

Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury Pacifica Tribune Columnist San Jose Mercury News

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Don't miss Showtime's new documentary series "Years of Living Dangerously" about dealing with the effects of climate change. Harrison Ford, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Don Cheadle, among others, narrate the series.

PACIFICA CRIME WAVE

"This is merely a casual observation, but it looks to me like there's been a noticeable uptick in the number of vehicle thefts and break-ins reported in the daily police logs. Pacifica had a spate of break-ins a few years ago targeting cars parked at our beach lots and at trailheads. This time, the break-ins and thefts appear to be in residential areas. I've just started noticing this 'wave' within the past two weeks or so. Be safe out there." (Chris Fogel, editor and publisher of Pacifica Index, posting on Pacifica Riptide)

ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION

"I notice on the Nextdoor website (nextdoor.com) that the City of Pacifica and the Pacifica Police Department have opted not to enable Nextdoor readers to comment about their posts. All I would ask them to do is not to send us messages that we (a) already know, (b) don't already know but don't need to know, and (c) don't already know but easily could figure out. And what's funny is that the city doesn't see anything wrong with that. It says in its opening post, without the slightest hint of irony: 'Initially the City will focus in on one-way communication...' Y'know, the more I think about it, I'm really opposed to the City of Pacifica intruding on our Nextdoor website. It's really isn't in the spirit of Nextdoor. The County of San Mateo has a perfectly good notification system that doesn't involve hitching its wagon to anyone else's. Apparently the City of Pacifica is unable to do the same. If you disagree, just wait for those emails about 'Safe Driving Week' and, worse, subtle messaging when city resources and salaries are on the line." (Alan Wald post on Pacifica Riptide)

JERRY KEEPS HIS FOOT ON THE GAS

State Senator Jerry Hill — joined by San Bruno City Manager Connie Jackson and Mark Toney, executive director of The Utility Reform Network (TURN) — announced April 11 that with the filing of the latest statements of economic interests, California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey has now accepted gifts totaling more than \$230,000 in international travel and spent more than 200 days on these trips since he was appointed commission president in 2003, according to the filing of statements of economic interest with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). The account of Peevey's declared travel came a week after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E), which contributed to the nonprofit that funded most of Peevey's trips, was indicted on 12 federal criminal counts resulting from the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that killed eight people and destroyed a San Bruno neighborhood. Last year, a consultant's report commissioned by the CPUC revealed that staff members said they do not believe the commission makes safety a top priority and blame a workplace culture that gives regulated industries too much "access to the PUC building, documents and personnel." Hill's Senate Bill 831, which addresses several

ethics issues, includes provisions that would prohibit elected and appointed officials from accepting more than \$5,000 a year in travel-related gifts from nonprofits, and would require nonprofits providing travel-related gifts to disclose to the Fair Political Practices Commission the name of the donors paying for the travel expenses. Hill also announced that in the wake of the gun-trafficking and bribery indictment of Senator Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, Hill is amending SB 831 to prohibit elected officials from using campaign funds to pay legal bills in criminal cases.

WILD TURKEY STALKS PACIFICA

A wild turkey trotted past homes on Rosita Road in Linda Mar on April 6, headed for San Pedro Creek. Later in the day, the wandering bird turned up on Pedro Point. Its current whereabouts are unknown. Rich Shafer got a photo of the turkey and posted it on Pacifica Riptide (see Critters & Wildlife category).

SITSEER: SACBEE.COM

Follow Dan Walters' political analysis in the Sacramento Bee (sacbee.com), especially his columns on state government shenanigans, including the \$15 billion gap in funding for the Train to Nowhere (Governor Jerry Brown's vanity/legacy high-speed rail project, whose bloated budget now exceeds \$68 billion and whose route plan looks like the Chutes and Ladders game board).

IN HONOR OF HERB CAEN

The fire chief of Arlington, Washington, is Travis Hots.

DEPT. OF REDUNDANCY DEPT.

ISBN number. PIN number. VIN number. Please RSVP. Au jus sauce. Marijuana initiative. Actually, that last one is an oxymoron. If you have more of the above, send them in.

SWAMI SEZ

"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damn lies, and statistics." (Mark Twain)

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