



# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

## FALLEN GIANTS

Huge eucalyptus trees next to the creek that flows down from Brooks Falls have toppled across the creek in recent storms. The 100-foot-tall giants lie right next to the falls trail in San Pedro Valley Park.

## PURE CLASSICAL

Halleluja! No more obnoxious Meg Whitman ads. Hear commercial-free classical music on KDFC-FM 102.1 and online at [kdrc.com](http://kdrc.com) weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Remember when C. Urchins' "Beachcombing" column in the Pacifica Tribune published items about things named Pacifica? There was the Chrysler Pacifica SUV, Fresh Express Pacifica bagged salad, etc. I just found an extensive line of Pacifica-branded home furnishings in February 2010 Costco Connections magazine ([costco.com](http://costco.com)). Judy Tugendreich found a quartet ([musicapacifica.org](http://musicapacifica.org)). Ian Butler found the Yamaha Pacifica guitar ([wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)). Got a Pacifica item? Send it to my email address at the bottom of this column.

## COINCIDENCE OR ???

Costco Connections (February 2010), page 14: ad for Phillips Heart-Start Home Defibrillator next to ad for well-marbled Kansas City Prime Ribeye Steaks. Be still, my beating heart.

## POISONED BEACHES

Dog owners who walk their pets on the beach have been concerned for some time about toxic levels of domoic acid in the marine environment (water, air, and soil), which

can poison both domesticated and wild animals. Get information on this topic and about volunteering at the Marine Mammal Center ([marinemammalcenter.org](http://marinemammalcenter.org)).

## DUMMY CAPTION GOES HERE

Bernie Borok noticed several photo captions on the front page of the February 18 S.F. Chronicle Bay Area section were just placeholder copy: "Photo caption Dummy text goes here. Dummy text goes here." Reminds us of that recording "Nothing can go wrong--go wrong--go wrong." I thought the recording was from a *Twilight Zone* episode, but it was Yul Brynner's malfunctioning robocop in *Westworld* (1973).

## RIFFRAFF ON THE BEACH

A reader spotted this odd usage on page 16A of last week's Tribune: "At Land's End, beach access is blocked and riffraff has been put in to stabilize the cliff." He cracked, "Aren't you glad that we've finally found a useful purpose for these louts?"

## KEEP IT CLEAN

Bay Area Clean Water Agencies ([bacwa.org](http://bacwa.org)) encourage residents not to pour fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the drain. When poured down the drain, FOG solidifies and can clog pipes, costing cities and sewer agencies tens of millions of dollars every year for cleanup, as well as from fines resulting from sewer overflows into creeks, the bay, and the ocean. The dollars add up for residents, too. Clogs in sewer lines can result in sewage backups and overflows into the home, causing costly repairs to the pipes and your property. Now in many cities around the Bay Area, recycling

cooking oil not only reduces waste and unclogs sewers, it also serves as an alternative fuel source that powers many city-owned and -operated vehicles. What should you do with fats, oils, and grease? Use food strainers in kitchen sinks to catch food particles and scrape leftover food waste into the garbage or compost container, not the garbage disposal. Pour cooking oil into a clean, sealable container. Check baywise.org for free drop-off locations.

## SAVE OUR SALMON

Call Senator Dianne Feinstein today at 415-393-0707 and ask her not to dismantle the Endangered Species Act (ESA) basic protections for California's endangered chinook (king) salmon. Pacific Fisheries Management Council has just released numbers showing California's once-abundant salmon runs came in at a new all-time record low in 2009. As a result, regulators closed all ocean fishing of chinook in California and most of Oregon in 2008 and 2009 to save the salmon. Feinstein is proposing an amendment to a federal jobs stimulus bill that, in effect, would suspend rules that protect salmon from being killed by giant diversion pumps in the San Francisco-San Joaquin Delta and would pump more water from the estuary. Feinstein claims that this amendment will bring jobs to California. But closure of the West Coast salmon fisheries has cost 23,000 jobs and \$1.4 billion from the California economy. (Jake Sigg, Nature News, free email subscription from [jakesigg@earthlink.net](mailto:jakesigg@earthlink.net))

## SPRING SWING THING

Ready to dance? Ready to welcome spring with a swing thing? On Saturday, March 20, enjoy a dinner dance at Pacifica Moose Lodge. Dance to the music of The Michael Foley Trio after a scrumptious chicken dinner with all the trimmings (green salad, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, and coffee), all for \$15. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., with dancing (on a great big dance floor) from 8 to 11 p.m. email [michaelfoley@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:michaelfoley@sbcbglobal.net) no later than March 13 to reserve your ticket. Let's see if we can make this a monthly event. Remember

to invite your friends! Michael also plays this Saturday, Feb. 27, at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco (across from the zoo) from 8 to 11 p.m. Great food, great dance floor, and Irish coffee to die for!!

## HAWAIIAN CHIEFTAIN

Tall ship Hawaiian Chieftain visits the Peninsula for nine days as it continues its Winter 2009-2010 "Hands-On History for Youth" tour of California ports. The topsail ketch arrived at the Port of Redwood City on February 21 after firing a cannon salute to the city. During its stay, the ship offers public walk-on tours, three-hour public sails, and K-12 school group tours for educational programs. The Redwood City visit is the final stop in the Bay Area during the current tour of California ports. Crew dressed in period costume greet guests for walk-on tours on these dates and times: February 24 and 25, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; February 27 and 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated. On Saturday and Sunday, February 27 and 28, Hawaiian Chieftain takes guests on three-hour Adventure Sails, which feature booming cannons, sea shanty singing, and a chance for guests to help sail a real tall ship. Tickets are \$55 adults, \$45 students/seniors/active military, \$35 children under 12. To purchase tickets, call 800-200-5239 or visit [historicalseaport.org](http://historicalseaport.org). Educational programs for K-12 schools and home-school groups in Redwood City are sold out, but more tours may be added, so call for updates. Educators interested in learning more about these programs for a future visit should contact Reasa Shuck, programs manager, 800-200-5239, [rshuck@historicalseaport.org](mailto:rshuck@historicalseaport.org). Hawaiian Chieftain is a replica of a typical European merchant trader of the turn of the 19th century. Launched in 1988, the steel-hulled vessel is 103 feet, nine inches long overall, 22 feet at the beam, and her mainmast is 75 feet off the water. The modern ship was acquired by the Historical Seaport in 2004 after a long career in the San Francisco Bay Area. Hawaiian Chieftain sails for Eureka on March 2.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Tall ship Hawaiian Chieftain

## SWAMI SEZ

"No pirate shall ever play wiffle ball." (Pirate Law #56)

## SITSEER

- Vallemartians fight PG&E to save palm trees: [vallemarpalms.com](http://vallemarpalms.com)
- Neighbor sites south of the slide: [coastsider.com](http://coastsider.com), [montara.com](http://montara.com)
- Sabrina Brennan's awesome Mavericks photos: [thepelicaneye.com](http://thepelicaneye.com)

## COASTSIDE CALENDAR

- Author Ann Edminster discusses and signs her book *Energy Free: Homes for a Small Planet*, The Green Arcade, San Francisco (1680 Market Street at Gough), Thursday, February 25, 7 p.m.
- A Chamber Enchanted Evening at the Castle (benefit for Little Brown Church), tickets \$40 at [pacificahistory.org](http://pacificahistory.org), Friday, Feb. 26, 6 to 10 p.m.
- Pacifica City Councilmember Mary Ann Nihart: rally to save our city services from the Sacramento Raiders, Manor Shopping Center, Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.
- State Senator Leland Yee: free tax preparation workshop, Half Moon Bay Library, Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Road Rage: Highway 1 widening "debate," Pacifica Community Center, Wednesday, March 3, 7 p.m.

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Web Sites: [Goofbuster](http://Goofbuster.com), [Wandering](http://Wandering.com), [Pacifica Tribune](http://PacificaTribune.com)
- Blogs: [Pacifica Riptide](http://PacificaRiptide.com), [SF Gate](http://SFGate.com) (Peninsula Coastside)
- Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)