



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

Capital Idea

Wacky ideas sometimes come to me when I swim laps at Brink Pool. So the other day as I was doing my aquatic workout, I came up with a solution to Pacifica's fiscal follies: Lure a government agency into moving its headquarters to Rockaway Quarry. Okay, I warned you it was a wacky idea! But really, wouldn't all those sweaty civil servants in Sacramento or Washington prefer working in our cool coastal climate? All those disgruntled local politicians who vent at City Council meetings and in the Tribune's editorial pages would sign up to become lobbyists at the new Rockaway government center. Fat-cat bureaucrats on expense accounts would fill our restaurants and motels. The high-speed rail project would extend right to Rockaway so we could stop worrying about widening Highway 1. If you like my pie-in-the-sky idea, call 1-800-FAT-CHANCE.

Fireball Rocks Norcal

About 8 a.m. Sunday a fireball streaking across Northern California and Nevada skies broke the sound barrier, causing a sonic boom that rattled nerves and windows. Scientists say it was a meteor entering Earth's atmosphere and breaking up. Various amateur videos are appearing on the Internet, and scientists are searching for any part of the projectile that might have survived the explosion and landed. One expert says the flaming object was no bigger than a minivan, but it lit up the early-morning sky and hundreds of police and emergency switchboards. Up at Tahoe, the meteor boom was the talk of the lake. Apparently, this meteor was not part of the previous evening's Lyrid meteor shower.

Oceana Tennis Courts Reopen May 1

"You may remember a Pacifica Riptide thread a few months ago about reopening the Oceana High School tennis courts. I thought then that it was imminent, but

although the courts themselves were ready, there was an issue relating to accepting just part of the reconstruction project. I was told this week (by John Schultz, facilities director for JUHSD) that the courts will open to the public on nights and weekends (i.e., out-of-school hours) from May 1." (Laurie Frater, school boardmember)

Iran's Gift

Perfectly useful words in the English language that come from the ancient Persian (Farsi) language of Iran: talc, bazaar, kiosk, lilac, tiara, azure, shawl. (Ben Schott, miscellanies.info)

Trifecta

I recently pulled up behind a cigarette smoker driving an early-model, rollover-prone Ford Explorer with very grimy windows. On the rear of the big SUV was a National Rifle Association (NRA) decal and this hand-painted message: Global Warming Is a Hoax. This guy is obviously much more than just a climate change denier.

Alandrome: Sleeper

Now that the Titanic Centennial has passed, apparently not everyone aboard the ill-fated ship was caught in the frenzy, according to the memoir of onepalindrome-loving passenger: "Panic in a Titanic? I nap!" (Alan Wald)

Peninsula Progress

Victoria Monroe, formerly of the Pacifica Tribune, has launched Peninsula Progress, a new weekly newspaper covering Brisbane, South San Francisco, San Bruno, and Millbrae. Peninsula Progress is published every Wednesday in print, and is available free at city offices, chambers of commerce, and libraries in all four towns, as well as many coffeehouses and cafes. Contact Victoria at: victoria@peninsulaprogress.com

Paddle Power

It's time again for Paddle to the Sea, Tuolumne River Trust's epic journey from the Sierra to the sea. Right now is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revive the Tuolumne River. Help bring back the salmon, improve water quality, and enhance recreational opportunities. Visit Tuolumne.org.

Senior Helpers

A rash of fatal car crashes with senior citizens driving has brought attention to a graying population packing our roadways. By 2030, more than 70 million Americans will be 65 or older and at least 90 percent of them will be licensed to drive. That's why Senior Helpers (seniorhelpers.com), one of the largest in-home senior care companies, wants to raise awareness during April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month – by giving families a Senior Helpers Safe Driving Checklist. "When elders can no longer drive, they may start to feel trapped and out of control of their lives," says Peter Ross, CEO and co-founder of Senior Helpers. "We encourage families to monitor their elderly loved ones with our Senior Helpers Safe Driving Checklist. If they notice problems, they can hire a caregiver to drive their loved one. The caregiver is not only the driver but also an extra set of eyes and ears at doctor's appointments or grocery store visits. Plus, caregivers are great companions who keep seniors social and active."

New Leaf: Wine Tasting

Friday, April 27, Wine Tasting & Lecture. Darlene de la Cerna of Classic Artisan Wines discusses Senders Wines and Cantora, meticulously crafted small lots of Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir from Napa and Sonoma. Learn where and how they are grown and heart-warming stories behind them. A portion of wine sales goes directly to children's charities. Must be 21-plus to taste wine. Registration required. Free. 4 to 6 p.m. To preregister, call 850-726-3110, extension 101, or go online to newleaf.com. The store is at 150 San Mateo Road, Half Moon Bay.

Swami Sez

"Save the Earth. It's the only planet with chocolate." (Dianne Castell)

Mayburritoville

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