

# A brief respite from the rains



Kurt Ellison

## Narrow escape

A crew from Williams Tree Service used a crane yesterday afternoon to help remove sawed up parts of a mammoth, 90-foot-tall eucalyptus tree that blew over

early yesterday morning on Vista Drive in La Selva Beach, just nicking two nearby houses and causing only minor roof damage.

By BOB SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Rivers and creeks in the Monterey Bay area began dropping from their high-water marks this morning, but it may be short-lived relief.

The Pajaro River was back inside its main channel under the Main Street bridge, but heavy rain was beginning to fall in the Santa Cruz Mountains again.

The river crested at 27 feet, 10 inches yesterday but was at 24 feet early this morning, said Embert Knauss, Watsonville city public works superintendent.

The San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz, and Soquel and Aptos creeks were also down.

The National Weather Service warned that the coastal mountains of Central California can expect heavy rain through the weekend.

The Monterey Bay forecast calls for heavy rain tonight with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Rain will turn to showers tomorrow, but the extended forecast says rain is likely again on Sunday, with showers on Monday.

Knauss said the city has

### RAINFALL

	Last 24 hrs	Season Total	Last Year
Felton.....	0.09	28.13	17.26
Santa Cruz★.....	0.21	N.A.	N.A.
Soquel.....	0.08	14.36	N.A.
Aptos.....	0.06	15.53	9.70
Freedom.....	0.12	14.63	7.15
Corralitos.....	0.23	22.50	9.27
Eureka Canyon.....	0.10	29.48	14.47
Watsonville.....	0.15	13.19	6.69
Aromas.....	0.20	16.50	6.58
Pinto Lake.....	0.20	21.95	10.95
Prunedale★.....	0.16	N.A.	N.A.
Castroville★.....	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Grn. Val. Rd.★.....	0.12	N.A.	N.A.

★ Readings taken at midnight

cleaned up the problems caused by the storms earlier in the week. Crews will be on duty throughout the weekend, he added, to deal with new flooding if it occurs.

In unincorporated areas, the impacts of the earlier storms were still evident.

About 15 persons living in the River Oaks recreational vehicle park outside Aromas, who were relocated to higher ground after the Pajaro River crested, have been unable to return to their coaches at the park grounds on the bank of the river in the 2200

block of Riverside Road, said Ken French, chief of the Aromas Tri-County Fire District.

"It's still a danger out there," he said. Rushing waters reaching levels of six feet entered the park between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., washing away everything in their path.

Also in the Aromas area, a tree that toppled at 6:15 a.m. today on Carpenteria Road at Cole Road was blamed for knocking down power lines that triggered an outage to 3,900 customers. Power came back on almost immediately for all except 1,200 customers, PG&E spokeswoman Staycee Sciranka said. Power was totally restored by 10 a.m.

Outside of Aromas, North Monterey County did not have any new power problems last night, said Sciranka this morning.

Repair crews finished repairing downed power lines in the Eureka Canyon at 8 p.m. yesterday, restoring power for about 100 customers who had been without power since Wednesday. But a new problem knocked out electricity to the area at midnight, and it was still out this

morning.

Pacific Bell spokeswoman Gloria Rose said this morning that there were no major telephone problems in the Santa Cruz-Monterey county areas. But repair crews are so overloaded on dealing with individual trouble calls that it is taking one-to-two days for individual telephone problems to be repaired.

Three homes along Aptos' Beach Drive remained posted by the Santa Cruz County Planning Department as unsafe for occupancy because of the danger of mudslides off the cliffs above them.

### Road closures

On Highway 152, the road remains closed to traffic because of a mudslide blocking access one mile south of the summit.

The only county-maintained road in Santa Cruz County still closed this morning was Valencia School Road at Coyote Ridge.

Highway 1 is closed 23 miles south of Big Sur by a large landslide. Caltrans says it will take

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two to three days to clear it.

State Route 198 is closed by slides between Highway 101 and Interstate 5.

In Monterey County, Davis and Thorn Roads are closed at the Salinas River.

In San Benito County, the highway patrol said this morning that Hospital Road, Southside Road at Tres Pinos, Browns Valley Road and San Juan Canyon Road, 5½ miles south of San Juan Bautista, are all closed.

In other parts of Central and Northern California, flooding caused havoc in some areas yesterday, particularly near King City where rampaging waters coursed through homes, caused a train derailment and swept away cars.

In Vallejo, some people threatened by a mudslide returned home yesterday after a mandatory evacuation was downgraded to voluntary, said Fire Chief Patrick Hamilton. The initial order issued Wednes-

day involved about 40 homes.

Rail service between Oakland and Los Angeles was suspended while crews cleared the tracks near King City where a freight train derailed after rain washed out soil beneath the rails, Southern Pacific said.

In King City itself, up to 40 homes were damaged when about 5 feet of water broke through the doors early yesterday, said firefighter Bob Martin.

The emergency broadcast system was activated to warn residents living near the upper Salinas River of impending floods. But officials said towns in the overflow area between Bradley and Soledad are located on bluffs above the flooded lowlands.

"They're pretty resilient," said Monterey County emergency services planner Larry Robins.

The California Highway Patrol reported mud and rock slides, fallen trees and power outages throughout parts of Fresno, Madera and Tulare counties. Stretches of several state routes were closed.

*Register-Pajaronian wire services contributed to this report.*