

WEATHER

RAIN POUNDS THE CENTRAL COAST



PHOTOS BY VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD

A man takes his two dogs for a walk in the rain at San Carlos Beach Park in Monterey.

Big Sur gets 3 inches, with more to come

By Nicoletta Lanese
newsroom@montereyherald

MONTEREY » Two storms joined forces off the coast and landed on the Central Coast on Monday, bringing more than an inch of rain to Monterey with Big Sur expected to get 4-6 inches before it's over.

"A Gulf of Alaska storm came down from the north and collided with a low pressure system from the east Pacific," said Steve Anderson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. The system brought "copious" rain, he said, especially in Big Sur where 3 inches had fallen by late Monday afternoon.

Winds ranging from 20-25 miles per hour were expected in the early evening Monday and with it the potential to knock down dead trees and power lines.

Despite California's heavy rains in 2016, tree mortality remains a huge problem throughout the state. Five years of drought, rising temperatures and bark beetle infestation have taken



Workers use a plastic tarp to stay dry while working on the outside of the new Monterey Conference Center during a heavy rain shower.

their toll. When storms do blow through, dead trees often fall into power lines causing power outages and sometimes wildfires. To curb this danger, PG&E began conducting regular tree inspections and removals in affected areas back in 2014.

"Since the storm started

rolling in at 10 p.m. Sunday night, 562 customers have lost power," said PG&E spokeswoman Mayra Tostado. Falling trees caused about 42 of those, she said. Most of the outages were in Salinas with a smaller number in Monterey.

Heavy rains will continue through Tuesday morning. The heaviest rains were expected to start around 5 p.m. Monday, picking up along with the wind, Anderson said. He also warned that drivers need to be cautious of debris in the road.

Big Sur was expected to get the most rain — between 4 to 6 inches — with 1 to 2 inches falling in Monterey and Salinas, Anderson said.

Big Sur is also expected to get the worst of the wind, along with the Santa Lucia Mountains. South to southeast winds are forecast to reach 30 to 40 miles per hour with gusts between 50 and 60 miles per hour.

A high wind warning issued at noon Monday will remain in effect until 6 a.m. Tuesday.

PG&E has activated its emergency operations center to prep for the worsening weather.

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TENSIONS South Korean officials set for talks with North

North and South Korea are set to hold rare talks at their border to discuss how to cooperate in Winter Olympics. **PAGE A8**



VACATION RENTALS Big Sur community to get a change to weigh in

County had waited for area to recover from storm damage, bridge replacement to take on regulations. **PAGE A2**

BUSINESS

↘ Dow Jones	25,283.00 (-12.87)
↗ S&P 500	2747.71 (+4.56)
↘ Nasdaq	7157.39 (+20.83)

CRIME Man robs Salinas Chase Bank, escapes scene

Police on the lookout for armed, masked man who used a bystander as he robbed two bank tellers. **PAGE A3**

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CHILD MURDER CASE

Defense seeks to suppress evidence

Says one defendant was not informed of Miranda rights

By Claudia Meléndez Salinas
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@MelendezSalinas on Twitter

SALINAS » In December 2015, a woman in Salinas learned that her daughter had just been arrested in Pinnas County for child endangerment and mayhem.

The woman, Joy Tara, called Pinnas County Sheriff Investigative Sgt. Steve Peay to ask how the children were. No, not the 11-year-old twins, she told Peay. The babies. Her great niece and nephew, Delyah, 3, and Shawn, 6. The call, which lasted for nearly half an hour, would unleash a frenetic search for the two missing children until they were found dead several hours later at a storage unit in Redding.

How law enforcement officials learned the children's location and searched the storage unit's contents is the subject of motion to suppress evidence filed by one of the defendants.

Tami Huntsman, 41, and Gonzalo Curiel, 19, **COURT » PAGE 4**

IMMIGRATION

US ends protections for Salvadoran immigrants

Panetta one of loudest critics of action

By Luis Alonso Lugo and Elliot Spagat
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » The Trump administration's decision to end special protections for about 200,000 Salvadoran immigrants filled many Salvadoran families with dread Monday, raising the possibility that they will be forced to abandon their roots in the U.S. and return to a violent homeland they have not known for years, even decades.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen gave Salvadorans with temporary protected status until Sept. 9, 2019, to leave the United States or face deportation. El Salvador becomes the fourth country since President Donald Trump took of-

IMMIGRANTS » PAGE 5

resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

1968

The Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

1993

The two owners of a fast food restaurant in Palatine, Illinois, and five employees were found shot and stabbed to death.

Birthdays

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, is 36. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 51. Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberto Menchu is 59. Author Judith Krantz is 90.

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the updated plan. Conducting a paratrum on short-term rentals

Cannabis

FROM PAGE 2
with an Old Stage Road cultivation operation and a Castroville cultivation and testing operation for federal research.
Also Wednesday, the commission is set to consider four cannabis use permits, all in separate

Flu

FROM PAGE 2
The hospital joined Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, which on Dec. 29 temporarily implemented a change in its visitor policy, asking that only visitors 14 and older be allowed in patient care areas. Natividad Medical Center had also placed some restrictions on visitors with those under the age of 12 restricted

Weather

FROM PAGE 1
to the targeted areas to restore power quickly if it is lost.
This storm rolled in after an extremely dry December. For much of the month, a ridge of high pressure hung over the state and blocked any storms that may have come through. Only 0.03 inches of rain fell in Monterey in December.
The ridge diminished

Court

FROM PAGE 1
are scheduled to be tried in March for the deaths of the two children, who had been left in Huntsman's custody in Salinas by her cousin. But attorneys for Curriel want to prevent the jury from seeing what was found in the storage unit because it was first opened without a search warrant and because Curriel was questioned without being told his Miranda rights.
A recording of the call between Tara and Peay was played during Monday's motion hearing, which also presented some details of the relationship between Curriel, who was 17 when he was arrested, and Huntsman.

According to previous reports, Curriel was a friend of Huntsman's older son and at some point asked if he could come live in the house. It has also been reported that the couple were lovers. During her call with Sgt. Peay,

all ordinance Starting over with short-term rental rules

Correction

A story on page A2 of Friday's Herald about the grand opening of the National Steinbeck Center's "Women's Work" exhibit

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