

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



BEACH SLIMED

Mysterious yellow foam slimed Rockaway Beach last week. Local beach nuts then began arguing on Pacifica Riptide.com about whether the cause was natural algal bloom or the Calera Creek sewage plant. Some things never change in Pacifica.

BAD NEWS

The San Francisco Chronicle has laid off award-winning environmental writer Jane Kay. Jake Sigg of Nature News calls this a major “setback” for environmental journalism in the Bay Area.

HONOR VIETNAM WAR DEAD

From Bonnie Campbell: I know there is a Memorial Service at Chapel by the Sea every year to honor the young men killed in Vietnam and they do what I assume is a lovely service. Every year, though, no one mentions in the newspaper the young men by name from Pacifica who died in the war. While

in high school, two of them were my friends. There are 11 altogether and I have enclosed their names so they can get some recognition. Thanks for your help: Marine Private Larry Foster, May 22, 1966; Lance Corp. Robert E. Curry, Dec. 31, 1966; Lance Corp. Stan Childers, Feb. 15, 1967; Marine PFC Medford Chrysler, Jul. 2, 1967; PFC James E. Walker, Jr., April 30, 1968; Marine PFC George Cabano, Jr., Oct. 3, 1968; Sgt. Robert Compton, May 12, 1969; Tech 1st Class Charles Wright, Jr., Nov. 18, 1969; Corp. George F. Patterson, April 1970; SP4 David McKay, June 4, 1970; Sgt. John Premenko, Aug. 14, 1970.

COASTSIDE FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER

Sequoia Healthcare District Board President Don Horsley will schedule a Healthcare District Study Session to explore ways to permanently fund the recently closed Coastside Family Medical Center in Half Moon Bay. “Thousands of

coastside residents depended on that clinic for themselves and their families,” says Horsley, former San Mateo County sheriff. “I am scheduling this study session to explore the process of annexation of coastal communities into the Sequoia Healthcare District so that the district can find a permanent solution to funding this vitally needed health care resource.” Horsley will seek community, health professional, and local government input on ways to fund and reopen the clinic. “This Clinic served 8,000 coastside residents, the vast majority with private insurance. Now those patients are traveling to Daly City, Redwood City, or Burlingame for services they previously received in their own community,” says Horsley. “It’s not right what’s happened and I want to see if we can fix it.” Horsley will ask the board to schedule the study session during the summer months, when all board members can be present and the public can get enough notice to attend the session.

FAST TRIP TO COLMA

President Obama has committed billions of federal dollars to intercity transit. Why not go after some of that swag to build an express busway system (bus rapid transit, or BRT) right up the middle of Highway 1 from Linda Mar

to Colma BART? Instead of being stuck in traffic, we could be riding fast buses right to BART. Think about it. It would mean construction jobs, revenue for the city, access to other Bay Area transit systems via BART, and a green way to bring workers in and out of Pacifica. (I originally posted on Pacifica Riptide the idea of a light-rail train to Colma, but Matt Levie suggested the much more reasonable bus alternative.)

LINDA MAR BEACH SPARED

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is threatening to close some 50 Bay Area state parks and beaches, including Montara, Gray Whale Cove, Half Moon Bay, Ano Nuevo, Bean Hollow, Pigeon Point, Pescadero, San Gregorio, plus Montara Mountain. If you care about your recreational playgrounds, and the income they bring to the community, call or write the governor today and tell him his old Terminator days are over. Get the facts and take action today. One bit of good news in all this economic doom and gloom is that Pacifica State Beach at Linda Mar is not on the hit list, because the city has taken some responsibility for maintaining and cleaning it.

GO CAR-FREE

How few miles do you think

you can drive in one month? Join The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter in taking the Car-Free Challenge in June to find out! The club is putting together a team of folks like you who are setting and reaching personal low-mileage goals for the month of June (some are going entirely car-free, others are just trying to drive a little less). Together they will send a message to politicians about the need for better walking, biking, and transit options to fight climate change and make communities better places to live. The club also will raise needed funds for its work and the work of Transform, a nonprofit it partners with to improve walking, biking, and transit options. That’s because each person who takes the Challenge sets a fundraising goal and whatever money people on the team raise gets split 50-50 between the two organizations. The team (and you as an individual) can win great prizes! This is also a fun way to share your stories (good and bad) of walking, biking, and taking transit. (Info: Melissa Hippard, Director, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club, 650-390-8414)

BIKES PASS CARS

During the first quarter of 2009, more bicycles were sold in the United States than cars and trucks. While the Great Recession is hurting bike

sales, they didn’t fall as fast as those of automobiles. Around 2.6 million bicycle purchases were made, compared to about 2.5 million cars and trucks that left our nation’s lots. (Dennis Markatos, Founder, Sustainable Energy Transition [SET])

LONGEST-RUNNING HEADLINE

“Only a Few Homes Remain at Connemara in Pacifica” (How many times has this headline run in the San Francisco Chronicle real estate section?)

SWAMI SEZ

“The edge — there is no honest way to explain it, because the only people who really know where it is are the ones who have gone over,” (Hunter S. Thompson, Hell’s Angels)

SITSEER

- Linda Mar double whammy; Starbucks seeks rent reductions: squarefeetblog.com
- Video periodic table of elements: periodicvideos.com

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