



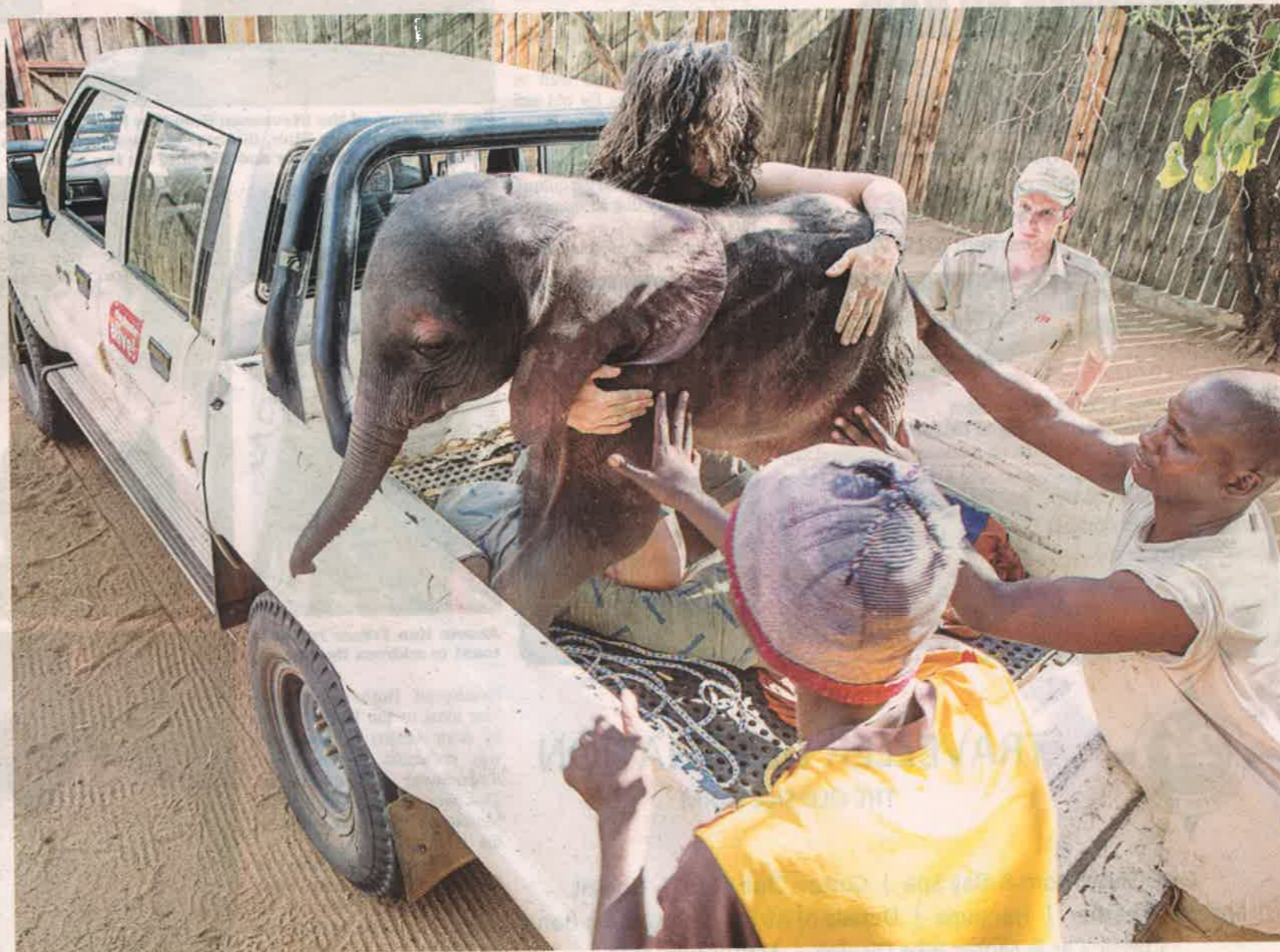
Saving a little giant

Mike Kendrick

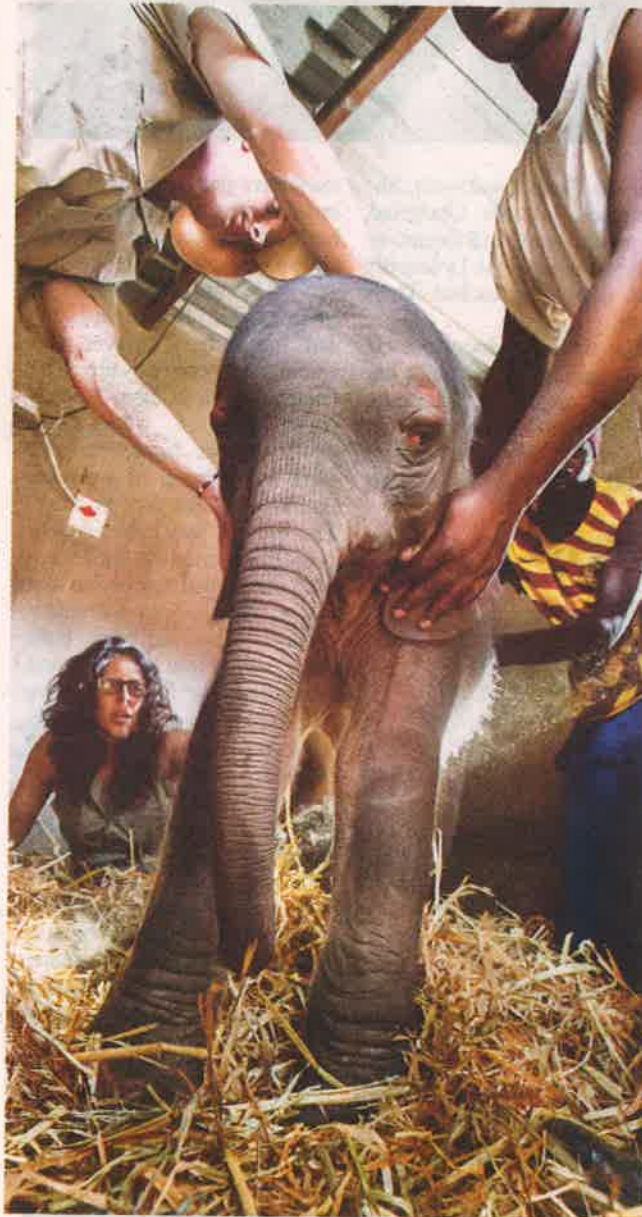
HOEDSPRUIT - Elephants Alive received the call at lunchtime on Tuesday February 23. An elephant calf had become trapped in a drain at Phalaborwa Copper, Limpopo. The Elephants Alive teams raced into action and were soon on site. Inspection of the area revealed that numerous scuff marks from elephants trying to rescue the calf were still visible. Elephants form such strong family and maternal bonds that one can only imagine how distressed the baby, its mother and the herd must have been. Wildlife Supervisor, Johann McDonald and his team had rescued the baby and loaded him onto a truck. They had tried in vain to reintroduce him to the breeding herds still in the vicinity. Around noon, the little calf began looking weak and in need of rehydration.

The Elephants Alive team met Johann and the calf at the gate of Phalaborwa Copper. The calf was transferred to the Elephants Alive vehicle and the supervision of ...cont on page3...

Amanzi, who was rescued on February 23, had another set back and his energy levels are quite low. He is on a drip to prevent dehydration and is fed 700ml milk every 2 hours. Now and then Amanzi does have an outburst of energy and plays with water or with his companion Lammie. He is hanging in there and has a very strong spirit.



Saving a little giant...continued



...from page 1... Program Manager, Dr. Michelle Henley. The traumatized young elephant was doused with water to keep him cool and covered with

wet blankets on a mattress. He remained in physical contact with Michelle during the high speed drive to a holding stable at Hoedspruit Endangered Species

Centre (HESC). On arrival at HESC the full extent of the trauma became clear.

The distressed calf called repeatedly, vainly trying to locate its mother. Bruised areas over each eye were clearly visible, injuries incurred while trapped in the dam. With great care, the calf was unloaded and guided towards an open stable door. Once inside he continued to totter about and bellow, understandably disorientated. Michelle and the assembled team calmed him and he took some rehydration fluids from a bottle.

Exhaustion flooded over him and he lay next to Michelle. Dr. Peter Rogers and his team set up a saline drip to further rehydrate him and administered antibiotics. Elephant calves are notoriously difficult to rear requiring precise nutrients in their milk. HESC instigated rotating duties with elephant handlers so that the youngster does not become attached to any one person. His future is by no means certain but once again the Elephants Alive team have done all they can to support one of these incredible animals. They will be checking up on Amanzi (Zulu for water) regularly and exploring potential sources of milk formula to assist his hoped for recovery.

Elephants Alive rely on donations - <http://elephantsalive.org/support-us/>