



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

LINDA MAR BEACH PROTEST

Jim (last name withheld) emails, "Paying for parking at Linda Mar State Beach is a real low point and a typically ill-conceived idea from the powers that be. They constantly impose such ignorant sanctions. Their inability to properly grow the community is so apparent in all they do not do. This will only bring a hardship to all who use this beach, but will also impact the neighborhoods." Jim also suggests that the city operate or permit a hotdog cart on the beach. I told Jim I had proposed that several years ago but got shot down, and that some actual entrepreneurs had tried and failed to get food concessions at the beach. You know what the problem is, of course: Taco Bell has friends in high places, and will brook no competition at Linda Mar Beach. End of story.

POOH-POOHS PAY PARKING

Tim Stack emails about Linda Mar Beach pay parking: "The fees received will not produce a profit for the city but just break even. This is due to costs of the ranger as well as costs to enforce parking fees. Some of the revenue will also go to maintain the parking areas." Tim may be right about this, but even so, parking revenues will help pay for needed services and improvements at the beach. (I also had a little political chat with Tim. He calls himself "a registered independent with conservative leanings," and of course I am a card-carrying liberal, so our conversation was lively but friendly. I promised I would try to be as "fair and balanced" as a liberal can be, and Tim generously replied, "I enjoy your column every week.")

CAR VANDALISM

Overnight June 25-26, vandals smashed several car windows in Linda Mar. If you know anything about this, please use the Silent Witness Hotline at 650-359-4444. The City of Pacifica offers this dedicated phone number for anyone who wants to report information on crimes or suspicious activities in Pacifica but who wishes to remain anonymous. You can leave a voice message at this number and it will be forwarded to the police department for further investigation. Many tips from the hotline have proven helpful in apprehending criminals.

INNER EDIROT

Pierre Messerli's jaw dropped when he read the following description of Leonardo DiCaprio on celebrity website styleblazer.com: "Leonardi is the son of a World War II bombing raid in Germany, so it's no wonder he is fluent in German!" Pierre emails, "I don't think I have enough fingers on one hand to count all the mistakes in that sentence."

READING IS SO DELICIOUS

Looking for free, fun activities this summer? Look no farther than your local San Mateo County Library (smcl.org), including Sharp Park and Sanchez here in Pacifica. The annual summer reading program is under way. This year's theme is "Reading Is So Delicious." It encourages everyone to sign up at their local public library to participate in reading programs, celebrations, author events, book discussions, arts and crafts, music—it's all free. Why do kids need to read over the summer? If they don't, they may find themselves going down

the "summer slide": loss of reading and learning skills during the long summer break from school. An effective way to combat "summer slide" is to read. Summer reading programs at your local library remind parents and caregivers that students need opportunities to learn and practice essential skills during summer. Parents and caregivers can encourage their kids to read over the summer: Give kids the power of choice. Kids say they are more likely to finish a book they have picked out themselves. Whether kids read print books or ebooks, the more they read, the better readers they become and the more they enjoy it. Make books accessible. Having books available is key to helping kids love to read.

FEDS SNUB GREAT WHITE SHARKS

The federal Marine Fisheries Service has declined to protect endangered great white sharks off the California coast. Conservation groups and marine scientists are alarmed by the Feds' decision to withhold protection for the big predators. Get more information and find out what you can do to help: oceana.org, sharkstewards.org, wildearthguardians.org, biologicaldiversity.org

CEO PUTS CROC IN MOUTH

"Our milk are those clogs. If someone wants them, make them walk through all the new stuff first." (Crocs CEO John McCarvel, comparing his company's signature sandals to the lowly dairy products at the back of a grocery store, quoted by Matt Townsend of Bloomberg News, June 27). Hey, McCarvel, try a little subject-verb agreement, and stick to selling shoes.

LOCAL BUSINESSES FEEL PAIN

- Pacific Passions Dress Shop (owned by Gary Mondfrans, erstwhile Pacifica City Council candidate) is for lease on Craigslist. The Pacific Manor store has a "Big Sale" sign in the window.
- Hanni's gift store in Rockaway Beach right next door to Rockin' Rob's has a huge sign in the window saying the store is closing.
- Kerri's Coffee Shop in Linda Mar shopping center is closing after a zillion years in business. Wanna bet that the shopping center's high rents drove them out?

HISTORY OF BAD DECISIONS

Get your hands on Jaxon Van Derbeken's thorough dissection of the troubled Bay Bridge construction project. The article headlined "Bay Bridge troubles began with design" appeared June 23 in the SF Chronicle (sfchronicle.com, sfgate.com).

DUH

Scott McKellar was gobsmacked when he read the warning on a packaged food product he was preparing to cook in his kitchen: "Your Pan and Product Will Be Hot." Scott emails, "Gee, thanks for the warning. It never would have occurred to me to grab potholders."

SWAMI SEZ

"Why would you trust guys who screwed up the new Bay Bridge to come here and widen the highway through the heart of Pacifica?" (Rusty Boltz, engineering consultant)

SITeseer

Google "shark bites kayak in Pacifica" and knock yourself out.

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