



# Wandering & Wondering

**John Maybury**

**PG&E'S UNMITIGATED GALL** Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) has issued the following statement on PG&E's request to place the financial burden of the San Bruno explosion on customers rather than company profits: "PG&E made well over a billion dollars last year and should not place the financial burden of the San Bruno disaster on the backs of their customers. California families are struggling and many cannot even afford their existing utility bill. As long as PG&E's top executives are getting millions in bonuses, they should not seek a rate increase at the CPUC. I am committed to fighting any such request." Yee has introduced legislation to require PG&E and other gas utility companies to install automatic and remote-controlled shutoff valves throughout California's pipelines. The gas pipeline that exploded on September 9, 2010 in San Bruno was equipped only with manual shutoff valves and without a technician in the vicinity. The inferno continued for

hours, killing eight people and destroying 38 homes.

**BRAND-NEW LIBRARY CARD** San Mateo County Library (SMCL) offers a new library card and key tag at all SMCL community libraries. The newly designed card is colorful and features the library logo and attractive branding. SMCL Director Anne-Marie Despain says, "The library card is so basic that we often overlook the power it represents. The San Mateo County Library card gives our customers access to the vast array of library resources and materials both online and in our libraries." A recent report found that the importance of libraries continued to grow in 2010—and accelerated dramatically as the national economy sank and people looked for sources of cost-effective help in a time of crisis. If you have an old library card, you can exchange it for the new one without paying a replacement fee. Both the new library card and key tag for your key ring have the same barcode.

## WIFI ON THE TRAIN

If you ride the Central Valley trains to Sacramento or Los Angeles via Bakersfield (and all points in between), you are in luck. The Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) has received a second allocation from the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The funding, \$3.75 million reinvested from cost savings from the Emeryville Track Project, will provide dollars needed to install a wireless network for the Northern California intercity passenger rail fleet assigned to the Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin trains. The outcome from this investment includes: passenger Internet access, improved wireless communications to achieve e-ticketing, credit card purchase authorization, and a backbone for transmitting on-board passenger information systems and security camera surveillance feeds. After a period of design and testing, the installation will begin in spring 2011, with expected completion for the Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin IPR services by December 2011. (News source: Train Riders of California—TRAC)

## HELP SAVE CALTRAIN

If you ride Caltrain on the Peninsula, you may be out of luck. Caltrain faces a severe budget crisis, due partly to our state budget mess. We have only a few days to save our Caltrain service. If short-term solutions to the crisis aren't made viable by March 3, 2011, transit officials are likely

to approve drastic cuts to the service, and the train may not be there for you anymore a few months from now. For more information and to get involved in the fight to save Caltrain, visit [greencaltrain.com](http://greencaltrain.com). For information about Caltrain schedules and fares, call 1.800.660.4287 (TTY 650.508.6448) or visit [caltrain.com](http://caltrain.com). For Pacificans and other coastsiders, Caltrain is a pleasant alternative to BART. San Bruno Caltrain station has free and easy street parking or a paid parking lot. Then it is a single-zone round-trip (buy the Day Pass) to the city, all on surface rail, with interesting views of the bay and the industrial underbelly of the Peninsula. Unlike BART, Caltrain does not

smell bad and it has a real train whistle, not that pathetic BART beep. And Caltrain goes right to AT&T Park, home of the World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants.

## HONORING OUR PRESIDENTS

Now that Presidents Day is behind us, I want you to see the rear view of Mount Rushmore (see photo, below).

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