

## Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury *Pacifica Tribune San Jose Mercury News*

Posted:

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### MISSING BITCOINS

Apparently, some 250,000 missing bitcoins have been found in "an old-format wallet," whatever the heck that means, but another 750,000 bitcoins are still out there somewhere, perhaps in a new-format wallet or a virtual rusty can buried in virtual foothills somewhere, waiting for virtual explorers to virtually dig it up.

### NEW SAN BRUNO CALTRAIN

Caltrain passengers soon will have a new grade-separated San Bruno Station. The elevated station opens April 1. Since 2010, passengers have been using a temporary boarding platform on Huntington Avenue near Sylvan Avenue. March 31 will be the last day of service at that site, with the new station opening up a half-mile to the north at San Mateo and San Bruno avenues. Caltrain operates on the same schedule at the new station. In May, Caltrain plans a community celebration in Posey Park to mark completion of the grade separation project, with local vendors and activities, speeches, and refreshments. The \$155 million grade separation project elevated Caltrain tracks at three separate crossings in San Bruno. The grade-separated crossings improve safety conditions for both pedestrians and motorists, while also easing traffic congestion to and from Highway 101. The San Mateo County Transportation Authority provided \$92.5 million for the project, with other funding from state and federal sources.

### BREAKERS FOR BREAKFAST

Marv Morganti writes: "Following the hint in your column, had breakfast at The Breakers...good food, good service, good atmosphere. Hope it prospers." Tom Edminster recently tried Breakers, too, and said he liked it.

### COYOTE SERENADE

Our coastal coyotes howled like holy hell under the full moon two weeks ago from every hillside and ridgeline in Pacifica -- an eerie but beautiful sound, considering that we live so close to a major metropolis.

### HANDY DANDY

Along with cute cat videos and conspiracy theories of all kinds, my correspondents sometimes send me actually useful information. I just got an email the other day that was full of these helpful hints: Use an empty lipstick or Chapstick tube to store emergency currency (aka mad money). Most TVs have extra USB plugs in the back for charging electronic devices. Heat food evenly in a microwave by arranging it in a circle with a hole in the middle. A power plug makes a good flathead screwdriver. Light a hard-to-reach candlewick with a lit stick of spaghetti. Put a small glass of water next to your slice of pizza in the microwave to keep it from getting chewy. Use a ballpoint pen spring to protect a charger cable. Use a magnet to find nails and studs in a wall. Freeze a saturated sponge in a Ziploc bag to make a drip-free ice pack. Use a staple remover to add or remove items from a key ring. Microwave an unshucked ear of corn

for four minutes, then cut about an inch off one end and squeeze out the corn on the cob minus the messy, hairy corn silk. Fill a water bottle one-fourth full, freeze it lying on its side, then fill with water or beverage of choice for an ice-cold drink to go.

#### GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR

"Asia Demand for Milk Shakes Market" (Wall Street Journal headline, March 10)

#### MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Do you know anyone who has ridden Megabus or Bolt Bus between the Bay Area and Los Angeles? If so, I would be curious to know about their experience. My email address is at the end of the column.

#### TRAVEL LIGHT

Do you have trouble sleeping in hotel rooms? Do strange noises keep you awake when you're away from home or even at home? You might be able to mask those annoying sounds with White Noise Lite, a new iPhone app. If you try it, let me know how you like it. I myself have two white-noise machines at home to help me in my ongoing battle to drown out not-so-lovely Linda Mar noise pollution: barking dogs, garbage trucks, motorcycles, power tools, motorized scooters -- you name it, we got it.

#### SWAMI SEZ

"Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed. Everything else is public relations."

(novelist George Orwell)

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