



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

SAVE CEQA

Five Republican state senators are holding Governor Jerry Brown hostage. The GOP solons say they will not vote for the budget unless Brown guts the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The GOP 5, as they dubbed themselves in a letter to Brown, are Sam Blakeslee, San Luis Obispo; Anthony Cannella, Ceres; Bill Emmerman, Hemet; Tom Berryhill, Modesto; and Tom Harman, Huntington Beach. They are negotiating independently of their leader, Senator Bob Dutton of Rancho Cucamonga, who remains opposed to allowing voters to decide whether to extend current taxes another five years. Their proposal would sharply limit the rights of California citizens and local government agencies to enforce critical environmental protections. Please contact Governor Brown online at ecovote.org/budget-ceqa. You also can write to Governor Jerry Brown, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814; or call 916-445-2841; or fax 916-558-3160.

LITTLE GIANT

San Francisco Giants pitcher Tiny Tim Lincecum shocked the sporting world last week when he revealed that he puts away several cheeseburgers at one sitting, as much as 3,000 calories per meal. In the Bay Area, the diminutive hurler eats at In-N-Out Burger. Back home in Seattle, he favors Dick's Drive-In.

LASAGNA LOCKUP

Giancarlo Sabatini, a convicted Italian cocaine trafficker who went into hiding in Belgium to avoid serving a long prison sentence, could not resist the lure of some home cooking. Police staked out Sabatini's family home, and when they saw his daughter sneaking a tray of lasagna into the house, they rushed in and busted him. (Chronicle News Service, March 10)

PADDLE TO THE SEA

This year, Tuolumne River Trust celebrates its 30th Anniversary by working to raise \$30,000 with the 3rd Annual Paddle to the Sea, a monthlong paddle-a-thon from

Yosemite to San Francisco Bay. Registration is now open. As in past years, there are many different options: whitewater rafting, flatwater canoeing, flatwater kayaking, and sea kayaking are all options for beginners and experienced paddlers alike, and this year we're adding sailing and new stretches for high-performance watercraft like surf skis and outriggers. Your friends and family can sponsor your trip and win prizes for reaching fundraising goals. All funds raised go directly to Tuolumne River Trust's work to protect and restore the river. Tuolumne River Trust staff are available to answer questions and help you figure out how to participate. For more information, call Jessie Raeder at 415-882-7252 extension 301 or email jessie@tuolumne.org

FREAKY FRIDAYS: WET & WILD

On Friday, March 11 we had tsunami alerts (without sirens, just sheriff's department robocalls at 6 a.m.). Luckily, due to low tide, monster waves never hit here, only in poor old Crescent City and rich old Santa Cruz. Then on Friday morning, March 18, the weatherman warned of a tornado approaching the San Mateo County coast. We heard thunder and saw sheets of rain blowing sideways, but no funnel cloud in Pacifica, though two were spotted, one at Francis State Beach in Half Moon Bay and one at Ocean Beach in San Francisco. And we read in the paper that nasty radioactive stuff spewing from damaged Japanese nuclear reactors has been detected in the upper atmosphere above us. So what's

next, Pacifica? Pestilence, famine, a plague of locusts? As winter officially ended last weekend, and spring sprang, nature's furies erupted from the skies once again with funnel clouds, tornados, thunder, lightning, hail, and rain. But the good news is that as of March 19 we had 44 inches of rain in the gauge at San Pedro Valley County Park at the back of Linda Mar (see photo).

DEPT. OF REDUNDANCY DEPT. "This location has been relocated." (sign on empty Hertz rental car office in South San Francisco)

SWAMI SEZ

"Economics is extremely useful as a form of employment for economists." (John Kenneth Galbraith)

SITeseer

- Smithsonian finds rare color photos of 1906 SF post-quake: sfgate.com
- Review of Laura Werlin's new book "Grilled Cheese, Please": tastingtable.com
- Relief fund for human and animal survivors in Japan: petconnection.com
- Stop getting phone books, save trees: yellowpagesoptout.com, cawrecycles.org

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