

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 100 No. 7

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

February 14-20, 2014

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Math teacher charged with stealing neighbor's dog

■ Prosecutor: He abandoned the dog miles from home, and it has disappeared

By KELLY NIX

A MONTEREY man police say dognapped a neighbor's Labrador twice and abandoned it seven miles away in the Carmel Highlands because he didn't like its barking has been charged with four felony criminal counts.

Hartnell College math teacher Greg Perkins faces two felony charges of grand theft of a dog and two felony counts of depriving an animal of water and shelter, according to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.

Perkins is accused of taking neighbor Melissa Dalton's Labrador retriever, Candy Cane, and leaving it to fend for itself in the Carmel Highlands. When Candy Cane was taken the first time in 2012, she was found and returned. But the 4-year-old dog is still missing after she was taken a second time in summer of 2013.

"We had witnesses and evidence to show that [Perkins] had actually stolen the dog from the property," Monterey police Lt. Leslie Fry Sonné told The Pine Cone Monday, adding that Perkins did not deny taking the animal. "The issue was allegedly excessive barking."

However, Sonné said that Perkins never contacted Monterey police about Candy Cane.

"We certainly recommend doing that before

anybody takes an issue into their own hands," she said.

Dalton said her 10-year-old daughter and 7-year-old son are still struggling with Candy Cane's absence. The family lives off of Soledad Drive in Monterey.

"My daughter has a shrine," Dalton told The Pine Cone Monday. "She lights a candle and prays for her return. All

See **DOGNAPPED** page 23A



Reagan Dalton snuggles up to her dog, Candy Cane, a Labrador retriever that went missing last summer after a neighbor allegedly took the pooch and dropped it off miles from its home.

Marina city council OKs test wells

By KELLY NIX

AFTER A tense, five-hour public hearing Wednesday night, the Marina City Council voted 3-1 to allow California American Water to test potential well sites in preparation for its proposed desalination plant in the city. If the decision had gone the other way, it could have delayed the Monterey Peninsula water project by as much as a year.

The council overturned last week's city's planning commission ruling that Cal Am's proposal to drill two small wells to conduct water quality tests could not be done under existing permits that allow a sand plant to operate on the test well site.

However, the council, with vice chair Frank O'Connell dissenting, decided the tests fall within cement producer Cemex's existing mining entitlements and therefore do not require a new permit. The test wells would be drilled on the Cemex property in North Marina.

The two six-inch diameter Cal Am boreholes would be drilled as far down as 350 feet to allow Cal Am to test the mineral content of the water. Cal Am wants to get a better idea of how a future test well and the desal plant's permanent wells will operate there.

Opposing the test wells on behalf the Ag Land Trust, Monterey attorney Molly Erickson argued that Cal Am's operation is "very much a change from" Cemex's own operations and that the private water utility should be required to obtain a new permit.

"Anybody else wanting to drill boreholes or extract water would need a [coastal development permit]," she said.

However, Cal Am and others were adamant that the work would fall under Cemex's existing mining permit.

According to Cal Am, its test wells would extract a total of 20,000 gallons of water during the brief testing period and would move only about four gallons from the site in order for hydrologists to analyze the mineral content from different levels underground, which will help determine where the water comes from. The remaining 19,996 gallons of water would be allowed to percolate back into the sand.

In contrast, Cemex pumps about a half-million gallons of

One small step toward a badly needed water project

See **DESAL** page 15A

Hulsey has no opponent and will become judge

By KELLY NIX

VOTERS WILL still be able to cast their votes for her in the June election, but prosecutor Stephanie Hulsey is on her way to becoming a judge in Monterey County after no one filed papers to run against her.

Hulsey will take the judicial seat left vacant by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Susan Dauphine when she retires in March. Tuesday was the deadline for prospective judicial candidates to file papers with the elections office declaring their intentions to run in the election. Nobody else filed for Dauphine's position.

"I deeply appreciate the community support I've received for my candidacy, and I will continue to seek endorsements," Hulsey, Monterey County's assistant district attorney told The Pine Cone Wednesday. "I would be very honored to receive the votes of the community."

Hulsey, whose term will begin in January 2015, said she's been so focused on speaking to various community groups

about her candidacy and seeking endorsements, that she didn't think who, if at all, might challenge her.

"I assumed there would be at least one other opponent," she said. "So yes, I was surprised" that nobody else filed candidate papers.

A write-in candidate could still emerge, but it's highly unlikely they would be a threat to Hulsey, who has endorsements of dozens of attorneys, elected officials and 19 current and retired Monterey County judges.

Besides Dauphine, her endorsements include judges Kay Kingsley, Pamela Butler, Carrie Panetta and retired judges John Phillips and Robert Moody.

Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo, who has worked with Hulsey for more than 15 years, called her a

See **HULSEY** page 13A

OLYMPIAN FALLS FOR STRAY, EYES SKIING MEDAL

By CHRIS COUNTS

THREATENED WITH extermination by the Russian government, Sochi's now-famous stray dogs have won the heart of Carmel's Brita Sigourney, who is competing in the Ladies Ski Halfpipe at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

A 2008 graduate of Santa Catalina School, Sigourney expressed her sentiments online this week. "Does anyone know how to sneak dogs into the athlete's village?" she tweeted Feb. 11.

The 24-year-old athlete seems to have grown particularly attached to at least one of the dogs. "My puppy friend needs a bath and maybe a plane ticket to the states," she added.

Her tweet elicited a variety of replies, including one suggestion that she claim the stray is a seeing-eye dog for Olympic Games television host Bob Costas, who is battling an eye infection. Others encouraged her to bring the stray home.

Sigourney's concern for the plight of the strays comes as no surprise to her father Thad, the athletic director at All Saints Day School. "She wants to adopt every cute puppy and stray cat," he told The Pine Cone.

Back in Carmel, the Sigourney household is home to three dogs — a mastador, "Zeus," a Belgian shepherd, "Pepper," and a "refugee from Tajikistan named Roxy."

When asked if he believed his daughter would try to bring a dog home from Sochi, her father said, "I don't see any way how she could

See **OLYMPICS** page 6A

Who owns this photo? Not the studio ...



PHOTO/JOHN G. ZIMMERMAN ARCHIVE

This 1974 publicity shot for the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" cast taken by a local photographer was the subject of a legal dispute that had a surprising outcome. See page 3A.



PHOTO/COURTESY JULIE SIGOURNEY

Olympic skier Brita Sigourney makes friends with a pair of dogs in the mountains outside Sochi, Russia. She may even try to bring a dog home.