



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

UNDERSTANDING MOTHER NATURE

This past week we have had carcasses of *Velella velella* jellyfish and a sperm whale wash up on our beaches, and concerns about the health of the sardine fishery in the waters off our coast, and of course the never-ending drought drags on as hopes fade for a miracle storm. Historically, the last April surprise rainfall (14 inches around the Bay Area over two days) was back in 1880, so don't get your hopes up.

CALIFORNIA SPRING ART SHOW

Coastside Land Trust presents its California Spring art show: 37 local artists capture California's diverse, colorful spring season through art. The show runs to May 22. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The gallery is at 788 Main Street, Half Moon Bay. All art is for sale.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Shepherds and cowboys may lose their jobs to drones, says the Wall Street Journal (April 8) in a report about ranchers using remote-controlled quadcopters to herd their livestock. Shed a tear for those sheepdogs, too.

PACIFICA SAVES WATER

The state water board reports that Pacifica is a good water saver compared to richer communities. We are at 51 gallons a day per capita (along with Half Moon Bay at 48, San Francisco and South San Francisco at 46), while wealthy Peninsula towns waste water like there's no drought: Hillsborough (281), Menlo Park/Atherton/Woodside/Portola Valley (228). Keep up the good work, Pacifica!

SITSEER

Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives (PH1A) recently expanded and updated its website (ph1a-pacifica.weebly.com). Check it out for new information on the highway

widening controversy, lawsuits, and fundraising to support the opposition.

FREE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC

Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA are holding a free spay/neuter clinic at Pet Food Express at 6295 Mission Street. No dogs over 80 pounds and no pets over 8 years old. This free service is valued at \$400+ at a private veterinary hospital. The dates are: April 22, May 27, and June 24, and the times are 8 to 9 a.m. First come, first served. For questions, call 650-340-7022, ext. 387.

PLANETARY SOUND EFFECTS

Scientists report that waves deep below the oceans' surface cause a bell-like ringing or humming sound that has been detected all around the world by seismic instruments. (Earthweek.com)

DOG DAYS

Witty S.F. Chronicle sports writer Scott Ostler had fun with ballpark hot dogs in his April 14 column. With tongue in cheek, he described the Chicago Cubs' new "health-food special" hot dog topped with macaroni & cheese plus Cheetos. Ostler joked that the Pittsburgh Pirates now offer a Cuban pretzel dog (hot dog with slices of ham, pulled pork, Swiss cheese, and pickles, all wrapped in a pretzel hoagie roll). Scott says the Cleveland Indians honor their slugger Jim Thome with a Thomenator (hot dog garnished with sauerkraut and three pierogies, which are deep-fried Polish dumplings). Can you top that?

SWAMI SEZ

"My mechanic told me he couldn't fix my brakes, so he just made the horn louder."

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