

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

TOWN SQUARE

It is often said that Pacifica lacks a town square, a center where citizens come together as they do in most small towns to exchange information, post announcements, and coordinate assistance for anyone in need. But in reality, dedicated workers from local churches, clubs, organizations and city programs help keep Pacifica a humane society for all of its residents. Pacifica also cares about its media outlets: the weekly Pacifica Tribune, the public-access cable TV channel 26, and the community Web site, PacificaRiptide.com. Communication and cooperation among these media are critical priorities in covering the news. Such connections were put to the test last week when Tribune Editor & Publisher Elaine Larsen had a major technology crisis that threatened to cancel

printing of the paper, which has never happened in its 50 years of publication (except for a one-day delay during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake). Things were so bad last week that the Tribune staff could not access its own internal text and photo files to lay out the paper. The Tribune's parent company sent over the corporate geek squad to try fixing the computers, but the deadline clock was ticking at the printer. The real crisis was averted when the Tribune called on its community resources to bridge the information gap. Tribune correspondent Jean Bartlett, Tribune columnist (and Riptide editor & publisher) John Maybury, and Sports Editor Horace Hinshaw responded promptly to Larsen's SOS call and resubmitted their stories and photos to an off-site computer. Hinshaw also made several trips from his home to the Tribune office to make sure the sports pages were finished. And Ed Vines of Pacifica Computer Pros took time out of his busy day to deliver sports photos from Hinshaw's home to the Tribune. Web Editor Tom Sullivan and Proofreader Julie Whitman Jones focused and put their eyes on the prize, which was to get the paper out on time. Production guru Bob Loyd went beyond the call of duty to make it all come together. In the end, the presses rolled and the paper hit the newsstands right on time.

ROCK CAMP

"Congratulations to Mark Sessler, Jay Michaelis, and all who did such a great job with Session One of Rock Camp, at Manor Music. Our little rocker, one of the Texas Strangers, had a blast, sharpened his guitar skills, and learned valuable lessons about working with a group. As parents, we enjoyed sharing in his expanded musical tastes and telling him that yes, we do know the song 'London Calling.' The concert at the Log Shop was pure joy—with great music and a very appreciative audience ranging from infants to grandparents. Pacifica is full of extraordinary people, places, and experiences, and that's what makes it such a special place to live and raise a family. I encourage you, whether or not you have a little rocker, to check out the upcoming Rock Camp concerts at Manor Music." (Daphne Lagios and Gary Acheson)

3 ZERO CAFE

"We were looking for a 'different' place to eat and happened upon the 3 Zero Cafe at Half Moon Bay airport. Widely known for daily breakfast and lunch, it has very good food and reasonable prices. Well worth a try, with a unique setting and great staff (especially if you have Mark)." (Glenn and Susan Pierson)

COASTSIDE RECYCLE

"Coastside Scavenger has been recycling phones, pagers, etc., through the County of San Mateo for years. This collection benefits the battered-women shelter program of the county. Just leave your items at the recycling yard at 1046 Palmetto Avenue six days a week (51 hours). Also, remember that we are open on Wednesday night until 7 during Daylight Savings Time." (Chris Porter, Coastside Scavenger)

EXTREME PIZZA & PBC

Buy Extreme Pizza and raise money for Pacifica Beach Coalition on the weekend of August 3- 4. Eat in, order out, or call for delivery. Mention Pacifica Beach Coalition (PBC) and Extreme Pizza donates 20 percent of all your purchases to PBC (tax excluded).

FIELD EDUCATORS NEEDED

Save The Bay's Watershed Education Program seeks energetic part-time Field Educators to lead on-the-water Canoes In Sloughs and Discover The Bay programs for middle and high school students, community and corporate groups, and other Bay Area residents. Educators will co-lead educational programming related to wetlands, watersheds, and the San Francisco Bay while maintaining a fun and safe environment for groups in canoes. (saveSFbay.org.)

NATURE LICENSE PLATE

A new California vanity license plate will fund Bay Area wildlife, open space, and outdoor recreation. The program that will disperse the funds, if enough people sign up, is the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program of the State Coastal Conservancy. Visit bayarealicenseplate.org or the DMV. (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

STATE PARK ACCESS

The State Park Access Pass Program provides a realistic solution to our state park funding crisis. By making a modest \$10 annual investment in our state park system, Californians will receive the benefit of free access to all state parks and contribute overall to the improvement of California state parks. California state parks have not only been a reservoir of history and culture but also a safe haven that protects unique natural resources. Unfortunately, lack of proper funding is hampering the state park system from retaining these resources and its ability to flourish into the future. Call your state legislators in the Assembly and Senate, and let them know you support the state park access pass program.

CORRECTION

Thanks to Master Gardener Sharon Lamparter for this correction. The Master Gardener Help Line is

available Mondays and Thursdays (not Monday through Thursday) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 650-726-9059, extension 107. The email address is mgvhelpline@ucdavis.edu. Master Gardeners are part of the UC Cooperative Extension Program (groups.ucanr.org/sanmateo/)

SWAMI SEZ

"(San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department spokesman) Lee Garcia said the men, who were drinking alcohol, exceeded the boat's capacity, causing it to sink. He said none of the men wore life preservers, and some didn't know how to swim...Garcia stressed that boating and alcohol don't mix." (San Francisco Chronicle story, June 20, about 11 men who crowded into a 14-foot boat, which capsized, drowning four of the men)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- Breaking news every day: PacificaRiptide.com
- All my columns online: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com