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News - Friday, January 16, 2009

News Briefs

Land transfer delays Bay Trail opening

The opening of a long-awaited Bay Trail connection around Moffett Field is being delayed as officials wait for a small piece of it to be transferred from the Cargill Salt Co. to NASA.

Bay Trail project manager Laura Thompson said that at one point Cargill was willing to open the trail before transferring the small piece of land, but a later decision was made by Cargill executives against it.

Once completed, the 500-mile trail will encircle the waterfront of San Francisco and San Pablo bays. More than half of the trail has been completed, and the Moffett section would make an important connection from Palo Alto and Mountain View to Sunnyvale through Alviso.

The section would have opened in November 2008, but now will have to wait until sometime this spring, Thompson said.

"The trail exists — we just need to take the gates down," she said.

San Antonio lanes closed for tree removal

Sections of busy San Antonio Road north of Central Expressway are being closed while numerous large trees are removed from the median.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 12, the city of Palo Alto has been closing one lane in each direction between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, and will continue to do so for the next four months.

Workers will be removing the large trees and their "invasive roots" to make way for more "sustainable" street trees and plants, according to a city of Palo Alto press release. Additional road repair and asphalt replacement will close lanes in the same area this fall.

— Daniel DeBolt

Roasting meat causes 99 Ranch fire

A duck or a pig that caught fire in an oven sparked a blaze at the 99 Ranch supermarket on Grant Road last Thursday.

Mountain View Fire Department firefighters quickly controlled the two-alarm fire that started around 8:45 a.m., said fire department spokesman Lynn Brown.

Firefighters arrived at the 99 Ranch Market at 1350 Grant Road to find a kitchen fire nearly extinguished by the in-house sprinkler system, Brown said. Firefighters had the blaze controlled by 9 a.m.

There was no apparent structural damage, Brown said, though a precise damage estimate hasn't been determined.

— Bay City News

Truck bursts into flames on Hwy 101

Police temporarily shut down Highway 101 southbound on Wednesday morning just before 11 a.m. after a garbage truck burst into flames near the Shoreline Boulevard exit.

The garbage truck was driving on the freeway when it caught fire, police said. Firefighters were quickly able to contain the fire, according to police spokesperson Liz Wylie, and were planning to bring the truck to Sunnyvale to be emptied.

Traffic stopped on Highway 101 while firefighters worked to contain the fire, and police also shut down the service road next to the freeway.

— Casey Weiss

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