



San Francisco is playing Super Bowl host city, but Fire Chief **Joanne Hayes-White** has nixed the idea of individual firefighters buying the NFL-sanctioned commemorative badges that celebrate the event — in part out of concern that

the game leads to domestic violence. Hayes-White said the badges, which are being sold for \$124.99 apiece to public safety officers throughout the Bay Area, would trivialize the department's "rich 150-year his-

tory." "The Super Bowl is not being played in San Francisco. It's the commercialization of something that I don't think there is a real nexus in" for the department, Hayes-White said. *M&R continues on D8*



Santa Clara Police Department
A Santa Clara police badge with the Super Bowl logo.

Bay Area

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City Insider: D.A. and supervisor both claim plan for jail annex. D3

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JOHN KING *Place*

Footbridge fits in well with famous neighbor

Humble new span near Golden Gate shows attention to clear, clean design

The newest bridge in San Francisco is designed so that even when you cross it, you may not notice it's there.

The idea is to move from point A to point B without fuss and without cluttering up views of a certain nearby icon with an international orange hue. But let's pause nonetheless to celebrate a crossing for bicycles and pedestrians that demonstrates with taut clarity how, with a little bit of extra work and care, even the most modest civic structures can feel as if they belong.

The bridge in question is 10 feet wide and 120 feet long — less than half the length of a football field — and it opened after Thanksgiving as the newest link in the 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail. It's located in the northwest corner of the Presidio off Merchant Road and slides above and between two former military batteries that opened in 1898. Straight ahead, the Marin Headlands loom behind a moat of ocean blue. Hook right, and the steep drama of the Golden Gate Bridge grows more compelling by the foot.

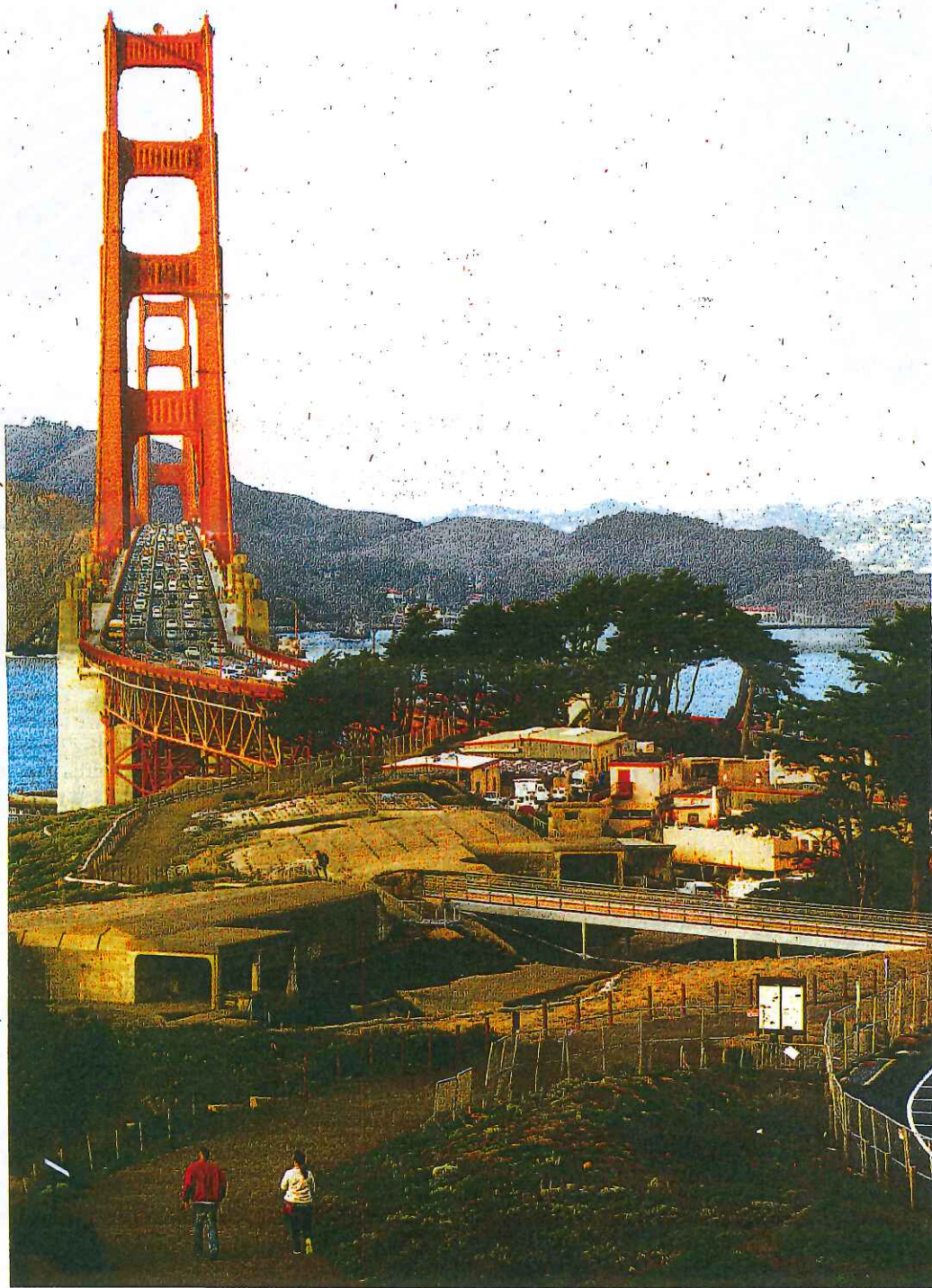
In this setting rich with history and environmental drama, designers working for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy knew what to do: get out of the way.

"The criteria was to sit lightly and be an element on the landscape, but not take over," said Tom Odgers, a senior project manager for the conservancy on a five-year package of improvements to the Presidio stretch of the coastal trail, including two overlooks and bluffs restored with native vegetation.

In technical terms, the bridge is an inverted truss with timber decking — everything needed to hold the structure in place is located below, cord-like metal rods attached with smooth round bolts to a quartet of posts extending down, not up. The only elements above the surface are the handrails on either side, and they're as clean and simple and open as can be.

All this was custom-designed by a roster of firms (the schematic design was by Marta Fry Landscape Associates and the engineering firm Rutherford + Chekene, while the final stages of design were handled by Architectural Resources Group and SOHA Engineers).

The price tag was roughly \$1
King continues on D7



Jason Henry / Special to The Chronicle

The footbridge on the Presidio's Coastal Trail is an understated presence in a dramatic setting. The only elements above the surface are simple handrails painted fog gray.



John Blanchard / The Chronicle

"The criteria was to sit lightly and be an element on the landscape, but not take over."

Tom Odgers, senior project manager, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Water savings target missed

State encouraged to keep up efforts

By Kurtis Alexander

California residents continue to ease back on the taps, but their efforts are slipping a bit, according to data released Tuesday that show cities and towns missed the state's 25 percent water savings mandate for the second straight month.

The savings in November — a 20 percent statewide cut over the same month in 2013 — come as California is hit with a series of storms fueled by El Niño, the weather pattern that forecasters expect to provide at least some relief after four dry years.

State water officials cautioned Californians against letting up on conservation even with a wet winter projected. The deficit created by the drought, they say, is unlikely to be repaired by a single wet year.

The greatest lapse in savings in November was in warm, dry
Drought continues on D8

Arson charges in bizarre rampage

By Evan Sernoffsky

A Walnut Creek man, with an apparent vendetta against his former wedding party, went on a fiery rampage through Contra Costa County, tossing Molotov cocktails and leaving joker playing cards at the homes of his victims, police said Tuesday.

The wild case all came together Christmas Eve when authorities identified 33-year-old Joshua Van Buskirk as a suspect in a string of arson fires in Antioch, Concord, and Pleasant Hill.

Van Buskirk was arrested and later hit with charges, including arson and child endangerment. He is being held in Contra Costa County Jail in
Fires continues on D2

BAY AREA

Footbridge fits in well with famous neighbor



Photos by Jason Henry / Special to The Chronicle

The decking of the new footbridge on the Coastal Trail is simple pressure-treated wood, stained reddish-brown. The bridge cost about \$1 million to build.

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million. By using a proven system with a track record — this form of truss work is found on many railroad bridges — designers could focus on the individual details: the thick coats of fog-gray paint to resist long-term corrosion or the lean metalwork that doesn't intrude on the path below. The decking is simple pressure-treated wood, but with a reddish-brown stain that looks right at home.

Another factor driving up the cost is that once workers began preparing the site, they discovered subterranean remnants of the 1870 batteries that preceded today's historic embankments.

"We ended up having to adjust the alignment to the north to avoid the magazine we discovered during borings," Odgers recalled. No matter, with surroundings like these, any angle shines.

If this seems like a big fuss to make about a little span, consider the other new bridge in the Presidio: a prefabricated structure of aluminum that's as generic as it sounds.

Even Michael Boland, who



A basic 95-foot-long footbridge in Tennessee Hollow was meant to be simple and affordable.

oversees planning for the Presidio Trust, calls the 95-foot-long installation by Gatorbridge "pretty basic in character, slightly utilitarian." But he points out that the setting is bare-bones as well — a newly

daylighted stretch of Tennessee Hollow, north of Lincoln Boulevard near the Main Post. Vacant wooden buildings on one side, odd stucco nurses' housing from the 1970s on the other.

"In an area like this, it made sense to select a simple, affordable structure. It's totally indestructible," Boland said of the bridge, which cost roughly \$300,000 to purchase and install. "It wouldn't be appro-

priate to put in something fancy."

He's right — the Presidio is a mosaic, and much of what survives from army days is military base-basic. Still, the bridge installed this summer is startling in its bright bulk. The railings contain the structural trusses and give the walkway a chute-like feel. They also shine even through the fog, the aluminum guaranteed not to corrode but also not to fade. I can imagine it spanning a golf course water hazard. A future link in a landscaped trail leading from the Main Post to Crissy Field? Not so much.

The prefab wonder won't mar the Presidio's ongoing evolution as a realm fusing nature and the city, the present and the past. But the 120-foot crossing above batteries to a trail along the Pacific is something else altogether: a functional form that deserves a second look, even with the visual splendor to the north and west.

Place is a weekly column by John King, The San Francisco Chronicle's urban design critic. E-mail: jking@sfnchronicle.com Twitter: @johnkingsfchron

Life Tributes

Eric Stein

December 26, 2015

Eric Stein, beloved husband of Sharon Leong, passed peacefully on December 26, 2015. Eric was a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco for over 30 years. He and Elizabeth "Widge" Nelson founded the secular St. Peter's Place Nursery School



Ave (Nonni) Lovi

Ave (Nonni) Lovi, a resident of Burlingame entered into rest at home on January 4, 2016. She was a loving wife to the late Nello Lovi for 52 years. She is survived by her daughters, Carla Brosnan (her husband Timothy) and MaryAnn Button (her husband Doug). Adored Nonni of Ryan (his



Margot Graham Lintner

Oct. 17, 1952 - Dec. 29, 2015

Margot found long sought after serenity on December 29th after battling a

cooking spectacular meals for her friends and family. She was known for her large and vivacious personality as well as the energy she brought into the lives of others. She loved God, and was a devout Catholic. Margot was active at Ocean Shore Elementary School and the Girl Scouts. Her favorite quote was, "Small things done with great love."

Family and friends