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Rescuers struggle to save amazing giant squid

By REGAN CAREY

WHILE NOT quite of the gargantuan proportions of Jules Verne's famous giant squid, a group of Humboldt squid that washed ashore at Stillwater Cove in Pebble Beach last week were certainly mysterious and fascinating — and huge.

When Joey Guilatco arrived for work at the Beach and Tennis Club at 5 Friday morning, he was told that a club member walking her dog had found several squid stranded on the nearby beach.

With a flashlight, Guilatco went down to the beach and searched in the early morning darkness. And while almost everyone else was still peacefully dreaming in bed, he came across a sight that did not seem to belong to the waking world — more than a dozen of the largest squid he'd ever seen, many still alive, scattered along the beach.

They were "moving, breathing, and spewing some kind of saliva," Guilatco said.

It was their size that struck him most. Including their tentacles, some were five feet long. They weighed about 10 pounds each, which Guilatco learned as he and other P.B. employees tried to lug the living animals back to the ocean.

He called the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory to report the incident and see if the experts could explain the bizarre event. They instructed Guilatco to pre-



PHOTO/DON IMAMURA

After more than a dozen Humboldt squid died on a beach at Stillwater Cove Friday, they were collected on a picnic table and packed in ice for examination by scientists who never came. The species' exceptionally large eyes enable them to see in the oceanic depths.

serve the dead ones in ice while they considered sending a scientist to investigate. Guilatco and the other employees collected the squid and put them on a bed of ice on a picnic table at the beach.

Souvenirs?

The Moss Landing people never came, but the squid did not go to waste. By the end of the day, all but one had been taken

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Little-known candidates reveal views on water

By MARY BROWNFIELD

SOME SURPRISES surfaced as candidates for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District took largely predictable sides at a forum in Monterey Wednesday, including candidates who advocate absolutely no growth, a takeover of the Cal-Am Water Co. and maybe even a dam on the Carmel River.

Director Zan Henson and hopefuls Robert Pacelli and Kristi Markey presented themselves as a slate opposing contenders Larry Foy, Michelle Knight and Marc Béique.

Markey, an attorney battling architect Béique for the Monterey seat, told the audience she supports no population growth within the water district, while her slate-mate, Pacelli, advocated taking control of the private company, Cal-Am Water. Pacelli is running against Knight for the Pacific Grove water board seat.

Béique voiced resistance to shelving a new dam and reservoir on Carmel River as a water supply solution; Henson, Pacelli and Markey are adamantly anti-dam.

Henson, the only incumbent among the

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Cypress poisoning angers donor, friends of the forest

By MARY BROWNFIELD

A CARMEL woman who donated \$250 to Friends of Carmel Forest to plant cypress trees along Scenic Road wants to know who poisoned her memorials to a favorite physician.

"I'd gladly give the group more money to plant more trees, but what's the point if someone is going to dig them up or poison them?" Charlotte Gilmore asked.

Of the 10 cypress trees planted by John Ley's Tree Service for the forest friends in June, three were soon relocated by city forester Mike Branson because they were planted in the wrong locations.

But another four have since died and Gilmore, forest friends head Clayton Anderson and the city's forestry department suspect the trees were killed.

"They don't normally die like those trees were dying," Gilmore said. "They were being poisoned."

"Poisoned is the word — that's what the gardeners tell us and that's what [city forester] Mike Branson thinks," Anderson said.

Although Branson was out on vacation this week, a forestry department representative concurred the trees were apparently poisoned but said the soil had not been tested for residue.

"It costs so much to have them tested," Anderson explained, adding that he's certain the empirical evidence already points to sabotage.

He believes a dead spot on a healthy shrub next to

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RECALL ELECTION RAISES STAKES IN COASTAL COMMISSION COURT FIGHT

By PAUL MILLER

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER'S victory in Tuesday's recall election was a "landslide" according to the front page of the Monterey County Herald, a "blowout" according to the San Jose Mercury News and "huge" according to the headline writers at the San Francisco Chronicle.

And while those may seem like gross exaggerations when the winner got just 48 percent of the vote, they don't overstate the impact the recall election could have on the California Coastal Commission, where four commissioners can be fired by the new governor as soon as he takes office, and where a pending Supreme Court case could give him even more control over the powerful commission.

Property owners and some cities, including Carmel-by-the-Sea, because it lies entirely within the coastal zone, have a lot at stake.

Schwarzenegger is a fiscal conservative who repeatedly complained during his campaign that the people and businesses of California are "over regulated," making it highly likely his appointments to the coastal commission won't fit the mold preferred by his Democratic Party predecessor.

"I hope he appoints people who understand the importance of coastal protection, but who are also sympathetic to the applicants, so we don't end up dealing with the extreme level of minutiae we have now, and we won't end up in court so often," said Dave Potter, a coastal commissioner and Monterey County supervisor.

But even if Schwarzenegger appoints commissioners with a strong belief in property rights, they'll be outnumbered by the eight appointees from the Legislature, including Potter. As it is now structured, the coastal commission isn't controlled by the governor, even though it is supposedly part of the executive branch of state government and has all sorts of law enforcement powers.

And therein lies the issue facing the California Supreme Court, which has been asked to overturn an appeals court ruling last December that the Legislature's control over the coastal commission is a violation of the constitution's Separation of Powers clause.

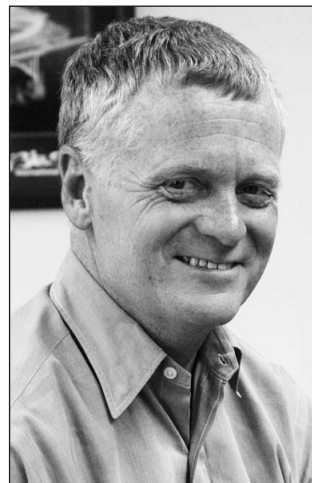
Oral arguments in the case will probably be heard in December or early next year, according to lawyers representing the Orange County environmental group, the Marine Forests Society, that brought the suit against the coastal commission.

And while one possible outcome is that the court will issue an order that the commission be restructured to give the governor a majority of appointments, the attorney backing the Marine Forests Society said it is more likely that if the Supreme Court agrees

the coastal commission is unconstitutional, it will simply leave it up to the governor and the Legislature to find a solution.

"The coastal commission could lose its executive branch functions — meaning it would take on an advisory role with local governments having permit authority subject to review by the courts — or the governor could be given control," said

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Dave Potter