



CRISIS IN THE GULF

After 86 days, oil finally stops leaking

BP and the government could decide to allow the oil to flow again and try to collect all of it.

By Campbell Robertson and Henry Fountain
The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS — BP announced

Thursday that it had capped its hemorrhaging well, at least temporarily, marking the first time in 86 days that oil was not gushing into the Gulf of Mexico. Oil stopped flowing around 2:25 p.m. when the last of several valves was closed on a cap at the top of the well, said Kent Wells, a senior vice president for BP. The announcement came after a series of failed attempts to cap or contain the

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■ UF oil spill task force meets for the first time, See Page 7A

runaway well that tested the nation's patience. Wells emphasized that pressure tests were being conducted to determine the status of the well, which is now sealed like a soda bottle. BP and the government could decide to allow the oil to flow again and try to collect all of it, or they could

leave the well closed permanently. The second option seems unlikely, but whatever the decision, the cap is an interim measure until a relief well can plug the leak for good. "I am very excited that there's no oil in the Gulf of Mexico," Wells said, "but we just started the test and I don't want to create a false sense of excitement."

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More animals being euthanized locally

Tough economy is finding few takers for adoptable pets



The sliding economy continues to cause more people to relinquish their pets and to avoid adopting new pets, leaving a large percentage of adoptable dogs and cats to be euthanized. An adoptable cat is shown at the Alachua County Animal Services headquarters.

By C.J. Pruner
Correspondent

A convergence of economic and seasonal factors has resulted in a dramatic increase in animal euthanizations at the Alachua County Animal Services, according to animal shelter officials. Of the 4,227 animals taken in by Alachua County Animal Services since the first of the year, 1,941 have been euthanized, among them 674 cats, 348 kittens, 606 dogs and 66 puppies.

Cats appear to suffer more from the hard reality. Last month, 91 percent — or 410 — of cats brought in were euthanized, compared to 64 percent — or 384



Veterinarian technician Pam Lipsky escorts a dog that has been adopted from the kennels at the Alachua County Animal Services.

Inside

■ Humane Society is moving into a bigger building, 4A
cats — that were euthanized in June 2009

Dr. Julie Levy, the director of Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program and a faculty member with the University of Florida College of Veterinary

Medicine, said these figures represent a combination of unfortunate factors.

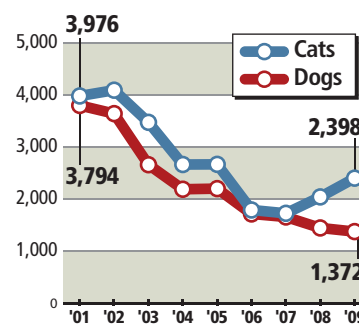
Typically, cats tend to breed in the spring, delivering their litters in the summer. This influx of kittens, combined with the fact that about a quarter of Gainesville's population is away for the

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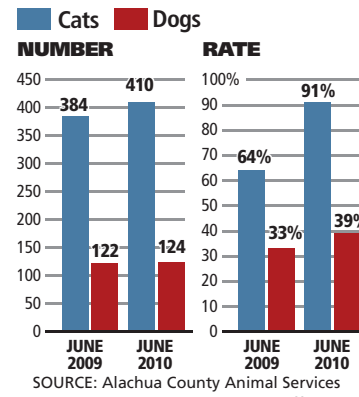
Cat euthanasia rises

The number and rate of homeless cats being euthanized by Alachua County Animal Services has risen dramatically:

EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS BY YEAR



MONTH-TO-MONTH COMPARISON OF EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS



SOURCE: Alachua County Animal Services
ROB MACK/Staff graphic

GOVERNOR VETO

Special session may provide way to restore Shands' funding

Charlie Crist vetoed \$9.7 million earmarked for the hospital in the Legislature's budget.

By Nathan Crabbe
Staff writer

A special legislative session next week on oil drilling might give lawmakers an opportunity to reverse Gov. Charlie Crist's veto of \$9.7 million in funding for Shands at the University of Florida.

State Sen. Steve Oelrich, R-Cross Creek, is filing a bill to be considered during the session that would restore the funding, according to his staff. Lawmakers also could override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

Crist surprised Shands officials in May when he vetoed state money that the hospital had used to care for low-income patients from outside the area. Shands HealthCare CEO Tim Goldfarb said there have since been discussions with legislators and the governor's staff on finding a way to restore the funding.

Without action, he said, Shands will have to start limiting access later this summer to low-income patients from outside the area.

"I don't believe the governor intended to impact poor people who come to Shands from all across the state for care," he said.

A Shands spokeswoman said no patients would be turned away from its emergency room, but they might be sent to hospitals in their home area once they're stabilized. In the past fiscal year,

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City approves fire assessment

At the rate the commission set, it will raise nearly \$4.9 million.

By Chad Smith
Staff writer

After nearly five hours, the Gainesville City Commission late Thursday night adopted a fire assessment that will cost homeowners a few hundred dollars a year to fund half of the fire department and shore up a few million dollars to cover part of the city's budget shortfall.

The commissioners voted 5-2, with Commissioners Jack Donovan and Thomas Hawkins dissenting, to set the assessment at the 50 percent

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TODAY: Showers. 60% chance of rain.	HIGH 94	LOW 72	TOMORROW: High: 92 Low: 72. 50% chance of rain. 5-day forecast, 8B	BUSINESS 3B	CROSSWORD 3D	MOVIES 3D	PEOPLE 2A	© 2010 The Gainesville Sun	For Home delivery call: 378-1416
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