved her original plan."

— "The city is like the Mafia. They decided to take away something that looks like it belongs on the pier for more money. Bubba Gump comes from one of

the worst movies ever made. The whole town of Santa Monica is wrecked. It's just a mess. These people are green for money. We are all furious about it and we won't forget when it comes time to vote."

— "I think the city of Santa Monica has sold out and I think they are going to lose much by closing the Boathouse. They should have come together with this woman to improve her property and to add a few things to her restaurant that would bring in more people. I'm just a normal person here is Santa Monica and I didn't like that idea at all."

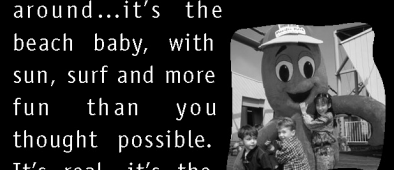
— "I would choose an independent (not a chain, no GAP) store that specializes in moderate priced low-calorie delights. Delights made of yogurt, low-fat milk, wheat bread and fruit. These would be original delights. They wouldn't be copies of things that are elsewhere. They'd be very attractively displayed and a place to sit down to eat them with café latte and cappuccino, etc. It would not be high priced, very moderate. Nutritious snacks."



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STATE

Planners cheer decision restricting development

BY JIM WASSERMAN
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Land-use planners and government agencies, accustomed to second guessing themselves when saying no to developers, are hailing a new U.S. Supreme Court ruling as a victory for sound planning in California.

The ruling, defending government rights to restrict development along the Lake Tahoe shoreline, is the "most significant case for government in 15 years," said Bill Higgins, senior staff attorney for the League of California Cities.

Higgins and others who regulate what can and can't be built in California said the ruling eases years of doubts about rights to temporarily ban development while studying its possible consequences.

Developers and land owners often argue that such delays amount to "taking" their land and sue for financial compensation.

"We refer to it as the 'chilling effect,'" said Higgins. "Just the fact that the government prevailed on good planning principles strengthens the resolve of government to engage in these processes."

Tuesday, the nation's highest court defended the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency halt during the 1980s of halting lakeshore development it believed was harming the lake. Hundreds of people who bought lakeshore lots expecting to build on them demanded money when the

government stalled them. The court ruled that a development moratorium did not legally amount to "taking" their property.

Though no current California land-use cases directly mirror the Tahoe situation, planners said the court's message signals a victory for them.

"It's an affirmation of what we've been doing," said Ralph Faust, chief counsel of the California Coastal Commission.

"We have situations where we look at development and approve development on part of the property and restrict it on other parts," Faust said. "We've always felt it was constitutional, but there's also been a lingering question. Certainly, we think it's a positive decision."

Attorney General Bill Lockyer, in a statement, called the ruling a victory for "sound planning practices and for the future of police power measures necessary to protect public health and safety."

Defenders of private property rights downplayed the ruling.

"A landowner bringing an ordinary run-of-the-mill taking claim is in the same position today as before Tuesday when the case came down," said Jim Burling, chief of the Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation. He said the Lake Tahoe case differs from most city and county development moratoriums, which are limited to two years.

Along the lakeshore, winners were savoring their victory.

Judge throws out suit filed by Beach Boys guitarist

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Superior Court judge rejected a lawsuit by original Beach Boys member Al Jardine against two of his ex-bandmates, noting that a federal court has already dismissed similar allegations.

Jardine, the band's lead guitarist, sued fellow Beach Boys members Brian Wilson and Mike Love, claiming he had been frozen out of the surf rock group. He also alleges that he was excluded from a series of concerts last year.

Jardine, 59, is seeking \$4 million and additional unspecified damages.

Superior Court Judge James Dunn said Wednesday that issues raised in Jardine's state court lawsuit were previously addressed in a federal suit that was later dismissed.

Although he rejected Jardine's lawsuit, Dunn allowed him to amend and refile the complaint. A hearing is scheduled for May 30.

Jardine's attorney, Jeffrey Benice, said his client will file an amended complaint that will try to distinguish the action from the issues covered by the federal court.

Benice said that Jardine is appealing the federal decision.

Pat Boone honored as 'Treasure of Los Angeles'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Entertainer Pat Boone got a pat on the back.

The Central City Association on Thursday officially proclaiming Boone a "Treasure of the City." Previous recipients of the award include Ray Charles, Ray Bradbury and the late Milton Berle.

Eleven others were given the treasure awards, including the Los Angeles Dodgers. Team executive and former manager Tommy Lasorda accepted the honor on behalf of the team.

The presentation was made during a Westin Bonaventure Hotel luncheon that also honored Cardinal Roger Mahony with the "Heart of the City" award. Mahony was returning to Los Angeles from the Vatican and couldn't attend.

Boone, 66, has made recordings, appeared in motion pictures, hosted his own TV show and now heads his own record company, The Gold Label, which features oldies artists like Cleo Laine and Patti Page.

Boone plans to release a DVD, "Pat Boone: April Love," being recorded during his summer concert tour.

"I'm thrilled that people still love the classics," Boone said. "They're like comfort food; a reminder of better, simpler, calmer times."

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Cruel dog owner ordered to pay restitution

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — A woman who pleaded no contest to animal cruelty charges after authorities impounded 24 dogs in her feces-filled home was ordered to pay \$73,984 restitution to the Inland Valley Humane Society.

Patricia Fraus was ordered Wednesday to pay the money to cover impound fees and costs of care, feeding and veterinary care for the dogs taken from her Ontario home on April 12, 2001. Society investigator Allie Jalbert said it was unlikely the costs will be recovered.

"In reality, unless she wins the lottery, we'll probably never see it back," Jalbert said.

Fraus was ordered to make the restitution in payments of \$100 a month, Jalbert said. If she fails to make the \$100 minimum payment, it would violate her probation.

When Humane Society officers went to Fraus' home they found six to 12 inches of feces on the floors and animals with everything from mange to joint problems, Jalbert said. Fraus pleaded no contest to four counts of felony animal cruelty.

Fraus was sentenced to 200 hours of community service and was placed on five years' probation.

Sewage district criticized for withholding study

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The Orange County grand jury chastised the sewage district for waiting six years to publish a 1996 study pinpointing the location of a plume of treated waste drifting less than two miles off Huntington Beach.

The grand jury report released this week said the Orange County Sanitation District "has not disclosed the existence of all publicly funded studies" and does not make its research data easily available to the public.

District officials said they agreed with the grand jury's findings and promised to improve communication with the public.

San Diego Red Cross said to have lost 'effectiveness'

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — An independent review panel has called for top leaders of the San Diego Red Cross chapter to be removed, saying they have lost "effectiveness and standing in the community."

The review by the 14-member panel follows criticism of the chapter's handling of financial aid intended for victims of the 2001 wildfire in Alpine, east of San Diego.

Victims, local officials and members of the chapter's board complained organization leaders blocked efforts to disclose how such donations are spent and thwarted reform efforts.

The panel called for the ouster of chapter CEO Dodie Rotherham and two leaders of the chapter's executive committee, Charles Duddles and Rod Lanthorne.

In its report, the panel criticized the chapter's four-member executive committee for acting in an "autocratic manner."

Rotherham issued a statement Wednesday questioning the panel's methods, and complaining that it failed to interview her, her staff or most board members.

Teen arrested for shooting resting Rottweilers

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — A 15-year-old boy was arrested for allegedly shooting two dogs resting in the fenced front yard of their owner's home.

The teen-ager, whose name wasn't released because of his age, was booked for investigation of felony animal cruelty. Arraignment was expected this week.

Lisa Garcia's two Rottweilers — Adabisi and Zoeie — were shot April 13 as they rested behind a fence in her front yard. One bullet punctured Adabisi's jugular while another bullet ripped through Zoeie's shoulder, shattering her leg.

Adabisi has returned home, but Zoeie remains in a veterinary hospital after shoulder and leg surgery.

Million-dollar donor named chairman of O.C. arts center

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The Orange County Performing Arts Center named a major donor as its chairman.

The center's board unanimously voted Tuesday to make Paul F. Folino chairman designate, giving him three months to learn the volunteer job from current chairman Roger T. Kirwan.

Folino, who has led South Coast Repertory's board for the last two years and spearheaded the Costa Mesa theater's successful fund-raising drive, begins a three-year term July 16.

Folino, 57, is the president and chief executive of the high-tech Costa Mesa firm Emulex Corp. which donated \$10 million to South Coast Repertory. He has been praised as a consensus builder.



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SPORTS

Grizzlies' Gasol named NBA Rookie of the Year

By The Associated Press

BASKETBALL

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol won the NBA's Rookie of the Year Award as a near unanimous pick.

Gasol, a native of Spain, is the first European to win top rookie honors. He received 117 of a possible 126 votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Richard Jefferson of New Jersey had three votes. Jason Richardson of Golden State, Jamaal Tinsley of Indiana and Andrei Kirilenko of Utah each received two votes.

Gasol led the Grizzlies and all rookies in scoring with a 17.6 point average. He also averaged 8.9 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 2.1 blocks and 36.7 minutes. He played in all 82 games and started 79 for the Grizzlies.

He finished the season ranked fourth in the NBA in field goal percentage, shooting 51 percent. He was sixth in total blocks (169) and 10th in double-doubles with 35.

FOOTBALL

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Ravens expanded their depth chart at quarterback to two, signing unrestricted free agent Jeff Blake to a one-year contract.

Blake will serve as the backup to Chris Redman, who was the lone quarterback on the roster after the Ravens released Elvis Grbac and Randall Cunningham.

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys offensive lineman Nate Newton pleaded guilty to drug trafficking as part of a plea agreement.

Other drug charges against Newton were dropped. Sentencing is July 19.

HOCKEY

CHICAGO — A fan who had emergency brain surgery in January after being hit by a hockey puck sued the Chicago Blackhawks, the NHL and the United Center.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of season-ticket holders Elizabeth and Steven Hahn

of LaGrange Park alleges team, league and arena officials knew for years that flying pucks were dangerous but did not increase safety measures.

TENNIS

HOUSTON — Second-seeded Andre Agassi advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships, beating Lee Hyung-taik 6-4, 7-5.

Agassi will face Kristian Pless in the quarterfinals. Pless beat Noam Okun.

Top-seeded Tommy Haas was eliminated in a night match, falling 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) to Wayne Arthurs.

Arthurs, who had 22 aces against the seventh-ranked Haas, will face Guillermo Coria, a winner over Flavio Saretta.

BARCELONA, Spain — Former Australian and French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov lost to Stefano Galvani 7-6 (3), 6-2 in the Open Seat Godo Tournament.

Galvani, ranked No. 137, beat the 28-year-old Kafelnikov in just over an hour in his Godo debut.

Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, ranked No. 1 in the world, beat 19-year-old qualifier Marc Lopez, Albert Costa, the 1997 champion, beat Felix Mantilla, Nicolas Lapentti beat Didac Perez, and Carlos Moya defeated Andrea Gaudenzi.

TRACK AND FIELD

DES MOINES, Iowa — Kansas senior Andy Morris thinks he learns something every time he competes against Kip Janvrin in the decathlon.

That's why his performance was so pleasing to Morris, who was leading Janvrin and everyone else at the halfway point in the Drake Relays decathlon.

Morris compiled 3,957 points in the first five events on a cool, windy day. Janvrin, the reigning U.S. champion and a 12-time winner at Drake, had 3,868. Deandre Free of Missouri-Kansas City was third at 3,814.

GOLF

Tommy Bolt, who entertained galleries with a game that won a U.S. Open and a temper that earned him the nickname "Terrible Tommy," was elected into the World Golf Hall of Fame through the veteran's category.

Bolt will be inducted Nov. 15 at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla., along with Bernhard Langer, Ben Crenshaw, Tony Jacklin and Marlene Hagge of the LPGA Tour.

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Arizona

State's Jamin Kang ended Arizona star Lorena Ochoa's NCAA-record winning streak at seven tournaments, shooting a 2-under 70 for a one-stroke victory over Ochoa in the Pacific-10 championship.

BASEBALL

OAKLAND — The Oakland Athletics are close to signing a lease extension that would keep the team at the Coliseum and end talk of a move across San Francisco Bay to Santa Clara.

The extension would be a five-year deal, keeping the team at the Coliseum through 2007.



National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

FIRST ROUND-Best-of-5 (All times EDT.)

Saturday, April 20

Indiana 89, New Jersey 83
Sacramento 89, Utah 86
San Antonio 110, Seattle 89
Charlotte 80, Orlando 79

Sunday, April 21

Boston 92, Philadelphia 82
Boston leads series 1-0
Dallas 101, Minnesota 94
Dallas leads series 1-0
L.A. Lakers 95, Portland 87,
L.A. Lakers lead series 1-0
Detroit 85, Toronto 63
Detroit leads series 1-0

Monday, April 22

New Jersey 95, Indiana 79
series tied 1-1
Seattle 98, San Antonio 90
series tied 1-1

Tuesday, April 23

Orlando 111, Charlotte 103, OT
series tied 1-1
Utah 93, Sacramento 86
series tied 1-1

Wednesday, April 24

Detroit 96, Toronto 91
Detroit leads series 2-0
Dallas 122, Minnesota 110,
Dallas leads series 2-0

Thursday, April 25

Philadelphia at Boston, 8 p.m.

Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26

New Jersey at Indiana, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

Charlotte at Orlando, 12:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Utah, 3 p.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, 5:30 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

Boston at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 3 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, April 29

Detroit at Toronto, TBA, if necessary
Sacramento at Utah, TBA, if necessary

Tuesday, April 30

Charlotte at Orlando, TBA
New Jersey at Indiana, TBA
Dallas at Minnesota, TBA, if necessary

Wednesday, May 1

Boston at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary
San Antonio at Seattle, TBA
L.A. Lakers at Portland, TBA, if necessary

Thursday, May 2

Indiana at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary
Toronto at Detroit, TBA, if necessary
Minnesota at Dallas, TBA, if necessary
Utah at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

Friday, May 3

Philadelphia at Boston, TBA, if necessary
Orlando at Charlotte, TBA, if necessary
Seattle at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary
Portland at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

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Bethlehem stand off



David Guttenfelder/Associated Press

Under the watchful eye of Israeli soldiers behind a tank, foreground, Palestinian youths form a line after they walked out of the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Thursday. Nine youths walked out of the church accompanied by two monks, left, and carrying two corpses out on stretchers, unseen. It was the largest group to leave the church in the three-week standoff.

Bad economy, tax cuts lead to record refunds this year for taxpayers

BY CURT ANDERSON
AP Tax Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans got nearly \$150 billion in income tax refunds this spring, a record \$1,900 on average. Tax cuts and the nation's sour economy were two of the biggest reasons.

The Internal Revenue Service announced Thursday that the 77 million refunds processed through April 19 also set a record. The same was true for the 36.5 million refunds that taxpayers had deposited directly into their bank accounts.

Grant Thornton accounting firm.

Layoffs can be a factor in bigger tax refunds. A worker earning enough to pay taxes at last year's 27.5 percent rate would have far too much withheld if a layoff means that person earned only enough while working to pay tax at a maximum of 15 percent.

The economy's struggles are expected to reduce the amount of income taxes paid by those who owed money on April 15. Because those taxpayers usually wait until the last minute, the Treasury Department will not have an accurate picture of those payments until early May, a spokeswoman said.

"If the change is in the taxpayer's favor, the amended return also acts as a request for a refund."

— JOHN W. ROTH
CCH Inc., federal tax analyst

United Nations experts declare world economy 'on the mend'

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Declaring that the world economy is "on the mend," the United Nations on Thursday predicted global economic growth of 1.8 percent this year rising to about 3 percent next year — providing there are no major shocks.

"After a pervasive global slowdown in 2001, with roughly a dozen economies falling into recession, a recovery is unfolding," according to the U.N. Global Economic Outlook, which is compiled from reports by 250 economic experts from 60 countries.

But the U.N. report said risks to the U.S.-led recovery abound: possible escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the linked possibility of higher oil prices, a resurgence of war in Afghanistan or elsewhere, the increasing global dependence on the U.S. economy, and the potential for a financial debacle in Japan, the world's second-largest economy.

Even before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a U.S. slowdown had helped drag down the world economy. But the economic shock waves from the attacks led the United Nations in October to revise its global forecast for 2001 down from 2.4 percent to 1.4 percent.

According to the new 17-page outlook, the global economy grew by just 1.2 percent in 2001.

"There isn't any doubt that the outbreak of terrorism set back the United States economy," said Nobel economics laureate Lawrence Klein, who heads the U.N. expert group that meets twice yearly.

"It brought us almost to a very serious recession. But the United States economy has a lot of resilience and it is on the mend at the moment, not by a huge amount, but nevertheless it's not falling at the present time," he told a news conference.

Since the beginning of 2002, a spate of statis-

tics indicate that the upturn in the world economy arrived much earlier than most forecasters expected — especially in the United States, the forecast said.

Data from other regions including Asia and Europe have all shown signs of recovery, it said, although developing countries aren't likely to benefit until the second half of this year.

"The world economy is on the mend," the U.N. forecast said.

It cited low interest rates in many countries, fiscal measures to stimulate economic growth, depleted inventories, resilient household spending, lower oil prices, and increased consumer and business confidence.

"These facts are critical for initiating the recovery, but they may not be enough to sustain it," it said.

A sustained recovery will depend on a resurgence in corporate profits leading to increased capital spending, an improved job market to support consumer spending, and a rebound in international trade, the forecast said.

The U.N. experts added that there are many questions about the breadth of the recovery.

The United States will recover, but gradually, and Western European economies will grow only moderately with unemployment rates not coming down a lot, Klein said.

Countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are also performing better, he said.

In Asia, South Korea is doing well "and the world's two largest countries, China and India have done reasonably well and were areas of stability in the world," Klein said.

But the outlook for Japan, the world's second-largest economy, is "pessimistic" until 2004, he said.

And in the developing world, Klein said, "the deterioration in Latin America is significant" and it's hard to find an area that's doing well economically.

The tax cut signed into law last year by President Bush had a lot to do with refunds that averaged \$1,937, an increase of 13 percent from the previous year. Tax rates were reduced across the board and middle-class taxpayers got a \$100 boost in the child tax credit.

"What you see in the new statistics from the IRS is, in part, the \$57 billion in tax relief for 2001 that resulted from that historic tax cut," said Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

Other taxpayers benefited from an economic stimulus bill Congress passed this year. Small businesses, partnerships and others paying individual rather than corporate income taxes could deduct current-year losses from taxes paid up to five years ago, resulting in big refunds.

Tax advisers instruct clients to plan ahead so they do not get big refunds, arguing that the refunds amount to an interest-free loan to the government of money the taxpayer could use during the year. They recommend adjusting the amount of taxes withheld or structuring tax payments so that taxpayers and the IRS come out roughly even.

Yet the economic downturn and bearish stock market disrupted those plans for some. Many investors had capital losses that offset their taxable gains, while others paid too much in estimated taxes. Some had spent thousands of dollars to get accountants to smooth out their tax picture, only to have it unexpectedly altered by economic circumstances.

"We had some clients who got their feathers ruffled a little bit," said Tom Ochenschlager of the

Experts say there still is time for taxpayers who do not think they took full advantage of the law to get a bigger refund. Amended tax returns can be filed for up to three years from the original due date to fix errors or add something.

"If the change is in the taxpayer's favor, the amended return also acts as a request for a refund," said John W. Roth, federal tax analyst for CCH Inc., a publisher for tax professionals.

More tax cuts took effect in 2002, including lower income tax rates, a new deduction for higher education and higher limits for contributions to both 401(k) plans and individual retirement accounts. The \$1.35 trillion tax cut passed last year phases in slowly through 2010, meaning more reductions are in store for the rest of this decade.

The IRS reported these new records from this year's tax filing season:

—More than 77 million refunds worth \$150 billion.

—About 45.8 million returns filed electronically through April 19, compared with 40.2 million during all of last year. The 9.1 million returns filed by taxpayers on home computers was 37.6 percent more than 2001.

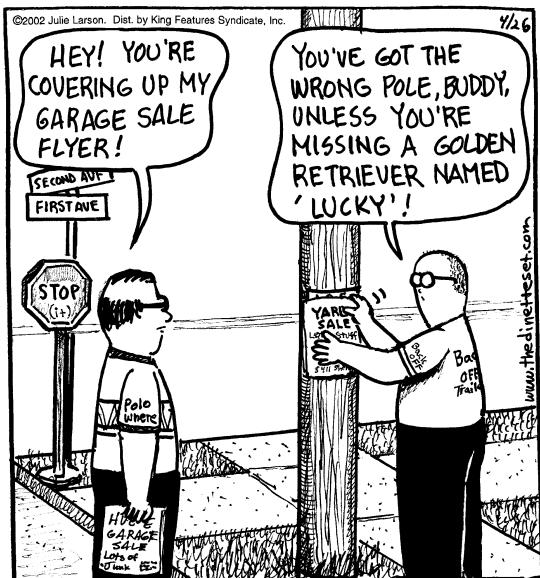
—About 626,000 payments were made electronically, an increase of 8 percent over last year. Credit card payments were down, however, by about 15,000.

—The IRS Internet site recorded 1.97 billion hits during the tax season, an increase of 28 percent over last year. A new daily record was set on April 15, when 78 million hits were recorded.

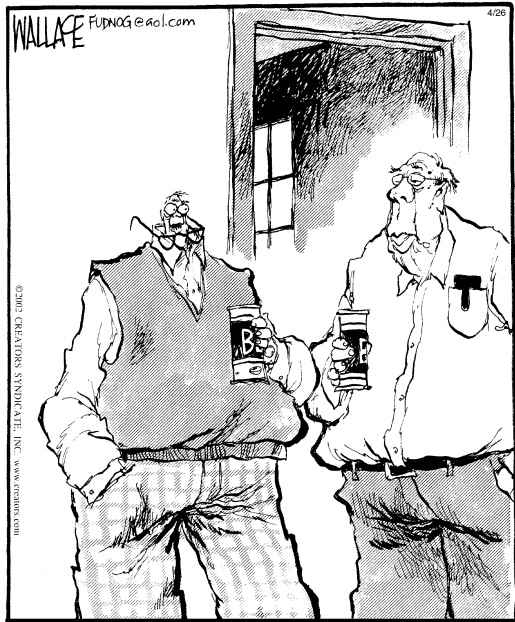


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



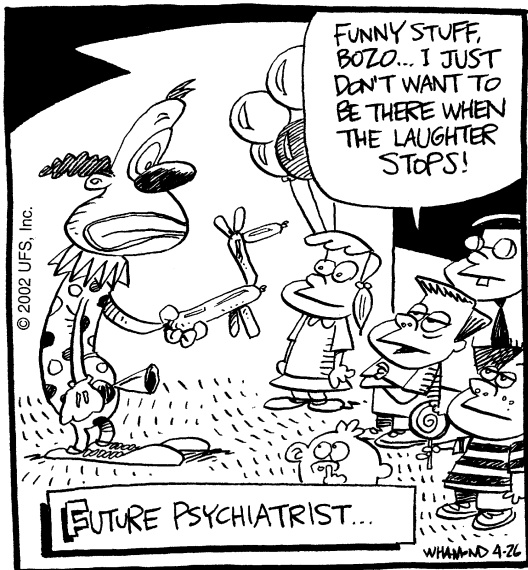
"I mistook that cream Doris uses to shrink her hemorrhoids for my toothpaste."



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Whiz with a whisk
 - 6 Car quartet
 - 11 Green shade
 - 12 Saw
 - 13 Pie nut
 - 14 Neutral color
 - 15 Patella's place
 - 17 Org.'s kin
 - 18 Rock growth
 - 20 Broken
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 - 23 Gathers great amounts of
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 - 28 Foolish
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 - 7 Company thinkers
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 - 37 Neighbor
 - 39 Go down
 - 41 Mom's order
 - 42 Crafty

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Yesterday's answer

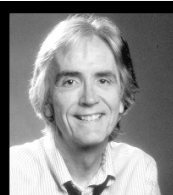
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4-26

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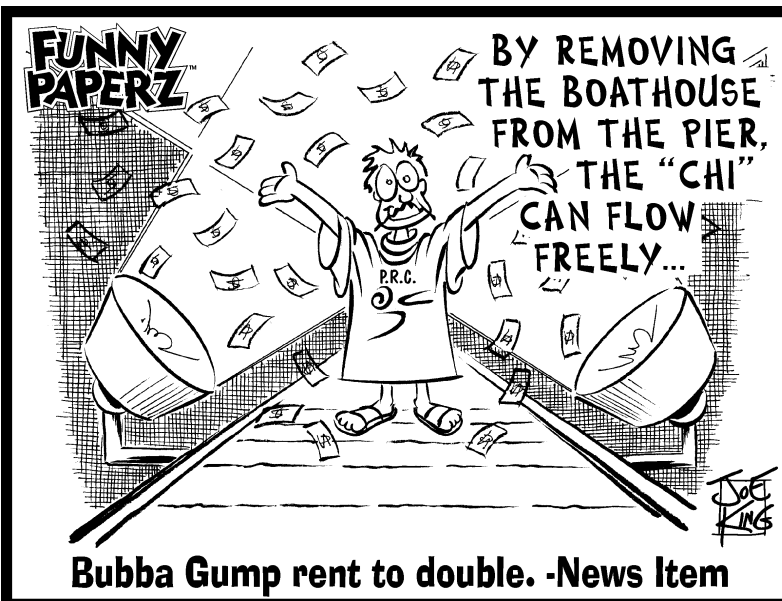


NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Internet group swaps videos of child beatings

The U.S. Postal Service revealed in March that 10 men had already been convicted as part of an Internet group that exchanged videos of themselves administering beatings to children (often their own). One man wanted to join the club but lacked an authentic video to contribute and so made one of himself administering corporal punishment to a small mannequin. Among the group: a middle school teacher, a nurse, a former Boy Scout leader, and a former Sunday school teacher.



Bubba Gump rent to double. -News Item

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Announcements

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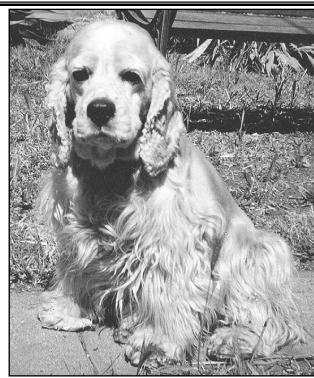
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BACK PAGE

People in Hawaii are asking, 'What's a dog's life worth?'

BY JAYMES SONG

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — An almost comically ineffectual effort to rescue a dog stranded aboard a tanker adrift in the Pacific has people in Hawaii and beyond asking: What is a dog's life really worth?

The extraordinary operation to save 2-year-old Forgea already has cost \$48,000 in private funds, and the Coast Guard is prepared to spend taxpayer dollars on what has become one of the most expensive animal rescues ever.

"I think it's ridiculous," said Cyndi Damo, a dog owner from Huntington Beach, Calif., visiting Honolulu. "There's many ways the money could've been better spent — there's still children that go to bed hungry."

"I think it's cool," Honolulu resident Darryl Uekawa said. "It's the right thing to do."

Forgea, a 40-pound white terrier mix, has been alone on the crippled tanker Insiko 1907 since April 2, when the cruise ship Norwegian Star rescued the captain and 10 crew members. An engine room fire aboard the Indonesian tanker March 13 killed one crew member and knocked out power and communications aboard the ship, which serviced fishing boats with fuel and supplies.

As of Thursday the tanker was more than 600 miles southwest of Honolulu.

It is unclear why Forgea was left behind during the rescue, but the Taiwanese captain — the dog's owner — said there may have been a language barrier between himself and the rescuers from the cruise ship.

A Norwegian Star passenger's remark about the dog on the local TV news prompted viewer calls to the Hawaiian Humane Society, which launched a rescue effort on April 5 that was called off two days later when the Insiko could not be found.

A week later, a Japanese fishing boat spotted the tanker, but Forgea's condition wasn't known until a Coast Guard plane saw the dog running back and forth across the bridge on Saturday.

When a fishing vessel arrived the next day to help,

Forgea, who has lived on the tanker since she was 8 weeks old, ran from rescuers and hid below deck.

Fishermen spent two days in vain trying to tempt the dog with peanut butter and calling out "come" in Mandarin, the language she was raised hearing.

By Tuesday, the Insiko drifted within U.S. territorial waters around Johnston Island and into the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, which has authority to treat the 256-foot Insiko and its 60,000 gallons of diesel fuel and lubricating oil as a hazard to the marine life around the atoll.

The Coast Guard has allotted up to \$250,000 to avert an environmental disaster — an operation that also will include the rescue of Forgea and an attempt to recover the remains of the dead crew member, said Coast Guard Capt. Gilbert Kanazawa, who is in charge of the operation.

A salvage tug hired by the Coast Guard was sent from Honolulu on Tuesday with Humane Society-approved dog traps and is expected to reach the tanker by Friday. Coast Guard officials said a decision has not been made about what to do with the tanker.

The Hawaiian Humane Society said its rescue effort will be covered by \$30,000 from the Humane Society of the United States and donations from animal lovers

around the country. But the tab could run higher if the tug's crew is unable to capture the dog and the Humane Society has to fly someone to the ship.

"It's not tax dollars. It's not coming from people that don't like animals," said Martha Armstrong of the national Humane Society in Washington. "That's what we do, that's what our mission is. Whether it's one dog or a million."

Others feel the money could be better spent.

"I'm all for the dog being rescued, but for \$50,000, they could keep the dogs alive (at the pound) for all their natural lives," said Honolulu dog owner Eugene Depew. "I'm a dog lover. I understand the feelings surrounding wanting to rescue the dog. But there's so much more that could be done with that money."

The captain told a Taiwan newspaper this week he wants his dog back.

"I wish I could fly to Hawaii right away and tell Forgea that you were the bravest on the ship," Chung Chen-po told the United Daily News. He said he adopted the dog at an Indonesian port and named her for the Mandarin word meaning "fortune."

"Maybe Forgea brought us luck so the entire crew was rescued," he said.

Barbara Bush makes pun out of a goof

By The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Barbara Bush decided it was breast not to take offense.

The former first lady was in El Dorado earlier this month to speak at Butler County Community College. A reporter for The Wichita Eagle misheard her, and the newspaper quoted her as joking about having three "breast sizes" during her life, rather than three "dress sizes."

The newspaper ran a correction the following day. But recently it received a letter from Mrs. Bush. The letter was printed on the newspaper's Sunday editorial page.

"I've just become abreast of your recent article

'Barbara Bush wows El Dorado,'" the letter began.

"I am indeed a bosom buddy to two presidents, so I shared some of the things I have learned in 76 years of life," she wrote. "That includes 57 years of married life, six children, 14 grandchildren, five wars, three DRESS sizes, two governors, two parachute jumps, and now two presidents."

"Your article has left this generally outspoken mother speechless, but has given my children much to laugh about."

At the end of the typed letter was a handwritten note: "I just wanted to get this off my chest!"

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