

Deliverance

By MARK BERSTROM

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Snow has replaced rain in the weather news, and, for a change, it is generally good news for residents of the storm-battered north county area.

In contrast to the scenes of misery and devastation caused by the recent mudslides in the San Lorenzo Valley, the redwoods, firs and madrones along upper Empire Grade Road glistened this morning when the sun shone down on their heavy coats of snow.

Overnight snowfall ranged from about an inch and a half in the Pine Flat area to six inches above the Alba Road intersection.

Empire Grade Road was closed at Pine Flat Road this morning as county crews worked to plow away the heavy powder on the road as it climbed toward higher elevations.

The Lockheed Missiles & Space Co. was forced to close down its test facility because of the road closure. Only security and maintenance workers were on duty at the plant.

Sightseers and fun-seekers clogged the intersection at Pine Flat Road for a series

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NORTH COUNTY SNOW

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of impromptu snowball fights and snowman contests.

It was the third night of snow for residents of the Bonny Doon area.

The state Department of Forestry reported up to four inches of snow fell overnight at its Burrell station in the summit area. All roads were reported clear this morning, however.

Highway 17 remained open throughout the night, according to the Highway Patrol.

Firefighters at the Saratoga Summit Forestry station measured snowfall at up to eight inches.

Wednesday night just brought more rain to the lower elevations, but no new reports of damage.

The Love Creek area and other slide-plagued regions of the San Lorenzo Valley escaped the third night of rain with no new reports of damage.

Rainfall reports ranged from .67 of an inch in Santa Cruz to an inch and a half in Ben Lomond. Boulder Creek reported 1.20 inches.

The combination of rain and snow made driving dangerous. The Highway Patrol reported 10 accidents, most of them non-injury, due to the slick conditions.

PG&E reported only two significant outages from the second wave of the Alaskan storm which passed through overnight.

Some 615 customers went without power from 6:35 to 8:42 p.m. in the Glenwood Drive area of Scotts Valley after a tree fell through lines.

Some 875 customers in the Aromas area in the South County had their power

severed twice because of downed lines.

There were additional outages in scattered areas of the San Lorenzo Valley, according to PG&E.

The National Weather Service has forecast scattered showers with a chance of thundershowers this afternoon, but decreasing tonight. Partly cloudy skies are forecast for Friday. The extended forecast is for clearing skies on Saturday, but another chance of rain on Sunday.

Wednesday's storm brought surprises throughout Northern and Central California, according to the Associated Press.

The biggest surprise came in Oakland where snowfall caught hillside residents by surprise. Hills surrounding the Santa Clara Valley also got a dusting.

In the Sierra Nevada, a foot or more of new snow was reported. Yosemite National Park was blanketed by 18 inches of snow, and Pollack Pines, east of Placerville, got two feet.

Rainfall reports for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today, and including the season's totals (since July 1) and those of last year at this time, are as follows:

	24 Hrs.	Season	Last Year
Aptos	.79	25.02	3.42
Ben Lomond	1.50	48.03	8.23
Bonny Doon	1.41	47.10	6.90
Boulder Creek	1.20	55.89	9.01
Capitola	.80	26.85	3.83
Graham Hill	.95	33.95	5.30
Happy Valley	1.00	44.50	6.62
Lompico	1.80	57.90	9.70
Natural Bridges	.66	18.92	2.51
Pine Flat	.49	57.86	10.15
Rio del Mar	.70	25.79	3.36
Santa Cruz	.67	24.98	3.84
Scotts Valley	.72	42.99	6.50
Soquel	.80	28.09	3.66
Swanton	.70	26.75	4.77



Pete Ames/Sentinel

Tom and Jean Borghi of Bonny Doon show son Jonathan, age 1½, his first snow this morning.

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