

ROCKY ROAD

Caltrans, please clean up the debris (rocks, mud, leaves, trash) on the pavement and shoulders of Highway 1 (especially the downhill side) between the Devil's Slide tunnels and the Pacifica city limits. We asked for this cleanup months ago and not a damn thing has been done about it, despite the best efforts of business leaders and city/county/state representatives to get Caltrans on the job. That filthy, dangerous roadway is a disgrace to Caltrans and a safety hazard for motorists and bicyclists. Caltrans is in direct violation of its own state highway code 91.6, which says Caltrans must give high priority to keeping the highway clean. Pacificans and other Coastsiders who use Highway 1 should protest to their elected representatives at every level of government (local, county, state, federal).

GOODWILL DUMP

Over the Thanksgiving holidays, people dumped a huge pile of donations outside the unattended Goodwill truck in the Linda Mar/SamTrans Park & Ride lot. (See photos posted on PacificaRiptide.com.) As scavengers picked through the pile, the mess spread across the parking lot. The city and Goodwill need to address this problem. What bothers me most about it is that people violated the rule about not leaving donations when the truck is unattended, and even more important, that the donations are supposed to help low-income and disabled Goodwill clients, not serve as sellable items for somebody's next Craigslist, eBay, or garage sale.

NATURE IN THE RAW

As bulldozers razed the old Denny's restaurant in Linda Mar, birdwatcher Otto Bonn observed screeching seagulls snatching live rats out of the rubble and carrying them off to feast on at the beach.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Scott McKellar wants to thank the gentleman with the gray ponytail who recently helped Scott's wife Patty put air in her tires at a local gas station. Scott thinks that Pacificans tend to be friendlier and more helpful because they live on the relatively peaceful coast away from the hustle and bustle of Overhill Land.

BONE MAN

Kudos to our old pal Ian Butler, featured in the December issue of Pacifica Magazine for stumbling across prehistoric mammoth bones on the beach near

The Secret Waterfall and then donating the bones to the Pacifica Coastside History Museum. Anyone who knows Ian will not be surprised by his generosity and civic spirit.

DUCK STAMPS

Some of the best birdwatching of the year is going on right now up in the Sacramento Valley at refuges like Gray Lodge. S.F. Chronicle outdoors columnist Tom Stienstra featured this magic kingdom November 26, pointing out that duck hunters buy 96 percent of wildlife-supporting Federal Duck Stamps (\$25), while birdwatchers buy only a measly 4 percent. Hey, fellow Audubon and Sierra Club members, we need to step up.

SWAMI SEZ

“Having respect for animals makes us better humans.” (Jane Goodall)

GRAMMAR JAMMER

Q: What happened when the verb asked the noun to conjugate? A: The noun declined. (Tatiana Ayazo)

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