



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

MOUNTAIN LION PROTECTION

Democratic State Senator Jerry Hill has introduced legislation that would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to use nonlethal options when responding to incidents like the one that led to the fatal shooting of two mountain lion cubs by a game warden in the backyard of a home in Half Moon Bay on December 1, 2012. Current state regulations do not give DFW much flexibility when mountain lions venture into areas populated by humans, as in the incidents that resulted in the Half Moon Bay shootings and another in Redwood City in 2011. Hill's legislation also would authorize DFW to partner with wildlife groups and nonprofits when responding to such incidents, if no imminent threat to human life. Current law doesn't clearly authorize DFW to use wildlife groups throughout the state, even though they could help tranquilize and capture mountain lions.

SAMTRANS HYBRID BUSES

SamTrans is taking another step toward modernizing its fleet with buses that will lower emissions and improve fuel consumption. The Board of Directors has approved a contract to purchase 25 diesel electric hybrid buses. The energy-efficient buses, the first in the SamTrans fleet, are expected to be in service throughout the county by the end of the year. The low-floor buses use long-life, non-hazardous, maintenance-free batteries to capture and store braking energy, and advanced solid-state controllers to manage and blend power sources. For the environment and passengers, this means reduced emissions and smoother, quieter buses. For the district, it means less fuel, which translates into improved operating costs. The diesel-electric hybrid buses will produce 90 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the 1998 buses they replace. The fuel technology used in the new diesel buses has engine emission certification levels that are the same as those found in buses powered by

compressed natural gas. The buses include upgrades that improve safety and comfort for riders. The wheelchair ramp has a more gradual incline, which makes it easier for riders to board the bus. The buses even offer smart technology features, such as interior, energy-efficient LED lighting, equipped with sensors that measure the ambient light. On bright, sunny days, the lights turn down and when it is dark outside, the lights are brighter. The rear door is also modernized to open automatically when a passenger stands on the exit stairs, eliminating the need for a push bar on the door.

INNER EDITOR FOR WRITERS

Do you have an eagle eye? Do you correct your relatives, friends, and colleagues when they mangle the English language? Do you want to improve your communication skills? This three-hour class is about using your Inner Editor to improve your writing by applying basic editorial principles of clarity and consistency. The instructor (yours truly) is an experienced copy editor, proofreader, writer, blogger, and teacher, working in the Bay Area since the days of typewriters and carbon paper. He has 40+ years of experience in advertising, marketing, corporate communications, journalism, and publishing (academic, technical, and trade). Get information and sign up for classes: April 9, City College of San Francisco at Fort Mason, 415-561-1840, ccsf.edu/contined; April 13, De Anza College, 408-864-8817, communityeducation.fhda.edu

FRESH & EASY: NEVER SAY DIE

"We wanted to reach out to you to address numerous news and online reports about the future of our stores. Our parent company Tesco is conducting a strategic review of Fresh & Easy - they're looking at all options to find the best outcome for the neighborhood market that you - and we - have come to love. While we don't know exactly what that outcome will be, or if Tesco will continue to own the company, we're confident that Fresh & Easy can continue to be your favorite market. We want to assure you: we don't have plans to close stores. We're still committed to providing delicious, wholesome and affordable food every day. We're still Fresh & Easy; open for business with everything that you enjoy about our store, with even more exciting things to come. That's why we're going to keep on fighting the good food fight.

Now, more than ever, we appreciate your energy in our stores and being able to share a smile with you. We look forward to seeing you soon and thank you for your continued support." (The Fresh & Easy Team)

SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE

Gandhi-King-Chavez Season for Nonviolence, Holistic Health Learning Center, San Francisco State University, 415-338-6416

SITeseer

- Jim Grantham's jazz classes: jazzmasterworkout.com
- Dog and cat breeds: petcentric.com
- New search engine: duckduckgo.com

QUICK BITE

Hankering for tandoori pizza? Cheesesteak sandwich? Eggplant parmesan? Mama Maria's Italian food (Fairmont Plaza at Hickey and Skyline) is worth a trip up the hill. Ask the friendly cook about his stint in Sicily.

BUCKS FOR DUCKS

Want to support bird refuges and wildlife preserves? Anyone can buy a duck stamp at the post office for only 15 bucks. Duck hunters have to buy the stamps to help pay for federal wildlife protection, but we bird lovers also can buy duck stamps to accomplish the same thing. In this unique partnership, hunters and birdwatchers are helping each other. (from a suggestion by S.F. Chronicle outdoors columnist Tom Stienstra)

NAME THAT TUNE

Scott M. likes Neil Young's "Unknown Legend" and Steven Stills' "Southern Cross." Robert H. likes "East West" by the Paul Butterfield Blues Band. (Robert also tried the seafood cocktail and molcajete at San Mateo's El Sinaloaense, which I recommended recently.)

WASTING AWAY IN MAYBURRITOVILLE

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Editor's Note: Opinions expressed in this column are those of Mr. Maybury and do not necessarily reflect those of the Pacifica Tribune.