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MISSING WOMAN FOUND MILES FROM HOME

By MARY SCHLEY

VOLUNTEERS WITH Marin County Search and Rescue found 54-year-old Janice Marasco, reported missing on Monday, on a remote road in Carmel Valley Thursday morning. Marasco was “in stable condition but was dehydrated and had sustained some bumps and scrapes,” according to Monterey County Sheriff’s Cmdr. Lisa Nash, and emergency responders summoned a CAL-STAR helicopter to fly her to a trauma center for treatment.

Marasco had last been seen by neighbors around 1 p.m. May 14, and her son reported her missing, according to Nash. Monterey County Search and Rescue and the sher-

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Gardener gets V-8 birthday surprise

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR MANY years, gardener Maclovio Escobedo had admired a sleek, black 1981 Cadillac 8-6-4 Seville that belonged to one of his longtime Carmel clients. So it must have come as quite a surprise to Escobedo this week when he was presented with its pink slip.

Escobedo has been employed by Mission Fields resident Tom Brown — as well as three of his neighbors — for much of the past two decades. In appreciation for his hard work, the four homeowners hosted a party May 17 to cel-

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It’s baby owl season!



PHOTO/COURTESY SPCA

THIS BABY barn owl is being raised by SPCA for Monterey County workers after it fell from a nest high up in a Salinas palm tree two weeks ago

“We do everything to re-nest them,” SPCA spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “Unfortunately, this nest was out of reach.”

Although the owl wasn’t injured in the fall, it’s too young to survive on its own. The SPCA Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center will raise it until it’s old enough to be released back into the wild.

Though SPCA officials are referring to the owl as “him,” they’re really not sure what it is.

“It’s hard to tell the sex” of baby owls, Brookhouser said. “We don’t know if it’s a he or she.”

Cal Am wants Marina Coast excluded from new water project

By KELLY NIX

CITING THE need to make quick progress toward a new water supply for the Monterey Peninsula, California American Water has asked the California Public Utilities Commission not to let the Marina Coast Water District participate in hearings on the new project.

But the Marina agency wants the CPUC to revive the Regional Desalination Project, which collapsed last year amid conflict-of-interest allegations and a lawsuit challenging the project’s water rights.

On April 30, Marina Coast filed an application with the CPUC to be an “intervenor” in Cal Am’s Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The CPUC affords intervenor status to groups that have something substantial to contribute to the agency’s consideration of utility projects and rates.

But in documents filed with the CPUC May 11, an attorney for Cal Am argued that Marina Coast’s participation “would add complexity and delay” in meeting a 2016 state

**With a deadline
looming, fears
of ‘complexity
and delay’**

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McCLOUD’S FAREWELL PARTY ALSO A PITCH FOR DEVENDORF PROJECT

By MARY SCHLEY

ALREADY MAKING good on her pledge to remain involved with the City of Carmel, former Mayor Sue McCloud solicited donations Monday night to help digitize the extensive collection of historical documents permanently loaned to the city by the Devendorf Trust in 2009.

She made the entreaty during a well attended retirement dinner in her honor organized by her sister, Sarah Berling, at Sunset Center. In addition to wines provided by Jack and Dawn Galante, and food prepared by chef Kurt Grasing, the celebration included more than 150 of McCloud’s fans and friends, along with every member of the Carmel City Council except Mayor Jason Burnett. Myles Williams led everyone in singing a special

version of the historic “Abalone Song” written for McCloud by Jan and Niels Reimers, and Pac Rep Theatre’s Stephen Moorer and Jack Galante also thanked McCloud for her years of service.

“She was an outstanding steward of this beautiful city,” said Galante, who is a great-grandson of Frank Devendorf, one of Carmel’s founders.

Councilwoman Paula Hazdovac recounted McCloud’s many accomplishments while she was mayor, remarked on her love of puns and praised her dedication to the city.

When it was her turn to speak, McCloud graciously thanked everyone for the honor and took a few minutes to focus on her campaign to make the 18 boxes of photos, legal agreements, stock cer-

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The original Carmel Development Co. stock certificate held by Sarah Berling (right) is one of hundreds of documents that could be digitized and made available to researchers. Former Mayor Sue McCloud (left) is seeking donations for the effort. She made the pitch at a tribute dinner to her at Sunset Center Monday night.

PHOTO/PAUL MILLER

Lots of cooks on hand for planning of outdoor event

By MARY SCHLEY

AN EIGHT-MEMBER committee and more than 30 “advisors” met Wednesday to brainstorm what sort of ongoing outdoor event might draw more visitors — and therefore more business — to town.

“The group is thinking of having a local, organic, high-end weekly farmers market that transitions into a dining event at night,” assistant city administrator Heidi Burch, the staff representative on the committee, told The Pine Cone Thursday. “They are exploring closing down Dolores at a number of different locations.”

The idea of a farmers market, al fresco dining or other regular happening has been bandied about for years but never made it past the talking stage, and at the May 1 council meeting, city administrator Jason Stilwell recommended Mayor Jason Burnett create a committee of two council members, a community activities and cultural commissioner, a city employee and a community member “to explore opportunities for an ongoing outdoor activity.”

Burnett said by bringing the issue up at the council meeting, he was

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Salaries, pensions cost P.G. nearly \$9 million in 2011

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE paid out more than \$8.7 million to its employees in salary, overtime and other costs in 2011, with the highest paid worker making about \$190,000 during the year, newly released payroll data show.

The figure includes \$966,731 in pension contributions, about \$185,000 in overtime, \$51,814.20 for medical, dental and vision insurance and \$12,638.60 for life insur-

ance, according to the data provided to The Pine Cone following a public records act request.

City manager Tom Frutchey was by far the most highly compensated Pacific Grove city employee at \$191,300.08, which included \$4,800 for an automobile allowance — a perk given only to Frutchey — and \$11,500.08 in “other pay.”

The next highest paid employee was police P.G. Police Cpl. Richard

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