

A promise made, a promise kept to save senior dogs

Angels for Sara offers sanctuary

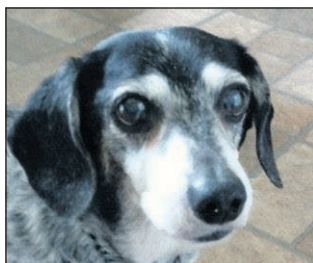
By EVE MARX
For The Daily Astorian

Jacque Pressly got the idea to start Angels For Sara, a sanctuary for senior dogs, while working for the Clatsop County Public Works Department.

"I cleaned the Clatsop County Animal Shelter a couple of times a week in the evening," she said. "There was an old Rottweiler there named 'Sara.' She came to the shelter because her owner had passed away and the family didn't want her. She spent most of her time in the lobby or one of the offices."

When Pressly arrived for work, Sara followed her around. "One evening I arrived and she wasn't there," Pressly said. "I was so excited because I thought she finally got her forever home." She soon learned Sara had been euthanized because her health was in such decline.

"My heart broke," Pressly said. "If I had only known, I would have taken her home with me to keep her comfort-



Submitted Photo
Freedom, a 12-year-old dachshund whose owner had to go in a nursing home.

able and loved instead of her having to live out her days in a cold shelter with no one to love her."

Pressly said she cried all that night as she worked. "When I went outside to take out the garbage, I saw it was a beautiful night and the stars were so bright. I looked up at them and made Sara a promise that some way, some how, I was not going to let this happen again."

Pressly is a big believer that things happen for a reason. A few days after learning of Sara's death, her friend Jackie Beerger, a Cannon Beach resident who worked as a volunteer at the Clatsop County shelter, came to her with an offer to rent



Submitted Photo
Bonnie, about 12, and Clyde, about 13, are looking for a new home after the death of their owner.

an 89-acre property with a mobile home. Pressly immediately thought it would be a good place to have a senior dog sanctuary and began doing the necessary paperwork.

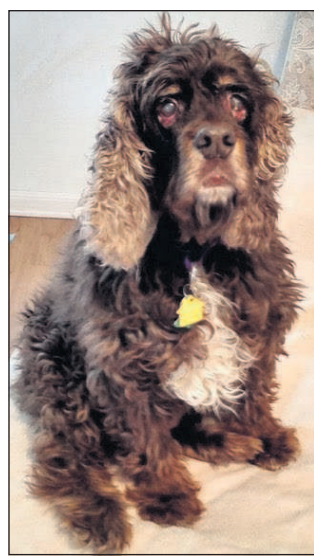
'Bonnie and Clyde'

In 2013 Angels for Sara became a nonprofit corporation. "In January 2014 I moved on to the property," Pressly said. "And in June 2014 our first senior dogs, Bonnie and Clyde, came to live there."

Angels For Sara is a small group providing quality care to senior dogs that have been

abandoned to shelters. Made up of a dedicated team of volunteers, sponsors, and veterinarians, Angels for Sara is funded by grants, sponsorship and donations. The sanctuary offers hospice care to dogs and promotes awareness regarding long-term care and responsibility for senior dogs. Annual events and fundraisers are held to offset the medical costs and day-to-day care for otherwise abandoned older dogs.

Working closely with local shelters, Angels for Sara rescues senior dogs deemed unadoptable to ensure they



Submitted Photo
Bailey the cocker spaniel, 13, is looking for a good home.

will live out their days in loving and safe environments. They also are a resource to pet owners wishing to create a will or trust that includes long term care for their pets.

No stranger to animals

Pressly is no stranger to taking care of animals. She is the owner-operator of her own pet-sitting business, All Critter Pet Sitters, where she cares for pets from Cannon

Beach to Astoria. While living in Colorado, she became involved with Colorado Peke and Pom Rescue, becoming the organization's vice president, training volunteers, handling adoptions, fostering dogs herself and working with aggressive dogs. "I was always drawn to the senior dogs in the rescue and wanted to work with them the most," she said.

Despite the sanctuary's size, because of land use codes, it can only accommodate a limited number of dogs. "That's where foster volunteers come in," Pressly said. "We're still new, so we only have a couple of fosters."

Elderly dogs accepted to the sanctuary will stay with her for the remainder of their lives. Other dogs she may take in might be able to be adopted out or go into a permanent foster home situation. "Working full-time as a professional pet-sitter gives me more time with the sanctuary dogs and their needs," she said. "Plus, we have the wonderful help of our volunteers who come over to play with the dogs and help out a couple times a week."

Hunsinger corrected on details of Bornstein loan

Questions about financing for processing plant

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria Commissioner Bill Hunsinger, who has repeatedly called on staff to pursue Bornstein Seafoods for collateral and balloon payments he claims the company owes the Port, was corrected by staff Tuesday after creating two agenda items regarding the company.



Bill Hunsinger

The Port took out a \$10.5 million loan from the state's Infrastructure Finance Authority in 2004 to help Bornstein Seafoods build a new processing plant at the foot of piers 1 and 2. Included as collateral for the loan were piers 2 and 3, the Warrenton Deep Sea seafood market and Bornstein Seafoods' former processing plant in downtown Astoria, which now houses Buoy Beer Co.

Hunsinger first said Bornstein was required to make multiple balloon payments of \$2 million as part of the original loan, which he added would have significantly lowered the Port's debt. After talking to all the commissioners he served with since the original loan, he said, "none of them remember any amendments in the lease."

In September 2009, Hunsinger — the chairman at the time — and commissioners Floyd Holcom, Jack Bland, Dan Hess and Larry Pfund voted to authorize staff to amend the Port's loan, eliminate several balloon payments and have Bornstein make monthly payments. Jack Crider, who was the Port's executive director at the time, said the pending balloon payments were hindering the Port's ability to seek financing for other projects.

"I'm not sure why we gave away those balloon payments," Hunsinger said at Tuesday's meeting after Property Manager Shane Jensen explained the decision. "I'll have to look into that."

Not the Port's money

Hunsinger has on several occasions claimed the Port might have an ownership interest in Buoy Beer's main building on the Astoria Riverwalk, because it was once worth \$390,000 in collateral on the loan the agency took out from the state for Bornstein Seafoods' new fish plant.

In September 2013, the Port Commission voted to swap the collateral held in the building

for the loan in exchange for \$390,000. The decision was contingent on the state agreeing it could be applied to debt payments.

"The biggest thing (Executive Director) Jim Knight has been told to do is get our money," Hunsinger said Tuesday, adding the money should have been put into an interest-bearing account to be used by the Port. Meanwhile, the company's co-owner Andrew Bornstein periodically laughed at and corrected Hunsinger's statements from the back of the audience.

"Mr. Bornstein, are you laughing just because you're cute?" asked a visibly annoyed Hunsinger, before being reined in by Chairman Robert Mushen.

In May, Bornstein Seafoods completed the swap, paying \$390,000 to release the Buoy Beer building as collateral. The money went toward the principal on the Port's loan. Jensen said the interest-bearing account would have produced less than the interest payments to the state, and that

paying down the principal by \$390,000 saved the agency nearly \$250,000 in additional interest over the life of the loan.

"I'm not trying to criticize," Jensen said, adding meeting minutes from the 2013 meeting exposed "a fundamental misunderstanding about the transaction."

In other news:

- The Port Commission, after entering an impromptu executive session — its second of the night — in the middle of the public meeting, approved of staff taking out up to \$1.75 million loan from Key Government Finance Inc. The loan will pay for a new stormwater treatment system required by the state Department of Environmental Quality to prevent copper from entering the Columbia River from Pier 3 and large portions of the central waterfront. Staff will negotiate with Key for further possible financing of a second phase of stormwater collection incorporating piers 1 and 2.

- The commission approved releasing a request for proposals for legal counsel, with a preference for firms acquainted with Clatsop County.

Port project manager resigns

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Robert Evert, the Port of Astoria's permit and project manager, resigned Friday.

Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, declined to give a reason for the resignation, citing the privacy of personnel issues.

Evert was hired under interim Executive Director Mike Weston in 2014. He was helping oversee a multimillion-dollar expansion of the Port's stormwater collection and treatment, as well as more than \$10 million in claims the Port has for reimbursement of storm damage from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

While working for the



The Daily Astorian

Permit and Project Manager Robert Evert resigned from the Port of Astoria Friday.

Port, Evert has also formed a partnership with welding students at Knappa High School, who have been fabricating railings as part of the agency's continuing efforts to keep sea lions off the docks at the East End Mooring Basin. Evert could not be reached

for comment about his departure.

Knight said the Port will bring in outside consultants to help cover Evert's duties, while environmental consultant Maul Foster Alongi will oversee development of the agency's stormwater system.

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