



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

NATURE BOY

This week's Beautiful Pacifica nature shots are by local photographer Paul Donahue. A great blue heron (top right) stalks pocket gophers in the grass along the top of the cliffs at Mori Point. Paul says, "The herons have to compete with red-tailed hawks, red foxes, and long-tailed weasels, but the gophers are so abundant that there is plenty of food for all." A Monterey pine tree grows atop Pedro Point Headlands, with Montara Mountain in the distance (bottom, near right). See these pictures (and many others) in full color on my blog at PacificaRiptide.com.

KUDOS TO USPS

Recently I got a postcard addressed to me on "Rosita Drive" and no house number. The sender should have written my house number and Rosita Road (not Rosita Drive), but the mail sorter and my mail carrier Maria figured it out and delivered it to me. It's nice to get such

great service and to live in a small-enough community that the mail always gets through. Big thanks to all concerned.

MIND-BOGGLING

As a freshman at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1964, I paid about \$120 a year for my incidental fees. Period. Fast-forward almost a half-century later: To attend UC Berkeley next year will cost about \$12,000. Okay, English majors, what percentage increase is that?

WORLD WIDE WEIRD

- In Israel, some 105,000 people went on Facebook to protest increases in the price of cottage cheese. Their threatened boycott forced the dairy industry to cut prices 25 percent, further evidence of the role of social media in Middle East unrest and change.
- In China, a brand-new high-speed train connects Beijing to Shanghai at 200 miles per hour. By contrast, in the United

States, our national passenger railroad Amtrak travels at approximately 45 miles per hour, on average.

SWAMI SEZ

"Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything." (Charles Kuralt)

BOOK OF THE WEEK

"The Tao of Travel"
by Paul Theroux

SITSEER

- Summer youth write-a-thon: 826.org
- DNA test deters poopscoop scofflaws: dogblog.dogster.com

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