

Wandering
&
Wondering



John Maybury

Dozers

Every weekday morning at 7 o'clock, big yellow earthmovers, scrapers, and bulldozers race up and down the hollowed-out San Pedro Creek streambed below the Capistrano bridge. They are racing against the clock (the beginning of the rainy season) to finish the creek project (wetlands, native plants, fish ladder, etc. as we have detailed previously in this column and on the front page). Living right next to the creek, I have a bird's-eye view of the construction. So does the great blue heron who hangs out around here, and he or she is none too happy with what is going on. For 1,300 linear feet, the creek water temporarily runs through a black plastic

pipe. Most of the vegetation and dirt within this stretch of the creek has been removed and ground up into a fine mulch that work crews are using to raise the level of the creek. The heron perches on the roof of one of the creekside townhouses, looking down on the scene of devastation with what appears to be profound puzzlement. Workers had to topple several large cypress trees and cut them up for use as ballast in building up the creek bottom. When this chaos ends toward the end of October, we look forward to the more tranquil sounds of arborists replanting the newly terraced banks with native trees and shrubs, then the soothing sound of overhead sprinklers and soon real raindrops.

Saving the animals

In last week's list of Hurricane Katrina pet rescue organizations, we did not have HSUS.org, which Betsy Ballenger has kindly provided. As of last week, HSUS had raised \$8.5 million to help save animals stranded by the New Orleans flood.

Haiku Kitty

When I pet you, my
Sweet kitty, will you promise
Not to bite me? NO.
(Lenore Flores)

The House of Usher

"Being an usher is a fascinating human study. So far I have not had to throw out anybody. Although we walk the bowels of the stadium and often see players and VIPs, we're not supposed to talk to them unless the job calls for it. One night I was assigned to the media elevator, so I greeted Willie McCovey, Gayle Sayers, the broadcasters, and some ESPN guys." (from a friend who ushers at the S.F. Giants' SBC Park)

Knuckle sandwiches, etc.

Finger puppets and other fun stuff you can do with your hands: www.lejo.nu (thanks, Dale Riehart)

Choo-choo time

Mark your calendar! The Great Western and Atlantic Train Show comes to San Jose this weekend Sept. 24-25, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Admission \$8, kids free. Vendors from all over the country. California's best operating modular model train layouts. Ten free model train workshops. Info and \$2 discount coupon at www.gats.com.

What's the buzz?

Check out the Beekeepers Guild

of San Mateo County. They showcased a working beehive and sold some of their delicious honey at the county fair recently. The club meets the first Thursday evening of each month at the Congregational Church, 751 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Belmont. Bees make honey out of the nectar they sip from flowers. Honey does not spoil, so keep it at room temperature, never in the refrigerator. Dark honey has more antioxidants. Info: www.sanmateobee.org.

BikeMapper debuts

Now you can find interactive online bicycle mapping tools on the Bay Area transportation site www.511.org. BikeMapper has data on more than 3,000 miles of bike routes in the nine Bay Area counties. Plug in a start point and end point, or just a city name, and you get a map showing all possible routes in that area. Routes are color-coded to show on-street, off-street, slope, etc. You can zoom in and print the map. New paths and trails will be added as they become available, courtesy of Metropolitan Transportation Commission (www.mtc.ca.gov).

Roe v. Wade

What is George W. Bush's posi-

tion on Roe v. Wade? Answer: He really doesn't care how people get out of New Orleans.

Correction

Linda Mar School is not closed. It is now Linda Mar Educational Center, with special day classes, day care center, and the office of Pacifica School District's Homeschool Program. Test scores listed in the San Mateo County Times recently were those of homeschool students, who take the state test like everyone else in the district. Some homeschoolers travel with their working parents; one family sends lessons from its boat off Hawaii, others are ballet or tennis semipro on tour, and a number are Muslim. (Thanks to homeschool teacher/coordinator Stephen Johnson for clarifying the matter.)

Swami Sez

If you lie down with dogs, you'll...stink in the morning.

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