

Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury *Pacifica Tribune San Jose Mercury News*

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SCAPEGOAT

Scapegoat (like whipping boy) means someone who is unfairly blamed and/or punished for something he/she did not actually do. The origin is the 1530 Bible translated by William Tyndale, in the book of Leviticus 16, about the Mosaic ritual of the Day of Atonement, in which one of two goats was chosen by lot to be sent alive into the wilderness, the sins of the people having been symbolically laid upon it.

(Adapted from phrases.org.uk)

MANLY MEN

Although the idea of a male nanny or stay-at-home dad is still not widely accepted, traditional versus progressive-minded men differ greatly in their views of women, and of a man's role in relationships, in the home, and in childrearing. A Queendom.com study indicates that progressive men are much more open-minded, which can have a positive impact on how young boys view themselves and their role in the world. Being cared for by a male nurse or managed by a female CEO may still raise some eyebrows, but for a lot of men, it's part of an ever-changing world.

WORK HAPPY

"What did you love to do as a child? When have you been happy in your work? What were you doing? If you have never been happy in your work, what have you done in your life that made you happy? Whose job (anyone in the world) would you love to have? If you had complete freedom to pursue a profession, what would you pursue?" (Ann Vanino, consultant/life coach, MovingForward.net)

DEVIL'S SLIDE TAPROOM

Our business source reports: Coming in spring 2014, Devil's Slide Taproom, next to Fresh & Easy, Pedro Point. I wonder if this will be a beer joint or a tap dance studio.

MOUNTAIN LION PROTECTION

State Senate Bill 132, a mountain lion public safety bill introduced by Senator Jerry Hill (Democrat), takes effect New Year's Day 2014. The legislation authorizes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to use only nonlethal procedures when responding to reports of mountain lions near residences when the wild cats do not involve an imminent threat to human life. It also authorizes the department to partner with wildlife groups and nonprofits to resolve these situations. Senator Hill introduced SB 132 after two mountain lion cubs were fatally shot on December 1, 2012, in Half Moon Bay. State game wardens and San Mateo County sheriff's deputies were unable to shoo the cubs from the neighborhood to nearby Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park, and regulations did not permit officers to pursue other options. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) officials initially said the female siblings weighed 25 to 30 pounds. But necropsies showed they were only about 4 months old, weighed 13 to 14 pounds, and were starving and unlikely to survive in the wild without their mother.

FOOD FOR FINES

Have an overdue book or DVD from the library? Now's your chance to clear your fines and help others by donating food to those in need during the month of December in the San Mateo County Library "Food for Fines" program. Customers can take any amount of nonperishable boxed or canned food to any branch of the San Mateo County Library (including Pacifica), Daly City Library, Redwood City Library, and San Mateo Public Library during business hours, and library fines and fees will be waived. All collected food is donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Each year, Second Harvest distributes more than 45.5 million pounds of nutritious food to low-income people (mainly children and seniors) in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

CALIFORNIANS AGAINST WASTE

"After two years of hard work, we passed the first mattress recycling bill on the West Coast! With your support, we increased beverage container recycling rates and established producer responsibility programs for paint, carpet, e-waste, and mattresses. But plastic grocery bags continue to plague our ocean economy, threaten wildlife, and cost millions in taxpayer dollars. More than 13 billion bags were produced in California last year, and most ended up as litter or in landfills. In May, we fell just three votes short of passing a statewide ban on single-use plastic grocery bags. But with your help, we'll keep fighting against the plastic bag industry campaign of misinformation and intimidation until we get those votes. Your generous gift will help us build our 2014 campaign against disposable plastic grocery bags." (Mark Murray, Executive Director, Californians Against Waste;

donate at caw.org)

WIPERS ON, LIGHTS ON

A timely seasonal reminder from Pierre Messerli: "The beginning of the rainy season may be a good time to remember that your headlights must be on if your wipers are on. And daytime running lights are not enough to comply with the requirements of 'headlights on' because with only the daytime running lights on, your taillights are not on. Don't get caught!"

SWAMI SEZ

"War does not determine who is right, only who is left."

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