

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



room at Sharp Park Golf Course. As golfers teed off just outside the window, longtime Pacifica activists Jim Wagner and Mark Stechbart (two guys wearing aloha shirts) spoke on the “No” side, while Police Chief Jim Saunders and PB&R Commissioner Bruce Banco spoke on the “Yes” side. Lively questions and answers followed the presentation, taking discussion from the tax issue into how to save the city from economic ruin. When moderator Barbara Arietta called for a straw poll by voice vote at the end of the debate, the results were inconclusive and a post-debate debate ensued about who won. You will never hear the end of it, folks, this being friendly little Pacifica. I won’t speculate on who won, because it is always hard to tell who yells the loudest, but afterward everyone agreed that the loudest shirts on the panel belonged to Wagner and Stechbart, and that the most impassioned arguments for the tax increase were those for more police and fire protection. That is a hot-button issue that all sides agree on. What remains unclear even after this debate is how best to strengthen the city economy and who best to lead the way. Everyone seems to have a messiah in this mess, and a scapegoat, but the answer won’t be clear until the election May 19.

HONOR MOM

Donate to the Pacifica Resource Center in honor of your mother or any mother

you’d like to honor. The Pacifica Resource Center will then send a Mother’s Day card to your honored mother. Your gift will in turn honor other mothers who come to the Pacifica Resource Center for food and assistance. If you would like to participate, please call the Pacifica Resource Center at 650-738-7470.

MAN BITES SNAKE

Near Malindi, Kenya, a farm manager named Ben Nyaumbe has survived an attack by a 13-foot python. When Nyaumbe accidentally stepped on the snake, it wrapped itself around him and dragged him up into a tree. During the three-hour ordeal, Nyaumbe bit the snake, smothered it with his shirt, and used his cell phone to call for help. Police arrived with a rope and wrangled the snake out of the tree, freeing Nyaumbe, who suffered only bruises. The snake was taken to a wildlife sanctuary, where it promptly escaped. (Earthweek.com)

TREKAROO

Two Pacificans just launched a new family travel site (trekaroo.com). They take intuitive tools and combine them with the power of a large community of travel-savvy moms and dads. Think Yelp for family travel. Two of the founders are Pacifica residents LiLing and Brennan Pang. Trekaroo has nine kid-friendly Pacifica activities and 300+ activities for the entire Bay Area.

MOUNTAIN LION DEBATE

RUN: The long-held belief that you should stand your ground against a mountain lion rather than run may not guarantee your safety, according to a new study issued by UC Davis researchers. Running may be the smartest move if a victim is on dry flat ground that will allow a fast, sure-footed escape, concluded psychology professor Richard Coss, who specializes in the evolution of predator-prey relationships and was the lead author for the University of California study. Coss reviewed personal accounts, news reports and wildlife agency reports of mountain lion attacks on 185 people in the United States and Canada from 1890 to 2000. “Even though we found evidence that pumas will indeed chase and capture people who run, we also found that people who stand still are possibly more endangered,” Coss said. “Immobility may be interpreted by the mountain lion as a sign that you are vulnerable prey, either because you are unaware of its presence or because you are disabled and not capable of escaping,” he added.

FREEZE:

While welcoming the new light shed on mountain lion behavior, officials from the California Department of Fish and Game stand by their recommendations posted online: Avoid running

from a mountain lion, and never hike alone in the woods. “There’s no exact art to this,” said Fish and Game spokesman Harry Morse. A number of mountain lion attacks have been on joggers and bicyclists, Morse noted. Of the attacks documented in California in the past 20 years, people who did not survive were alone when the attack occurred, said Morse. “If you get to that point, you’re probably in a world of hurt. Most people don’t see a mountain lion that attacks them. They are very good at stalking,” Morse said. (from a story by Laura Brown, Staff Writer, Nevada City Union, lbrown@theunion.com)

SITSEER

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Peninsula chapter seeks a coordinator. Job description and application information posted on PacificaRiptide.com, including a downloadable flyer.

SWAMI SEZ

“I love the salvos, sonnets, and soliloquies of the songbirds celebrating life. They must not read the newspaper.” (Scott McKellar, The Birdman of Pacifica)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Community blog: PacificaRiptide.com.
- Editing and proofreading services: Goofbuster.com.
- Trib column archives: WanderingAndWondering.com.
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com

NONA’S GOES GREEN

Assemblymember Jerry Hill held a press conference April 17 at Nona’s Kitchen to honor Nona’s for being one of the first restaurants in the area to voluntarily use sustainable food packaging instead of Styrofoam. Nona’s has been using biodegradable “to-go” containers for seven years. The restaurant also recycles its cooking oil, buys from local farmers, and uses environmentally friendly cleaning products. Hill gave an update on Assembly Bill 1358, which bans Styrofoam food packaging in California. Hill also honored other Pacifica establishments for making the switch from Styrofoam and using only biodegradable containers, including: Gorilla BBQ, Kerri’s Coffee Shop, Quick Stop Market, Mazzetti’s Bakery, Colombo’s Italian Delicatessen, Nick’s Restaurant, McDonald’s of Linda Mar, McDonald’s of Pacifica Manor, Diamond Italian Restaurant, and Pacifica Farmer’s Market. Hill also recognized Pacifica Chamber of Commerce and Coastside Scavenger Company for their work to educate local restaurants and businesses to voluntarily eliminate use of Styrofoam containers.

STYROFOAM KILLS

Styrofoam, made from polystyrene, is a suspected carcinogen and neurotoxin that was recently limited by the Food and Drug Administration in bottled drinking water. In addition to the human health impacts, plastic and Styrofoam waste is a significant problem in California, especially in coastal communities. According to the California Coastal Commission, 90 percent of floating ocean debris, and 60-80 percent of marine debris overall, is composed of plastics. Public agencies in California spend more than \$375 million annually on litter cleanup. More than 20 cities and counties have already banned polystyrene food packaging. Two years after passage of the San Francisco ordinance that prohibited distribution of expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) food ware, San Francisco’s litter audit showed a 36 percent decrease in EPS litter.

DEMS DEBATE D

The Pacifica Democrats presented a comprehensive panel discussion on the proposed new sales tax increase (Measure D) on April 18, filling the meeting