

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Glen Bell, founder of the Taco Bell chain, has died in Southern California. He opened his first drive-in restaurant in the 1950s in San Bernardino when he saw how well the very first McDonald's hamburger joint was doing in San Berdo. Bell also started Der Wienerschnitzel and Taco Tia (a boyhood favorite of mine in Redlands, California, where the tacos cost a mere 19 cents—and now I wind up in Pacifica, home of the “scenic” Taco Bell on the beach).

BUS FARES UP

SamTrans implements new fares Monday, February 1, following a series of community meetings and a public hearing. The adult local fare increases 25 cents to \$2. The cost of adult monthly passes and tokens also increases. The express cash one-way fare increases 50 cents to \$5, and the express pass fare increases proportionally. Eligible discount cash fares increase 25 cents to \$1. Youth fares increase 25 cents to \$1.25. Paratransit and Lifeline fares do not increase until July 1, when the paratransit fare increases 50 cents to \$3.50 and the Lifeline fare increases 25 cents to \$1.75. Fares for agency-sponsored trips also increase then. The fare increase helps close a \$28.4 million budget shortfall for the current fiscal year, which began July 1, 2009. In addition to the fare increase, the district also implemented service reductions in December, resulting in layoffs, and it has reduced expenses through attrition and further budget cuts. Passenger fares cover approximately 18 percent of bus operations. The last fare increase was in February 2009. San Mateo County Transit District operates SamTrans bus service and Redi-Wheels paratransit service for persons with

disabilities, and it funds shuttles that link employment centers with BART and Caltrain.

GOT FLARES?

Did you know you are supposed to replace your highway emergency flares every year? Coast-side Scavenger does not accept old flares, but you can simply soak them in water and toss them in the trash. And instead of wasting money on flares that expire in a year, go to Kragen's Auto Parts on Manor Drive and buy yourself two reflectorized emergency triangles for 10 bucks. (You also might find them in Ace Hardware's automotive section.)

HAPPY TRAILS

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) has handed off Rancho Corral de Tierra (see photo) on the southwest slope of Montara Mountain to the National Park Service for eventual inclusion in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). This will create miles of new hiking and biking trails, extending the unspoiled natural open space beyond Sweeney Ridge, McNee Ranch State Park, and San Pedro Valley County Park. For details and photos, see the POST post on PacificaRiptide.com, with a link to Tom Stienstra's story in the San Francisco Chronicle (sfgate.com/inpeninsulacoastside).

YOUNG MAKERS

TechShop works with Disney/Pixar, Make Magazine, and The Exploratorium to create a nationwide program called “Young Makers,” designed to support kids who like to build things. The pilot program launches on Saturday, January 30 at The Exploratorium in San Francisco. There are two components to the program: Open Make, a series of public talks with Featured



RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA

Makers and related drop-in workshops on Saturdays (1/30, 2/27, 3/27, and 4/24) at The Exploratorium in San Francisco; Young Makers Program Pilot, a core group of 15 to 18 kids paired with adult mentors to work on more intensive projects for exhibit at the Maker Faire (May 22-23). TechShop invites any interested young makers in grades 8 through 12 to apply for consideration to participate in the second, core group. To apply, email youngmakers@techshop.ws with the following information: Young Maker's name, mailing address, city, state, ZIP, email address, phone number, age, grade level, school name, paragraph explaining what makes you a Young Maker! Please apply only if you can commit to completing the entire program. Note that, while your application does not guarantee participation in the core group, the public talks and workshops are available to anyone who wants to attend. (Jim Newton, Founder, TechShop, email jim@techshop.ws Main: 1-800-640-1975, Cell: 1-650-766-6306, techshop.ws)

COTTONTAIL RANCH

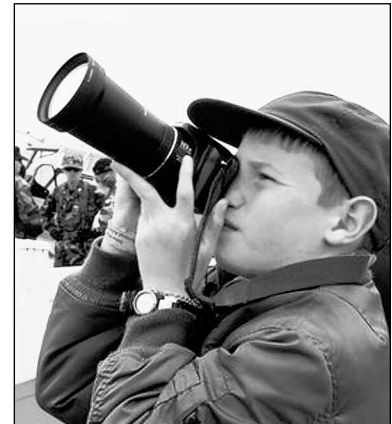
My pal Scott McKellar has taken a special interest in the rabbits of San Pedro County Park in Linda Mar. At first, Scott thought these cute little critters were called bush rabbits, but then someone informed him that they are actually cottontails. So if you see a tall guy carrying a bag of carrots in the park, that's Scott.

SITSEER

- Pilot interviews and videos by Pacifica's Petit Prince, Evan Isenstein-Brand (see photo): evanflys.com
- Chris Dant and Lionel Emde photo essays on Esplanade crisis: adequatebird.com and pacificariptide.com
- Stunning aerial photos by the Adelmans: californiacoastline.org

DUH

Lehua Wells nominates this quote from last week's Tribune for a big-time Duh Award: “Overall, pretty much everybody is reasonably safe as long as that bluff holds.” (spokesman for owner of red-tagged apartment building at 330 Esplanade)



EVAN ISENSTEIN-BRAND

SWAMI SEZ

“The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.” (Winston Churchill)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Web Sites: Pacifica Tribune, Wandering & Wondering, Goofbuster
- Blogs: Pacifica Riptide, SF Gate (Peninsula Coastside)
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com