



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

JUDGE JOHNNY

I had a blast judging the Dog Daze contests. Thanks to POOCH for the opportunity to meet a lot of nice people and their dogs. Bev Kingsbury says it was a successful event: "We estimated about 1,000 people (100 percent more than last year), 35 booths (triple the number of booths last year), a fantastic park (okay, not so good for parking), and a good time for all the folks who visited." Bev is a canine behaviorist (pawsitivethinking.com, 650-888-4743) and author of *Sit, Down, Stay: Dog Training So Easy a Human Can Do It*.

GREEN APPLIANCES

California residential consumers can get a \$200 rebate for an eligible refrigerator, \$100 for an efficient clothes washer, and up to \$50 for a certified room air conditioner. (cash4appliances.org)

HOOKUP FOR JIM

"I am looking for a sheltered spot to park my RV. I need a peaceful place on a private lot or bit of land or next to or behind a home where I can live and write, preferably next to someone who understands

what it means to be environmentally political. For the next six months I must remain in the Bay Area, since I am committed to Environmental Futures and my work here. I need space for a 28-foot Arrow, a regular motor home you might see driving down the road, and an electrical connection. I'm not asking for a favor; I have money to pay for the privilege. I do not want to be on an RV lot." (Jim LeCuyer frequently writes for *Pacifica Riptide* and the *Pacifica Tribune*. Email jimlecuyer@sbcglobal.net.)

RED FLAG WARNING

Did you ever wonder what goes through the mind of a serial arsonist? Did you ever wonder how wildland arson investigators find the point of origin of a fire that burns thousands of acres? Read *Red Flag Warning*, by Kurt Kamm (kurtkamm.com), available from Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto.

MARY ANN ON DR. PHIL

Pacifica City Council member Mary Ann Nihart recently appeared on the *Dr. Phil* show (archived at drphil.com, April 15 and 23, "Advocating for Your

Children"). Mary Ann says, "Every day in this country, children are restrained in public and private schools."

EAGLE EYE

Mar Kaden, one of our favorite eagle eyes, is alarmed that people over-rely on computer spellcheckers and no longer know when to use the right word. Spellchecker software may spell random words correctly, but it can't think logically and contextually to suggest the appropriate word in a sentence. Mar submits these fine examples of spellchecker idiocy: a flyer at Oceana Market advertising childcare services "Sundays threw Thursdays" and Bay Area News Group technology columnist Larry Magid writing about "mobs... screaming racial epitaphs."

OCTOPUS' GARDEN

California's "underwater" state park system has expanded to include north-central coastal hot spots such as Point Reyes Headlands, Bodega Head, the Farallon Islands, and Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The science-based marine protected area network, which extends from Point Arena to Pigeon Point, is designed to restore sea life and protect habitat while leaving almost 90 percent of the coast open for fishing. (caloceans.org)

CHRON DOWN 22 PERCENT

Weekday circulation at the *San Francisco Chronicle* dropped more than 22 percent in the last year to 241,330, according to figures released by the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Also in the Bay Area, combined circula-

tion for the *San Jose Mercury News*, *Contra Costa Times* and *Oakland Tribune* -- all owned by MediaNews Group Inc. -- fell 5.4 percent during the week to 516,701. Overall, weekly circulation at the top 25 U.S. dailies dropped 8.7 percent for the year ending March 31. Among other big dailies, the *New York Times* slipped 8.5 percent in weekday circulation, while *The Wall Street Journal* grew 0.5 percent to 2.09 million subscribers. (*San Francisco Business Times*, April 26)

SMALL CLAIMS COURT MOVES

The Small Claims Divisions at 500 County Center in Redwood City, 800 N. Humboldt in San Mateo, and 1050 Mission Road in South San Francisco will consolidate with the Civil Division and relocate to the Hall of Justice in Redwood City. This office will accept all small claims filing for San Mateo County. While all administrative and clerical tasks will be performed in the Hall of Justice, small claims cases will continue to be assigned to one of three courthouses for trial, based on jurisdictional boundaries.

TRANSLINK

TransLink allows a commuter to use multiple Bay Area transit systems. TransLink cards and value can be purchased from retailers, including most Walgreens stores, and from participating transit systems Caltrain, San Francisco Muni, BART, Golden Gate Transit and Ferry, and AC Transit. The TransLink card costs \$5 or is free if signing up for Autoload

when ordered on the TransLink website. TransLink can be used with transit benefit programs, such as Commuter Check and WageWorks. Transit benefit vouchers can be used to purchase both passes and cash value to be added to the TransLink card. (translink.org; toll-free 877-878-8883)

TRAFFIC ALERT

Construction began May 3 on a rainwater control project in San Bruno, the first step in a grade separation project that will result in dramatic safety improvements at a key series of intersections in that community between Pacifica and San Francisco International Airport. For detailed information about the project, visit caltrain.com or call Caltrain Office of Public Affairs at 650-508-7726 or email sbgradesep@caltrain.com.

SITSEER

■ San Mateo County Library Chinese-language Web site: smcl.org/zh-hant
■ Bergan turbo track entertains cats: aspcasonlinestore.com and amazon.com

SWAMI SEZ

"YFTA is my new email acronym for telling my absentminded friends: You forgot the attachment." (Dolores De Cabeza)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

John Maybury's columns are archived at pacificatribune.com and wanderingandwondering.com. He blogs on pacificariptide.com and sfgate.com/inpeninsula. John's editing site is goofbuster.com. Email mayburrito@goofbuster.com.