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Injured Yuma nurse wins \$875,000 judgment

Associated Press

YUMA — A jury has awarded \$875,000 to a Yuma woman who injured her elbow after she stepped in a pothole at a Phoenix parking garage.

Karen Monks, who formerly headed the Arizona Western College nursing program, suffered the injury in late 1995.

The six-day trial in Maricopa County Superior Court ended Monday with a jury verdict against the garage's property owners.

"She can't move her arm or hand in any practical manner," said her Tucson attorney, Silas Shultz, adding that the injury will prevent Monks from working as a nurse.

Monks was commuting weekly to

Phoenix in December 1995 — doing work for an extension university program and staying at a hotel that had an adjacent parking garage. She stepped in a pothole in the garage, fell and hurt her right elbow, her attorney said.

According to trial testimony, the pothole had been there for up to 90 days and nobody had fixed it.