

"...there is nothing new under the sun." So proclaimed the author of Ecclesiastes, *Koheleth* in the Hebrew tongue; it means teacher, or preacher or lecturer. Well, according to the Times Standard from last Sunday there *is* something new. The headline in the North Coast Life section read: "Eureka has a new jewel." It's not a diamond or ruby, it's called the Hikshari' Trail: taken from the Wiyot for, the place where the trail lies. I was delighted to read the recent article because I had discovered the trail a few weeks ago, or before I knew it even had a name! Here's my story:

The other day we became refugees from our house because our floors were being refinished. So, it took about three weeks of moving heavy stuff in and out with a bit, ok a lot of help, from Humboldt Moving and Storage. In time—the floors came out looking beautiful. During our time of forced exile at the Bayshore Mall Best Western Inn I discovered a few things about our town by having to stay in it as a ~~visiting~~ tourist. The accommodations were nice, and the Shamus T-Bones aroma wafted into our room and left me wishing I wasn't a virtual vegetarian. But the best thing about our room was the view of Humboldt Bay, ~~from our window~~. Searching for a place to run, alright jog, that beat the parking lot ~~by~~ ^{ok} Ray's Food place, I discovered the Hikshari' Trail. It was nicely paved, had a parking lot, and felt mostly safe. I ran for about a mile and a half skirting the bay, one foggy, one sunny and one rainy morning. It didn't matter: This new trail that the Times Standard describes as a 'jewel' provides a great place to jog, walk, or ride bicycles: -- it beats any treadmill at any gym, as far as I am concerned, cause when I am sweating hard I like to breathe fresh air.

That trail along with the Headwaters Trail, Hammond trail and others, reminds me that when it comes to outdoor beauty the northwest corner of California is unparalleled. People say there is nothing to do here; that's true if you like being entertained while sitting on your duff. But if you have the good health and good sense to lead an active outdoor lifestyle: Humboldt County ranks right up there. It's a great place to paddle, walk, hike and bike (~~I strongly prefer the un-motorized kind~~) and catch the good tidings of God's great outdoors.

The ~~long~~ forgotten art of walking with friends and families is one that could restore a great deal of sanity and health to the American people. What? too wet out there you say? Using our wet weather as an excuse is a weak argument: that's why they've invented the rain coat and especially Gore Tex ~~rainwear~~.

Now if we could just connect the Hikshari Trail with the Hammond Trail we would have an even more inviting way for people to get exercise, get in touch with the beauty of the north coast and actually, get themselves to and fro without burning fossil fuels.

Is there anything new under the sun? or, "under the fog" may be more appropriate for coastal Humboldt? Yes. And the new Hikshari, along with the many ^{or old} trails, rivers, beaches and hills in our area, are delightful, Sun or no sun!

This Has Been Dan Price for Community Comment