

HOW WIDE IS MY HIGHWAY?

Highway 1 is 64 feet wide as it passes Rockaway Quarry in Pacifica. The average eight-lane freeway is 132 feet wide, e.g., Interstate 280, including all lanes and shoulders, as you pass through Millbrae at Crystal Springs. Caltrans plans to widen Highway 1 to 144 feet as it passes the quarry, in other words, 12 feet wider than 280. (Chris Fogel got these numbers from Caltrans itself (dot.ca.gov) and posted them on Pacifica Riptide, with illustrations. Chris is the editor and publisher of Pacifica Index.)

DODGING A BULLET

Longtime Pacifican Scott McKellar is celebrating his daughter Danielle's stroke of luck. During last week's 6.0 earthquake, Danielle was staying over at Scott's house in Pacifica, not at her Napa house, which got rocked and rolled in the quake. When Danielle got home to assess the damage, she found her dresser lying on top of her bed. Congratulations, Danielle, you better start buying lottery tickets!

COP TALK

"Somewhere between the time they enroll in the academy and their first years on the streets, police officers shed everyday English for a language that can only be described as cop-speak. In this peculiar patois, a man is never just a man. He is a 'male subject' or, if he's up to no good, a 'perpetrator.' Guns are always 'brandished.' Wounds are 'sustained,' not suffered. And a crook doesn't just get out of a car and run; he 'exits a vehicle' and 'flees on foot.' ... 'Friends and relatives quickly learn the jargon and seem to get a kick out of using it,' says Georgia police officer Joe Cobb. "It's fun. Like talking pig Latin. Pun intended." (Saeed Ahmed, Atlanta Journal Constitution)

VOLUNTEER WATER SAMPLERS

Every week, citizen-scientists and county staff take water samples at beaches, creeks, and lagoons. If you can volunteer to help collect water samples, email Greg Smith at GJSMith@smcgov.org or Kate Elgin at kelgin@smcgov.org of County Environmental Health or call 650-372-6200. County staff provides training, equipment, and supplies for water sampling. Sampling is done every Monday morning, then volunteers drop samples at convenient locations in either Half Moon Bay or Pacifica for transport by county staff to the Public Health Laboratory for analysis.

SAVE THE DATE

Pacifica AAUW (American Association of University Women) sponsors a City Council Candidates Forum on Saturday, October 4 at City Council Chambers from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

WHAT IS A LIFE WORTH?

Pacifica palindrome lovers are sad to learn that the Ferguson, Missouri police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown may have been over his theft of a box of cheap cigars: "Cigar. Too tragic." (Alan Wald's Alandromes have been amazing and amusing our readers for many years.)

SWAMI SEZ

"Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but to pour them all out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away." (George Eliot)

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