

Baby whale expected to die

United Press International
SEATTLE — Marine biologists trying to save an infant sperm whale abandoned by its mother on an Oregon beach managed to feed the 800-pound baby a mixture of saline and krill Wednesday night, but the mammal's chance of survival was still rated as "zero."

Wearing chest waders and holding onto a large towel looped beneath its head, biologists at the Seattle Aquarium worked in twos, slowly "walking" the 12-foot infant female around a 3½-foot-deep holding pool while volunteers fed the whale special formula through a long tube and bilge pump.

The baby whale's head surfaced periodically to gasp for air. It cried beneath the water with intermittent "clicking" and "popping" sounds.

"We're seeing how long the whale would hold it (the food) down," said C.J. Casson, a staff member at the aquarium. He said the whale had suffered from severe nausea before it was soothed by the "walking" procedure.

Despite the successful feeding, Tag Gornall, a consulting marine veterinarian for the aquarium, still rated the animal's chance of survival at "zero."

"I don't like to be a pessimist," Gornall said, "but the whale's condition is such an unknown quantity that even if it is alive on Thursday, the chances against it's surviving still will be 99 percent. On Friday it will be 98 percent."

"It's as if you were a gorilla and you found a human baby in the

forest. Would you know how to take care of it fully?"

Gornall said the main problem with caring for the whale was that no one knew the full dietary needs of the baby sperm whale. He said biologists will later attempt to feed the whale a different mixture of whipping cream, blended squid, protein meal and small shrimp.

Marilyn Dahlheim, a bioacoustician for the National Marine Fisheries in Seattle, monitored a "hydrophone" dropped into the water to record sounds the whale was making. They were the first recordings of an isolated baby sperm whale's sounds, she said.

"She's producing clicks," Dahlheim said. "She makes four to six popping and clicking sounds in a series."

Quake kills three in Italy

United Press International
NORCIA, Italy — The most intense earthquake to strike Italy in three years rumbled along the Italian peninsula Wednesday from north of Rome to Naples, killing at least three people and sending thousands fleeing into the streets.

A hundred aftershocks shook central Italy into the early morning hours today and rescue crews picked through the rubble of collapsed houses in search of other possible victims.

Police said at least three members of one family were killed Wednesday when the quake knocked down

their stone house in the village of San Marco just outside the Umbrian hilltop town of Norcia.

Dozens of people throughout the region suffered minor injuries, officers said.

Scientists at the Monteporzio Geophysical Observatory near Rome said the earthquake measured 8.0 on the Mercalli scale of intensity and was followed by a series of smaller aftershocks that continued into the early hours of today.

In Golden, Colo., the U.S. Geological Survey measured the tremor at 5.8 on the Richter scale.

Money sent to save couple from eviction

United Press International
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Nearly \$1,000 has been collected to help an elderly couple buy their home back from the real estate broker who gained title to the house because they failed to pay \$3.05 in back taxes.

In addition, Pittsburgh real estate agent J. Howard Mitchell offered to pay \$500 to buy back the home back for Fedo and Hattie Mae Kenon.

A legislative hearing was called for tonight at the courthouse in nearby Quincy to consider reform of the law that led to the Kenons losing their home without knowing it.

The hearing was a response to howls of citizen protests at learning the Kenons, who live on Social Security benefits, had lost their house because they did not pay \$3.05 in 1975 taxes.

"Nobody has done anything illegal," said state Sen. Pat Thomas of Quincy. "But there is a weakness in the law. The Legislature never intended that a person should lose his home under these circumstances."

The home, valued at \$5,200, was bought by Callahan mortgage broker John D. Barrow for \$102, which included the back taxes and county costs in connection with the sale.

"You did not realize you were taking a home from an elderly couple that had worked hard all their life in the cotton field to pay for that little house," Mitchell wrote Barrow.

"You thought you were buying a little piece of land nobody wanted, and you bought it," he said. "It has worried me ever since I read the article in the Pittsburgh Press paper. I will pay you \$500, which is more than you have in it, if you will deed it back to Hattie Mae Kenon."

"You have had some adverse publicity," Mitchell added, "but people will say, 'I knew he would treat the old couple fairly in the end.' Please do this because I know in your heart you are a good fellow."


People from throughout the country have sent money to help the Kenons. Close to \$1,000 has been collected in an account established by friends after Barrow said he'd sell

the property back to the Kenons for \$10,000.

Barrow declined to talk to a UPI reporter without a signed agreement in advance to run his full statement verbatim. The wire service refused.

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