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Friday, May 28, 2004

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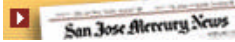
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Posted on Tue, May. 25, 2004

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Some police agencies get cell phone calls

Recently we saw a ladder in the roadway on Highway 85 near Union Avenue, so my wife tried to dial 911 to notify the California Highway Patrol. Problem is, she got connected to the Campbell police. Tried again. Same results. Is this something new that cell phones connect to the local police rather than the Highway Patrol when you dial 911?

John Unger

San Jose

Yes, and no. The state is in the process of having wireless 911 calls go to the police agency that is in the jurisdiction of the closest cellular tower, a change that in the long run should improve response time to incidents both along the freeways and in nearby cities. In the past, all 911 calls went to the CHP, which would transfer the call to the local police or fire agency. Officials hope to have the new system running by the end of next year. San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Redwood City and Santa Clara have already launched the service.

Cell sites located in and around freeways still have calls sent to the CHP center in Vallejo. For some reason, your call hit a cell tower in Campbell instead of the one closer to the freeway at that location. Though cellular technology is improving, it's not always perfect. If this happens again, stay on the line and have Campbell transfer your call to CHP.

On a motorcycle trip up the coast highway, I stopped for gas at a campground seven miles north of San Simeon, where I paid \$3.60 for a gallon of 87 octane gas. I made sure to get a receipt. I knew no one would believe me otherwise.

Brian Casey

Wow! That is the highest price so far reported to Roadshow. Just imagine your gas bill if you were driving an RV and not a motorcycle.

On northbound Monterey Highway about a half mile south of Bernal Road, they chewed off the top layer of asphalt for a milelong stretch at the edges like they do when they're about to resurface the roads. They did this over a year ago. A couple months ago, paving machines came and went. Guess what? They resurfaced the road except for the part they chewed off the asphalt. What's up?

Arlen Stone
Morgan Hill

The city finished paving last week, and crews will finish striping this week.

Cyclists' comments regarding walkers on trails are well-taken. I have been walking the Los Gatos Trail almost daily for the past three years and can support their comments. However, few, very few, cyclists offer any warning when approaching from behind. Add that to the fact that a lot of cyclists whoosh by considerably in excess of the 15 mph signs

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posted on the Los Gatos Trail. This makes walking a hazardous exercise. Perhaps they could ease off the pedals when passing those of us who are not as agile as we once were.

Jim Love
San Jose

APoints well-made, and you can include me in that less-than-agile group.

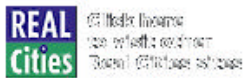
QIn the past two years, I have had two windshields replaced because of damage from rocks flying off semi-trucks on Interstate 880 near Highway 237 and recently at Coleman Avenue-880. Many trucks have no identifying markings and you can't follow them for a license number without the risk of further damage. What recourse do motorists have to report this problem?

Jim Meduri
San Jose

AThe Valley Transportation Authority is handling construction of these interchanges. To file a claim, call the VTA Community Outreach division at (408) 321-7575.

Join Gary Richards Wednesday When he takes Roadshow online for a live question-and-answer session from noon to 1 p.m. at www.mercurynews.com . Or contact him at mrroadshow@mercurynews.com or (408) 920-5335.

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