



## Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

### TUNNEL VISIONS

Slow workday at the home office, so I decided to take off and drive through the new Devil's Slide Tunnels. Very cool. Walked around Princeton marina. Very few tourists in sight on this sleepy weekday. Got saltwater taffy at Harbor Village, then seafood at Half Moon Bay Brewing Company. Now I can't wait for the new Devil's Slide scenic county park to open up on the old roadway. I can already hear the sounds of silence. And while I am on the tunnel topic, I want to ask everyone to raise a glass to Pacifican Mitch Reid, who fought long and hard against the bypass and for the tunnel. Mitch is a great guy who does not toot his own horn, but I have heard from a number of people in town who think he should have been recognized at the tunnel opening ceremony for all his efforts. Well, Mitch, Wandering & Wondering recognizes you and honors your contribution to this amazing project. The people who really matter know how much you did for the cause. THINK TUNNEL!

### OUR LIBRARIES SCORE HIGH

For the fifth consecutive year, the San Mateo County Library (including Pacifica's branches) has been named one of the best public libraries in the U.S. by Library Journal. This year 7,570 public libraries were evaluated, and 262 libraries received star designations. San Mateo County Library ranked 17th nationwide and 3rd in California among public libraries with similar budgets. The Library Journal Index of Public Library

Service rating system used criteria that indicate public use, including number of library visits, circulation of materials, program attendance, and public Internet use. Visit San Mateo County Library's award-winning website at [smcl.org](http://smcl.org) for information about the library and its services.

### WHALE WATCHERS

From high atop Roberts Road between Linda Mar and Rockaway Beach, Scott Anthony and Karen Brooks have been watching whales migrating offshore. I have heard from several other folks, including Peter Loeb, Avril Hughes, and Surfer Joe, who have seen whales breaching and spouting near shore in the past few days.

### LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD

Larry DeMartini says he just found out that Pacifican James Parque is now playing right field for the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team.

### JAC CLOSES

Sorry to see JAC Asian cuisine leave Fairmont shopping center. Used to enjoy the Filipino food and friendly folks there while getting my tires aligned at another good old Pacifica family business, Sanford (and Son) Firestone.

### SITSEER

- Last Ride on Devil's Slide (video): [thecurios.com](http://thecurios.com)
- Pacifica police outsourcing report (PDF): [pacificariptide.com](http://pacificariptide.com)
- Small-town newspaperman crusades for truth and justice: [editorandpublisher.com](http://editorandpublisher.com) (March 11)
- The way we were: vintage Pacifica photos posted on Diane Young Leslie's Facebook page
- Devil's Slide Tunnels opening ceremony (video): [coastsidevideo.com](http://coastsidevideo.com)

### DEMOCRACY GETS RUN OVER ON HIGHWAY 1

The staff report (PDF posted on Pacifica Riptide) from the June 25, 2012 Pacifica City Council meeting laid the groundwork for bypassing the Planning Commission and the public to allow Caltrans to proceed with widening Highway 1 unencumbered by such annoying details as community input and technological alternatives to widening. Visualize a big orange steamroller flattening City Hall. Now you've got the picture. After two hours of public comments for and against a community hearing on the highway widening, Pacifica City Council on March 25, 2013 could not muster a simple up-or-down vote on the matter, as one motion after another failed. Several opponents of the widening walked out of the council meeting expressing disgust with the council's inaction and ineptitude on an important issue that divides and roils the community. In two months, Caltrans delivers its final environmental impact report (FEIR) on the highway-widening project, so the council's failure to call a public hearing means that alternatives to widening and public concerns about "collateral damage" from widening may not be addressed in time. Stay tuned to this space for details on what widening opponents and proponents plan to do next. For information on widening alternatives: [ph1a-pacifica.weebly.com](http://ph1a-pacifica.weebly.com), [hwylpacifica.wordpress.com](http://hwylpacifica.wordpress.com), or [facebook.com/phwyl1a](http://facebook.com/phwyl1a)

### NEWBORN BAMBI

Scott McKellar's neighbor/pal J.B. recently witnessed the birth of a fawn in his front yard. Doe and fawn soon after disappeared into the woods.

### WASTING AWAY IN MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Editor: [goofbuster.com](http://goofbuster.com)
- Blogger: [pacificariptide.com](http://pacificariptide.com)
- Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)