



The Carmel Pine Cone

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Heavy rains bring down trees, cause landslides and flood homes



PHOTOS (TOP LEFT), COURTESY CARMEL P.D., MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

During last weekend's storms, a tree (top left) fell on a house on Carpenter Street in Carmel, and a mudslide blocked Highway 1 near Fernwood Resort in Big Sur on Monday (top) forcing residents and visitors (left) to walk around the slide. The Carmel River flooded homes along Paso Hondo in Carmel Valley twice — early Sunday and early Wednesday (above).

■ Damage not as widespread as feared

By CHRIS COUNTS and MARY SCHLEY

THIS WEEK'S storms may not have been as powerful as the weather forecasts predicted, but still brought down trees, closed roads, knocked out power and caused flooding in various parts of the Monterey Peninsula.

The worst damage was in Carmel Valley Village, where at least three homes were flooded, and in Big Sur, where Highway 1 was closed in several places and a section of Palo Colorado Road threatened to give way.

The storms also triggered flash-flood watches, prompted the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District to issue a Declaration of Emergency so 1,200 sandbags could be laid along a section of the Carmel River, and brought out thrill seekers who attempted to ride the river in kayaks and surfboards. Some required rescuing.

Highway 1 closed

In Big Sur, as much as 28 inches of rain fell at high elevations during the week, bringing some landslides, though nowhere near what was feared in the aftermath of last summer's Soberanes Fire.

Caltrans spokeswoman Susana Cruz told The Pine Cone that crews are busy clearing slides along Highway 1, which is closed to the public from Ragged Point to Grimes Canyon — a distance of about 34 miles. Limited access is available to locals.

In particular, crews are dealing with what's being called

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Here come the granny units — and the pot

By MARY SCHLEY

BUILDING A second unit on residential property in the city got a whole lot easier on New Year's Day, when a state law that drastically streamlines the approval process for "accessory dwelling units" took effect. Signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last September, the Assembly and Senate bills eliminate many of the hurdles that most building projects must overcome, and on Wednesday, the planning commission decided how the city — which has strict limitations on subordinate units — should handle the change.

The state law establishes new time limits for processing permits, loosens rules on parking and other elements, and

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Coming alongside a whale



PHOTO/BOB TALBOT, MMHSRP PERMIT 18786

These volunteers get up close and personal with distressed whales, both in 14-foot boats, and in a newer 40-foot model. They could use your help. See story page 9A.

Panetta votes to rebuke U.N. on Israeli settlements

■ New congressman also co-sponsors offshore oil bill, sits in for Trump vote

By KELLY NIX

CALLING THE United Nations Security Council's resolution censuring Israel for its expansion of settlements in East Jerusalem "ill advised," Congressman Jimmy Panetta

last week voted to denounce the council's decision, breaking from many senior Democratic House of Representatives members, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The issue is one of many that Panetta tackled in the days after being sworn in Jan. 3 as a member of the 115th Congress. He also co-sponsored a bill to prevent offshore oil drilling on the West Coast and attended the historic — yet disorderly — joint session of Congress to verify and count the electoral college votes from each state for president and vice president.

Supports Israel

The outgoing administration of President Barack Obama received strong bipartisan criticism when it opted not to veto the Dec. 23 U.N. resolution, which states that Israel's establishment of settlements "in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem," is a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity."

On Jan. 6, the majority of House Republicans and Democrats, including Panetta, voted for a measure to condemn the decision by members of the security council. Panetta, in explaining his decision to The Pine Cone this week, said the council's vote was "ill advised for not advancing a durable, lasting peace through a two-state solution."

"Peace in the Middle East and the region must remain the goal of every U.S. administration, and I believe peace is achievable for Israel and Palestine only through a two-state solution," said Panetta, who called the relationship between the United States and Israel "unbreakable."

See **PANETTA** page 11A

Adams and two other supervisors sworn in

By KELLY NIX

FORMER UNITED Way CEO Mary Adams was sworn in to her new job as Monterey County Supervisor Tuesday, before assuring residents that her office is prepared to handle the challenges of the 5th District.

Adams ousted longtime county supervisor Dave Potter in the June 2016 primary election. Newly elected 1st District Supervisor Luis Alejo and reelected 4th District Supervisor Jane Parker were also sworn in Tuesday.

In a speech to those in the packed supervisors chamber in south Salinas, Adams thanked her friends and family, her chief of staff Kate Daniels, policy advisor Yuri C.

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