

Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury Pacifica Tribune San Jose Mercury News

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CONTAINER SHIP PLOWS THROUGH WHALES

"On May 20 around noon, I was salmon-fishing about 15 miles due west of Princeton Harbor, and very close to shipping lanes in an area where numerous whales and diving birds were feeding on krill. A southbound container ship (APL New Jersey) plowed through the whales. I noticed spouts from the whales within 100 feet of the ship. I did not see a direct hit on a whale but did find a dead whale floating close to the harbor mouth. Something must be done about these ships traveling so close to whale migration routes and feeding areas. I contacted several environmental groups and the US Coast Guard to report my sighting. And I called the Marine Mammal Center at Marin Headlands and sent a picture of the dead whale. I hope someone will examine the dead whale for the cause of death." (Ken Miles)

RUMBLE IN ROCKAWAY 2

"Thank you for your article. The Rumble in Rockaway continues. Due to your article bringing this problem to the forefront, we have had many neighbors join in our struggle. Coincidentally, the parties involved in the destruction, at the time, all deny involvement or knowledge of who ordered or paid for, this 'work.' Been to the Fire, Engineering, Planning, and Building departments of this city. They are very noncommittal and vague regarding the rules. It seems everything is on a case-by-case basis. The code enforcer has been somewhat helpful but doesn't feel that there is justification for citation as he is unable to determine what existed in this location previously. The developers have somewhat convinced him that this was an existing roadway, stating that they have 'always driven up and down' it. This is a blatant lie. Forty years ago there was a road in this location. No one has driven back there in probably at least 25 years. We have a call into the state fish and wildlife, and a lot seems to be depending on their opinion. But they have not called any of us back. Meanwhile, these developers are driving up and down, I guess to make the 'road' look very used. This 'road' is now a general nuisance and kids are using it in the evenings, creating noise, etc. Thanks for your interest." (Name withheld by request)

HELP PAINT SPINDRIFT THEATER

Pacifica Rotary Club paints the Spindrift Players community theater over four weekends in June. To volunteer, email Bob Jacobsen: mail [at] bobjacobsen.com. Enter "Spindrift Painting Project" on the subject line so Bob knows it isn't spam.

STAY ACTIVE FOREVER

Ease into exercise. Stretch slowly and don't rush it. Strengthen your core muscles. Do squats and balance exercises. Loosen up your hips and shoulders. Be aware of pain and don't push through it. Pay attention to your body's signals. Have a little protein after working out to help your muscles rebuild. Add strength training, weight-bearing, and resistance to your cardio workout. Walking, swimming, and biking are some of the best all-around exercises that are also easier on your joints. Some natural pain relievers and soothers are ginger tea for the gut and the brain, Tiger Balm ointment for sore muscles, tea bags for canker sores, and ice cubes for toothaches. (Source: AARP Magazine)

GRAMMAR RULES IN REAL ESTATE

"It's not just English teachers who notice misspellings in luxury-home listings; typos and missing commas can slow sales and drag down prices...Most commonly misspelled words in listings: throughout, separate, oversized. Riverside, Calif., has the highest rate of listings with misspellings (57 percent of listings)... Phrases written in all-capital letters...saw the least success in terms of sale price, with only 5.6 percent of homes selling above list price." (Wall Street Journal, May 9)

SWAMI SEZ

"(Shakespeare's) contribution to our phraseology is 10 times greater than that of any writer to any language in the history of the world." (Ernest Weekley, etymologist)

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