



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

DIGGIN' IT

San Mateo County History Museum in downtown Redwood City has a small exhibit about the Devil's Slide Tunnels, featuring the shovel that tunnel activist Mitch Reid's son Forest used for the unofficial groundbreaking. Mitch, who calls the Caltrans project "The People's Tunnels," says, "I have been joking for years that Forest might be driving through by the time they open. Funny thing, he may actually have his drivers permit before they open."

JOHANN'S SUGGESTION BOX

As I gear up for 2013, I want to know what you think of this Wandering and Wondering column of mine (and of my Pacifica Riptide blog, if you happen to visit me online). How can I better serve our community? To send your feedback, just email me at the address below (see MAYBURRITOVILLE at the end of the column). Or go to Pacifica Riptide, search for "Johann's Suggestion Box," and hit the Comments link below the item to submit your questions and answers.

iPAWS FOR NO MAN

Pierre Messerli sees so many people walking around clutching and caressing various handheld devices that he wants to call the devices iPaws. When I mentioned this to Gary Hanauer, he said we should invent iPaws for animals to communicate with us humans.

iPAUSE FOR NO MAN

Michael Shaw was shocked (SHOCKED!) to see three generations of a family (grandmother, mother, daughter) engrossed in their individual cell phones (and not interacting at all) while sitting for 30 minutes in the waiting room at Michael's doctor's office. When Joyce Washnik, editor and publisher of Giftbeat, read about

Michael's experience, she wrote: "Isn't that sad? I see this all the time. Even couples out to dinner, with one (or both) checking their phones. You can't even walk in the woods anymore without hearing someone's cell ring. I think we should invent an iPause movement as an antidote to being plugged in 24/7. It's time to take a break, people!" Joyce plans to editorialize for iPause in the next issue of her national publication (giftbeat.com).

HIDDEN BENEFITS OF FLU SHOTS

If you're tempted to skip your flu shot, consider this: Getting vaccinated cuts risk for a heart attack or stroke by up to 50 percent, according to two studies presented at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. (Lisa Collier Cool, Yahoo Health, November 26)

OCEAN SPACES

The MPA Monitoring Enterprise has launched Ocean Spaces.org, the new web-based hub of scientific monitoring data, analyses, and results from California's network of marine protected areas (MPAs). From ecological assessments to socioeconomic analyses of human uses, Ocean Spaces provides free, easy access to impartial scientific information on conditions in and around the state's MPAs. The site provides data on size, abundance, and location of key fish species, where people are fishing, and how fishing patterns have changed since the MPAs were implemented. The process of planning the MPAs was sometimes contentious, but it created a community that wants to stay engaged and informed about MPA monitoring and management: scientists, fishers, environmentalists, policymakers, and citizens. A public symposium on the first five years of MPA monitoring and management in the Central Coast is in Monterey in late February 2013.

ARE YOU IN?

Responding to last week's "in crowd" jokes, Chris X. writes: "I haven't been in Ebriated for over 12 years. Quality of life is so much better away from that place:)"

NEWSFLASH

Check local blogs Pacifica Riptide, Pacifica Index, Pacifica Patch, and Fix Pacifica for news and opinion about the possible closing or sale of the Fresh & Easy market

in Pedro Point (and the rest of Fresh & Easy's 200 U.S. stores). Also look for news about a federal judge's decision to dismiss the environmental lawsuit against Sharp Park Golf Course (and see comments on legal fallout from the court ruling).

FOOD FOR FINES

Have an overdue book or DVD from the library? Now's your chance to clear your fees and fines and help others by donating food to those in need during the month of December in the San Mateo County Library's "Food For Fines" program. Library patrons can take any amount of nonperishable boxed or canned food to any of the San Mateo County Library's 12 branches (including Sharp Park and Sanchez in Pacifica) or Redwood City Library's branches, during business hours, and library fines and fees will be waived. All collected food is donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Each year, Second Harvest Food Bank distributes more than 45.5 million pounds of nutritious food to low-income people in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Most are children and seniors. The millions of pounds of food are provided free to 326 local nonprofit agencies at more than 700 sites, including pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and after-school programs.

INNER EDIROT

Bernie Borok emails, "I stopped at a calendar store in Hillsdale yesterday, and picked up one from the National Wildlife Federation. Nice scenes, but in the fine print on the back it mentioned one of the picture sources as 'wildlife refugees.' A typo today but an idea for a whole new calendar tomorrow!" (Gives new meaning to the term "Lone Ranger.")

SWAMI SEZ

Paul Slavin and several other readers nominate this quote from Groucho Marx: "'Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.'"

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