

# Gypsy moth hitched ride on beams

FELTON — The gypsy moth came here this summer on beams of wood brought from Eugene, Ore., to rebuild and expand Fall Creek Bridge on Highway 9, according to Rick Bergman, deputy agricultural commissioner.

The moth's eggs bummed a ride on timber bought by a contractor working for Caltrans.

Some of the timbers were used on a bridge on Old Santa Cruz Highway near the summit, but Felton got the brunt of the moth when the beams were stored in a vacant lot north of the Felton Post Office.

When the eggs hatched, the tree-eating parent moths fluttered around the downtown area undisturbed for a while.

When they were observed, warnings went out and the county agricultural commissioner's staff began the hunt.

It was a successful stalk — Bergman said he believes the moths have all been killed — and it led to the trail of the egg-infested timber from Oregon.

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