



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

Light Show at the Beach

Ian Butler says, "Pacifans were astonished last week to see the waves glowing at night. It was a type of so-called red tide, which put on quite a blue-green light show after the sun went down."

New Highway 1 Blog

Hal Bohner has started a blog (hwy1pacifica.wordpress.com) to analyze and report on Caltrans' plan to widen Highway 1. Hal says, "Caltrans is a big, statewide agency that owns Highway 1 in Pacifica. It is aggressively pursuing a plan to widen the highway from four to six lanes, beginning south of the Fassler intersection to north of the Reina del Mar intersection. I think that is a bad idea, and that many other alternatives would be much better for Pacifica. Many in Pacifica agree with me; some do not. I have been working to understand why Caltrans would push its plan, which to me is clearly bad for Pacifica. This blog is about my investigation. Caltrans may own the highway, but we live here!"

Yes on 34: Repeal The Death Penalty

Proposition 34 would repeal the death penalty and replace it with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Reasons to vote yes:

- More than 800 people have been condemned to death in the past 35 years in California; only 13 have been executed.
- Cost to house people on Death Row is far more expen-

sive than housing them in the general prison population.

- Inmates now on Death Row, when returned to the general prison population, would work and the money they earn would go into restitution for crimes committed.
- Appeals are costly and time-consuming.
- Most Death Row inmates die in prison of sickness and old age.
- California would save \$130 million a year if the death penalty were repealed. Over a three-year period, \$100 million of the money saved would go to local law enforcement for use in solving the 46 percent of violent crimes that are never solved. The rest of the savings would be put back into the general fund to be used for education, safety, and public services.
- There would never be another case of wrongful death by execution of an innocent person.

Library's Free Boopsie Mobile App

San Mateo County Library (SMCL) has launched its new free mobile app, powered by Boopsie, available for smartphones and tablets. Download it at smcl.boopsie.com or visit the app store for your particular device. With the app, customers can perform many of the same tasks they do online: search the catalog, place holds, renew materials and see a display of new books, movies and music. They can follow SMCL blogs, check out events and programs, locate SMCL branches, and connect with library staff. The new app is also designed to simplify access to the library's collection of ebooks/eaudiobooks with easy download ability. Finally, the app features BookLook, which can be used to scan a book's ISBN code to find out if the item is owned by SMCL.

Warning on Fake Airbags

U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a consumer safety advisory warning vehicle owners and auto body shops about the dangers of counterfeit airbags. "Anytime equipment that is critical to protecting drivers and passengers fails to operate properly, it is a serious safety concern," says Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We want consumers to be immediately aware of this problem and to review our safety information to see if their vehicle could be in need of inspection." A study by NHTSA showed that the most common reason for a malfunction was a missing airbag or one never replaced after a previous crash. A report by National Public Radio (NPR) showed some dealers and repair shops stuffed airbag compartments with aluminum cans, shoe leather, packaging materials and even paper.

Block That Cliche

"Raining cats and dogs." Apparently, folks in the Dark Ages thought cats and dogs caused rain and wind storms. Go figure. (Gregg Levoy)

Swami Sez

"What we have in this country is socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor." (Gore Vidal)

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