

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

DEER KILLED

A driver collided with a deer on Fassler early this morning, shattering the car's windshield and killing the deer. The driver was unhurt. We urge all drivers to slow down and be alert for wildlife, especially on hilly roads like Fassler and Sharp Park. The deer are our neighbors in this green town, so slow down and share the road safely. (Thanks to Scott McKellar for initially reporting this accident to us, and to the Pacifica Police Department for confirming the information.)

CAUSE AND EFFECT

It is sheer ignorance to say that our unusually cold winter weather disproves the existence of global warming. Read a book or go online, and you will learn that global warming is causing climate change, including extreme weather, stronger storms, higher tides, and worsening droughts, wildfires, and floods. Believe it, folks, global warming has arrived, and it doesn't always feel warm. As the polar ice melts, things will only get worse.

SLAM DUNK

Here is a scary scenario: Vice President Dick "Buckshot" Cheney steps down for medical reasons sometime before the November elections and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (#3 by law of succession) becomes V.P., effectively blunting the Democrats' Clinton/Obama insurgency and handing the Republicans a golden opportunity with a sitting Vice President who is both female and African American. Don't think it can happen? Don't bet against it. I heard it from a highly placed source in Washington.

BROTHERHOOD

Want to see some raw local politics that makes Pacifica's look like a Sunday school picnic? Rent the DVD of "Brotherhood," Showtime's cable TV series on Irish politicians and gangsters in Providence, R.I. Move over, Tony Soprano.

RECESSION IS HERE

"This recession is going to get worse, perhaps a lot worse. That's because it's at heart a real estate recession, and real estate recessions are always much worse than fluctuations in the stock market. The worst economic period in the 20th century—the Great Depression—began with the collapse of the Florida land bubble in 1926, not with the stock market crash of Oct. 29, 1929. Then, as now, speculation had boosted land prices to extraordi-

nary levels. Then, as now, people bought real estate not to use, but to flip to someone else at a higher price—a known recipe for economic collapse at least since the Dutch Tulip Mania of the 1630s." (Joel Whitaker, Whitaker Newsletters, Inc., Jan. 9)

SEE FOOD

Visualize a destination seafood restaurant on the shores of Sharp Park, revitalizing the Palmetto business zone and bringing serious tourist dollars into Pacifica. Don't forget Linda Mar, which sorely needs a world-class seafood-shack-at-the-seashore in the style of bustling Princeton Harbor, our coastal neighbor south of Devil's Slide. There is no excuse for a beach like Linda Mar not having any decent seafood to eat, not even a takeout window or snack wagon. The sorry spectacle of nearly empty Pacifica Beach Resort and the mere existence of a Taco Bell (Taco Bell!) smack-dab on the sand tells you something about our missed opportunities. In Rockaway, at least, Nick's and Portofino and Acapulco get it: dining with an ocean view. The rest of the town could take a lesson from them.

ATHEIST ON WHEELS

No, this item is not about Jim Heldberg, Pacifica's free-thinking Democrat and Segway salesman. And now for a real segue: I just saw a car in Pacifica with two related

stickers on its bumper: "Nothing Fails Like Prayer" and "There's a Sucker Born Again Every Minute."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB

This is a full-time exempt position. Salary: \$85-95K DOE, plus benefits. To apply, send cover letter and resume to Search Committee, Committee for Green Foothills, 3921 East Bayshore Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 or by email to search@greenfoothills.org. Application deadline: February 18. No calls or faxes, please. The Committee for Green Foothills is an Equal Opportunity Employer. People of color are encouraged to apply. Info: greenfoothills.org.

VERTICAL FARM

According to reports at Next Energy News, the \$200 million building will include 30 levels of farming land and produce enough food to feed 72,000 people once fully operational. The eye-opening vertical farm is expected to generate \$40 million in annual revenue—\$25 million from fresh produce and \$15 million from tourism—and require just \$6 million a year in operating expenses. Nevada state officials, who spearheaded the project, reportedly claimed that the building will be able to grow over 100 crops, producing everything from strawberries and lettuce to banana trees. The officials said that the bulk of the produce would be used in local casinos and entertainment com-

plexes, adding that they chose to build the project in Las Vegas because they wanted to clean up the city's image as a party, drinking and gambling Mecca. Agricultural industry analysts are likely to be watching the project closely. Intensive farm towers have long been touted by some experts as a potential solution to the world's food shortages, allowing farmers to generate high yields in controlled biospheres without using up precious agricultural land. The tower, which could become operational as early as mid-2010, could also be replicated in other heavily built-up urban areas, where produce has to be transported long distances. Food prices are currently climbing, driven by a combination of climate change, population growth, high energy costs and the shift toward biofuel crops. Around 80 percent of available agricultural land is used and the UN has warned that there is a serious risk of global food shortages if supply issues are not addressed.

(Joanne McCulloch, BusinessGreen, Jan. 8)

DOGS PLAYING POKER

Ever since Wendell Hanna grudgingly agreed to climb down from the ivory penthouse of classical music and wallow in the primordial muck of improvisation, half the musicians I know have been trying to get her to play in their bands. It may be the fact that Dogs Playing Poker is not formally jazz, and doesn't require

immersion in that vernacular that brought her ultimately into our particular orbit. Whatever the reason, Dogs Playing Poker will be adding a deep, woody dimension to our acoustic texture on Friday, Jan. 25. You're going to like this music. Catalyst Cocktails (catalystcocktails.com), 312 Harriet St. at Bryant, San Francisco, 415-621-1722, 6:30-8:30 p.m. No cover. Delightful refreshments. Carl Herder, bass. Zachary Smith, guitar. Joe Lobue, drums. Wendell Hanna, bassoon.

SWAMI SEZ

"Pirates shall always wear boots, except in the case of a peg leg. Then one boot is acceptable. Flip-flops are never worn." (Pirate Law #4)

SITeseer

- Funny faux fiction: bulwerlytton.com
- Latin America's classical music: corohispano.org
- Calif. nurses support single-payer universal health care: guaranteedhealthcare.org
- Seeing eye in Silicon Valley: 511cam3.sccgov.org/santaclara/

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- Local vocal: PacificaRiptide.com