



Pebble Beach
PRO-AM 2017

A Special Section inside today's Carmel Pine Cone — the pros and celebrities schedules, ticket info, how to get there & more...



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Pro-Am suspends play as skies open up

■ But weekend forecast looks good

By MARY SCHLEY

RAINS PELTING already soggy golf courses resulted in the suspension of play about 1:30 p.m. Thursday during the first round of this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, with play set to resume Friday morning.

With heavy rains headed for the Monterey Peninsula, play had started an hour earlier than usual,

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PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Grey skies loomed over the Monterey Peninsula Country Club's Shore Course Thursday as play began in the 2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. The first round of the tournament had to be suspended at 1:30 as heavy rains moved onshore.

Slides multiply on Highway 1 as rain gauges overflow and Caltrans stays busy

By CHRIS COUNTS

SUNNY SKIES are on the way, which is great news for Caltrans crews working to clear rocks, mud and debris from Highway 1 in Big Sur after yet another major rainstorm hit Monterey County on Thursday.

"There are slides everywhere," Caltrans spokesperson Susana Cruz told The Pine Cone Feb. 9, as rain continued to fall on Big Sur and the rest of the coast. "There are too many to name. There are about 15 locations where traffic is down to one lane."

Highway 1 is now closed to motorists from Ragged Point to just south of Deetjen's Big Sur Inn — a distance of about 45 miles. Cruz said Caltrans crews were busy at multiple locations working to clear the highway.

On Highway 1, too many rock and mudslides to name

Cruz couldn't name all the slides, but she said one called Paul's Slide is causing serious problems along the scenic route. The site is located between Limekiln State Park and the New Camaldoli Hermitage.

"It's a waterfall of rocks coming down," she said. "They should call it, 'Paul's Falls.'"

Another slide located about a mile south of Gorda — at the appropriately named Mud Creek — is also proving quite difficult to clear, Cruz said.

While the highway is closed, Big Sur residents coming from the south are being permitted to travel as far as Limekiln, Cruz reported. Those coming from the north can drive as far as Dolan Creek.

Captain Cooper School and Apple Pie School in Big Sur will close Friday "to ensure student and staff safety while we assess the impact of the heavy rains," school officials

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PHOTOS/COURTESY CALTRANS, CHERYL GOETZ

Rocks rain down on Highway 1 (top) near Lucia this week — one of 15 sites where at least one lane is blocked by rocks, mud and debris. Palo Colorado Road (above) continues to fail where it once passed over Rocky Creek but now is in it.

It wasn't all HRC in MoCo — Trump got support, too

By KELLY NIX

IN LAST November's presidential election, Donald Trump garnered more votes than rival Hillary Clinton in two dozen voting precincts in Monterey County — mostly smaller rural communities in which there are no polling places, and mail-in ballots are the only option.

Clinton carried mostly Democratic Monterey County, garnering 67.48 percent of the vote, to Trump's 26.43 percent. Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson got 3.44 percent of the vote, Green Party candidate Jill Stein got 2.14 percent, and Peace and Freedom Party candidate Gloria Estela La Riva got a mere .5 percent.

But despite Trump's big league Monterey County defeat, the billionaire who would become president of the United States had 34,895 supporters here who marked him as their candidate of choice. And in about two dozen polling areas, he got more votes than Clinton.

Margins large and small

According to final vote totals provided by the Monterey County Registrar of Voters, precincts in or near San Ardo, San Lucas, Bradley, Parkfield, Arroyo Seco, Soledad and Prunedale voted for Trump — overwhelmingly in some places. Residents in places such as the Carmel Highlands, near Point Lobos and in Palo Colorado also chose Trump, but by narrower margins.

In two polling areas in Castroville, voters chose Trump slightly over Clinton, with 39 votes for Trump to 35 for Clinton in one precinct, and only five votes for Trump and

Criminal charges weighed against sculptor's wife

■ Her attorney calls allegations 'crazy'

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY County District Attorney's Office is investigating the estranged wife of celebrated sculptor Richard MacDonald to determine if she should face criminal charges for what the artist says was the misappropriation and theft of millions of dollars from his art empire.

But attorney Larry Biegel, who is representing MacDonald's wife, Julia Cominos, called the claim that she stole from him "crazy," and accused the artist of stalling when it comes to providing financial documents that are crucial to the case.

News that prosecutors are investigating whether Cominos was involved in any criminal activity comes more than a year after MacDonald filed a lawsuit against her alleging that she not only stole from him and racked up massive credit card

\$2.7M SOUGHT FOR THEATER UPGRADES

■ PacRep kicks off capital campaign with \$250K 'community challenge'

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER POURING his energy into the renovation of the city's Forest Theater, Pacific Repertory Theatre executive director Stephen Moorer is turning his focus back to the company's Golden Bough Playhouse, which underwent improvements in 2011 but is slated for an interior overhaul that will cost an estimated \$2.7 million.

"It's time to finish off the Bough," he told The Pine Cone Monday.

The PacRep board of directors is launching the Make your Mark campaign, with naming opportunities ranging from

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