

BART outage snarls commute for hours



BART workers answer questions for travelers arriving at the closed Glen Park Station in S.F. during Friday's systemwide outage.

Overnight computer upgrade triggers systemwide shutdown during peak time

By Shwanika Narayan, Jessica Flores and St. John Barned Smith

BART service was restored throughout the regional transit system, several hours after an outage halted all trains across the network during peak commute hours, snarling traffic and disrupting Friday morning commutes.

The outage began after a network upgrade earlier in the morning. Some stations in the East Bay resumed service as the morning progressed, but traffic through the Transbay Tube was halted until just before noon.

"We knew there was an issue starting at 4:30 a.m.," said Alicia Trost, BART's chief communications officer. "This is a computer equipment problem following a network upgrade work overnight. This work is part of an ongoing upgrade to our computer network system. We do this work continuously during the hours we are not running. It is not a one-night project. Something related to the work triggers an issue that didn't allow



A sign informing travelers of the outage is posted outside Glen Park Station. Commuters were forced to find alternative routes during the hourslong disruption.

"If we don't have transit, everyone — including drivers — are going to pay the price. Even on a Friday — a slow commute day — we saw traffic delays of 15-20 minutes during morning travel."

Email by Laura Tolkoff, transportation policy director at SPUR think tank, warning of potential budget cuts

us to power up our systems this morning."

During a similar early morning systemwide outage in May, train service restarted around 9 a.m. That outage was also related to a computer glitch, which prevented BART controllers from seeing train locations. Later in May, two separate fires in San Leandro and near Daly City Station led to closures. And last week, a train stopped inside the Transbay Tube and began filling with smoke, causing panic.

Trost said the agency was investigating what happened. She said Friday's outage was not related to the incidents in May, one of which was caused by an electrical arcing fire and the other by "a PG&E power outage that triggered devices to not be able to connect to each other due to network settings."

The disruptions come as the agency is facing a budget deficit that could be upward of \$350 million per year and lead to devastating service cuts. Fare revenue has plunged since the pandemic as more people work remotely, while

BART continues on A8

3 former objectors shift on Prop 50

Newsom quickly uniting support for redistricting plan

By Sophia Bollag

SACRAMENTO — Shortly after Gov. Gavin Newsom first suggested retaliating against Texas' efforts to redraw congressional maps to favor Republicans, California redistricting commissioner Sara Sadhwani threw cold water on the idea.

"In this national context, I can understand the governor's inclination to want to retaliate," she told the Chronicle in a July 14 interview. "However, the people of California have made it clear at the ballot that the governor does not have that power."

A couple of weeks later, Sadhwani changed her tune. She's now one of the top spokespeople for Newsom's Proposition 50 effort to redraw California's congressional seats in favor of Democrats, even starring in one of

Prop 50 continues on A9

Cutting impact of tiny plastics

Someone gave my 3-year-old son a blanket as a gift. It wasn't the sort of thing I would normally buy — snow-white faux fur is sub-ideal for toddler purposes — but I hate to let things go to waste. I kept it in the linen closet for a few months, then sent it with him to preschool when his Superman blanket was in the wash.

After its field trip, I threw it in with a normal load of kid clothes. When it all came out of the dryer, a dozen tiny T-shirts and shorts were coated in little white hairs. The faux fur — tiny threads of polyester — was all over everything. The whole load was covered in microplastics. Was that stuff going to rub into his tender skin or get inhaled into his

Roy continues on A9

JESSICA ROY

How bison wound up in Golden Gate Park

Enclosed herd near Spreckels Lake a product of conservation movement started in 1890s

Charles "Buffalo" Jones spent much of his life as part of the problem.

The Midwestern rancher killed thousands of wild plains bison in the 1800s, partaking in a slaughter that decimated the population. In the late 1700s, tens of millions of animals roamed; by 1890, reportedly fewer than 1,000 remained.

Then something changed in the Kansas frontiersman.

Jones brought orphaned calves to his Garden City ranch, built his own replace-

ment herd and started selling buffalo to conservation-minded groups. Among the buyers: the leaders of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

"I resolved to atone for some of my past cussedness," Jones told the Kansas City Star in 1897, "by saving as many as I could."

Like many who love the bison herd in Golden Gate Park, I've often wondered: How exactly did they get here? The answer goes back nearly 150 years, and the narrative is a cinematic journey across the generations filled with good intentions, violent results, es-

Hartlaub continues on A8



Bison with their young live in Golden Gate Park in 1953.