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The Press Democrat August 10, 2002



Barry Bonds' Home Run Milestone!

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SEWAGE SPILL LARGER THAN ESTIMATED

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BYLINE: Mary Callahan

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COLUMN: Around the Empire

The city of Sebastopol revised its estimate of a sewage leak into the Laguna de Santa Rosa, saying Friday it was about 439,000 gallons of raw waste -- nearly 2 1/2 times what was previously thought.

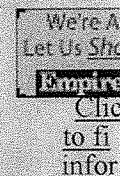
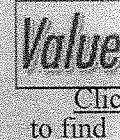
The new estimate is based on a review of pump station records indicating the 14-inch pipeline was leaking into the laguna for about 19 hours before it was discovered Wednesday, Public Works Superintendent Rich Emig said.

Crews have patched the pipeline, through which all of the city's waste is pumped to the regional treatment center on Llano Road in Santa Rosa. It carries an average 700,000 gallons each day. Longer-term plans call for replacement of a large section of the line, Emig said.

Dozens of fish were killed by the spill, but Fish and Game officers and other officials said none have found dead since.

About 6 million gallons of contaminants and tainted water have been pumped from the laguna,

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but workers stopped the pumps Friday so the water level wouldn't drop too low, creating other problems, Emig said. Aerators will continue to restore oxygen in the water through the weekend.

Keywords: WASTE WATER

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Dave Barry He is hysterical!
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