

# The La Honda Voice



Thursday, April 1, 2010

## Cougar Sightings in La Honda

Two cougars (*Felis meretrix meretricis*) were sighted last Friday near the corner of Highway 84 and Entrada outside Apple Jacks Saloon at about midnight. Once rare, cougar sightings have become more commonplace in recent years, especially near this area, but such sightings of multiple cougars are still unusual. Cougars were in the news last summer when a young man was attacked by a cougar just outside of Applejacks. The victim woke up the next morning near the creek with a headache, scratch marks on his back and an empty wallet. He told *The La Honda Voice* that the cougar seemed friendly at the time, but admits that alcohol may have clouded his judgment. The sheriff reminds anyone who sees cougars to act loud and obnoxious, which will usually deter them.



One of the cougars caught on camera before disappearing into the brush

## *Culex* Mosquitoes Introduced to Reflection Lake

The population of the *Culex* mosquito in the State is extremely low, and the mosquito has now been placed on the threatened species list. Before 2004, they were thought to be extinct in San Mateo County, but there have been antidotal evidence in the past few years that a breeding population may be establishing itself here. The mosquitoes are known to have an affinity toward humans and family pets, and they are also a vector for West Nile Virus and encephalitis.



The endangered *culex* mosquito

A representative from the San Mateo County Mosquito Advancement District say that we all can help increase the mosquito population by leaving containers of stagnant water near our homes. Red Legged Frogs have been eradicated from Reflection Lake, since they prey on the rare *Culex* mosquito. If this program is successful, deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) and camel spiders (*Solifugid*) are scheduled to be introduced to the area next year.

## Speed Bumps on Highway 84

Every summer weekend seems to bring news of carnage on the roads near La Honda. In an effort to increase highway safety, Caltrans is installing speed bumps every 12 feet on Highway 84 between Woodside and San Gregorio in a State pilot program to slow down traffic. If this effort is successful in reducing fatal accidents, it may be used on all highways throughout the State by 2012 at an estimated cost of 3.1 billion dollars.

In an effort to appease drivers who feel that these bumps would unnecessarily slow down traffic, the State has increased the speed limit on all roads with the new speed bumps to 70mph. Aspirin dispensers will be co-located with the emergency roadside phones for possible headaches caused by the vibrations.



*Speed bumps like these will soon be found on much of Highway 84*

Gabriel and Monroe, manufacturer of shocks and struts, have teamed up with Midas, the Country's largest installer of shocks, to strongly endorse this effort. The President of Midas, said, "We are concerned about the safety of the people of California, especially near La Hondo (sic), which is one of my favorite cities in Southern California."

## Ohlone Ax Head Probably Just a Rock.

A Neolithic stone axe found in La Honda in 1999 and permanently on display at the San Mateo Historical Museum was once considered to be one of the oldest Ohlone artifacts in the area. However, *The La Honda Voice* discovered that the truth may be something very different. Eminent anthropologist I. M. Occam of Stanford University has studied the artifact over the past 8 years and recently stated, "It just looks like a plain old rock to me."



*The authenticity of this Ohlone axe head is now in dispute.*

The museum is understandably upset since they purchased the item in 2000 for half of their annual budget. The La Honda resident who sold this artifact moved out of the country shortly after the sale and was not available for comment.

The museum is still investigating an alternate theory about the artifact – that the Neolithic Ohlones planted a stone that looked like an axe to be found by future generations to make them believe that the Ohlones were more advanced than they were at the time. Professor Occam's prepared a written response to this theory that simply said, "What have you guys been smokin'?"

## Banana Slugs have Complex Emotional Lives

Although physically dissimilar to humans, banana slugs are said to have complex emotional and social lives – not unlike humans. In a controversial piece of research, Professor Lunatige, Founder of the Society to Advance Interspecies Dialogue (SAID), has claimed to actually communicate with these creatures. Professor Lunatige said that he was recently discussing inter-species cooperation last week with a banana slug named Slimus at the Bella Vista restaurant on Skyline Boulevard. As they sipped their margaritas (no salt, of course), Professor Lunatige learned that slugs yearn for the same things humans do – love, respect, and an occasional dish of beer. As a token sign of respect, The Professor agreed to petition the County to extend the time of all traffic signals to a minimum of 18 minutes to allow slugs to safely cross the roads.



*Local banana slugs complain that they get little respect from humans*

## Reflection Lake to Remain in “Natural” State

Some might argue that the economic stimulus package under President Obama has only been a temporary fix, creating unnecessary and expensive projects, but most residents of La Honda would disagree. After a \$1.6 million

study on the ecology and possible restoration of La Honda’s Reflection Lake, the Obama administration has decided to provide another \$4.5 million to maintain Reflection Lake in its current “natural” state over the next 8 years - an effort funded solely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The original study concluded that the iron leaching from rusting cars in the lake, silt from the landslide, and effluent from faulty septic systems has created a unique environment that needs to be maintained and further studied.



*The unique environment of Reflection Lake has allowed Fed funding to study it*

A local representative from the Department of Fish and Game agreed with the conclusion saying, “There is no reason to disturb the natural beauty that has blessed this land for thousands of years.”

This project is an obvious turnaround from the Bush administration’s recommendation to create a nuclear waste site at Reflection Lake. As part of Bush’s proposed project, \$2.1 million was set aside for lead vests for all La Honda Elementary School students up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Water Skiing Approved in Reflection Lake

Water skiing and houseboats have been approved for use in Reflection Lake to increase local tourism. The Cuesta Board hopes that this change will make La Honda into a nationally known resort area and boost the local economy. Last year a fleet of glass bottomed boats started providing tours of the lake, where an 8 year old boy famously remarked after the maiden tour, “I couldn’t see a damn thing down there.”



*You can soon expect to see scenes such as this on Reflection Lake*

## Name Change for La Honda?

The Kawasaki Motors Corporation has offered free motorcycles to all La Honda residents over the age of 12 years old in return for permanently changing the name of the town to La Kawasaki. Some local residents were concerned about a potential noise issue, so Kawasaki agreed to install speakers in multiple trees in the Cuesta area which would continuously play the sound of the ocean (or 11 other selectable sounds) to help mask the sounds of the motorcycle engines. Toyota made a similar proposal last year to change the name of the town to La Toyota, but withdrew the offer when accelerator issues made their flagship green model, the Prius, unable to slow down through

town, and the State was unwilling to change the speed limit through town to 90mph as requested by Toyota.



*Kawasaki seemed to have made a generous offer to La Honda – it’s now up to the residents here*

Several young male students at the La Honda School strongly approved of Kawasaki’s proposal, but one asked *The La Honda Voice* not to tell his Mom. The town will officially vote on the proposed change at the April Cuesta La Honda General Membership Meeting.

## Another EIR for Local Winery?

The owner of a proposed winery near La Honda has requested another Environmental Impact Report (EIR), reportedly since the initial one was not favorable. It is rumored that the owner will request subsequent EIRs until one says that vineyards are essential to maintain the natural eco-system of the area. The owner has also reportedly stated that the slopes don’t look quite as steep, which is an erosion concern, if you turn your head just a little bit to the left and squint. In related news, there was a mix-up in the County when they accidentally applied the “Right to Harm” instead of the “Right to Farm” Ordinance and the “Slippery Slope” instead of the “Steep Slope” Ordinance to the last EIR request.

## Source of La Honda Creek Stuns Watermaster

The source of La Honda Creek was discovered last week. The San Gregorio Creek Watershed Watermaster followed the Creek to its source and found a broken water pipe near Skyline Blvd, which has evidently been the primary source of the water in the Creek since about 1925. The dumbfounded Watermaster reportedly disappeared into the brush without providing a statement to the press. In related news, Skylonda residents have been complaining about ongoing low water pressure in their area.



*The Source of La Honda Creek was a surprise to all*

## Wal-Mart to Open in Downtown La Honda

A Super Wal-Mart is scheduled to open this summer next to the La Honda County Store. There is some concern that the Wal-Mart may impact the environment, traffic patterns, local businesses or general serenity of the town. However, a spokesperson for Wal-Mart assured the public that its impact would be minimal, and the store could be painted brown and green to blend in with the natural environment of La Honda. In related breaking news, a cashier in the Mountain View Wal-Mart Store found an item in its small

appliance section that was not made in the People's Republic of China; this incident is still under investigation.



*A Wal-Mart study determined that a store in town would have little impact*

## AppleJacks named best Tavern in Town for Third Straight Year

For the third consecutive year, Applejacks has been named the best tavern in La Honda with a 96% approval rating. Local taverns were judged in areas of selection, service, décor, value, number of stray dogs in the bar, average patron BAC, and bathroom graffiti. In celebration, Applejacks is offering a "buy one – get one" promotion next Wednesday between 8:00pm and 2:30am. The *La Honda Voice* will conduct future polls for the best grocery store and best restaurant in town.



*For the past three years, AppleJack's has been rated the #1 tavern in town*

## **Rare Rock Formation Discovered near La Honda**

An unusual rock formation has been discovered a few miles East of the town of La Honda on Highway 84. The formation was revealed a few years ago after slide activity in the area uncovered it. Geologists are baffled because the formation is much more recent and of a different composition than other nearby formations. The rocks from the formation were analyzed and are primarily composed of sand, rock aggregate and Portland cement. A local geologist, Dr. Ahluwala, has studied this formation over the last few years and speculated that the formation was the result of nearby volcanic activity, probably within the past decade. His findings will be presented at the International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway in August.



*The exact location of this rare rock formation has been kept secret*

## **The Cuesta Golf Course has Been Found**

As some local residents know from Cuesta sales propaganda of the 1930s, a golf course was part of the early Cuesta development, but it had been lost for many years. However, the golf course was recently re-discovered by two

children who were exploring the area. Amazingly, the grass has been neatly manicured by a herd of feral kangaroos, who are also running an 18<sup>th</sup> hole clubhouse. The Guild Board plans on re-opening the entire course within a year, although admitting that maintaining the greens will require about 80% of the town's water.



*The golf course greens have been kept in excellent shape by local feral kangaroos*

Tiger Woods came to town to examine the course and believed that massive water conservation would be worthwhile to save this part of Cuesta's unique heritage. Tiger also commented that La Honda is a great place to meet new friends; there has been no comment yet from Elin.

## **Hatchet Throwing - an Olympic Event in 2012**

After La Honda's failed bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, there seemed little reason to celebrate. But *The La Honda Voice* recently learned that Hatchet Throwing, the sport that put La Honda on the map, will be an official event in the 2012 Olympics. By a split decision, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has agreed to allow this wildly popular sport.

One IOC official commented, “If we allow hurling, how can we say no to hatchet throwing.” A regulation Olympic target is located at Applejacks, and business is brisk as patrons prepare themselves for the competition. Although the possibility of an accident is unlikely, the owner of Applejacks still advises people not to walk behind the target between midnight and 2am.



*The hatchet target at AppleJacks is regulation size for the 2012 Olympics*

### **Guild may Pipe Bottled Water to Customers**

The Cuesta La Honda Board of Directors is considering whether to directly fill the Guild water tanks with bottled drinking water. A cost-benefit analysis was presented at the last Wednesday Board meeting, and the data suggested that it may be less expensive to just use the bottled water directly than to deal with the State and local bureaucracy on water compliance, THM mitigation efforts,

maintenance and operating expenses for the Filter Treatment Plant (FTP), and multiple certified water operators. If this proposal is adopted, the FTP is rumored to be converted into a brewery.



*Although disposal of the containers may still be an issue, the Board is confident on the cost savings of bottled water*

Questions? Comments?  
Donations of large amounts of unmarked money?

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