

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

PROTECT PLOVERS

- Stay out of the posted habitat areas and remain at least 50 feet away from birds and nests. Even the most knowledgeable birder will cause impacts to plovers in these areas.
- Walk near the water line on plover breeding beaches such as Linda Mar.
- Walk dogs only where authorized and always keep them on a leash.
- Dispose of garbage properly to avoid attracting predators.
- Leave driftwood lying on the beach. It provides nesting and feeding habitat for plovers.
- Do not build wood structures because upright wood provides perches for avian predators.
- Share your knowledge with others going to enjoy the beach.
- Volunteer to educate the public or to restore Pacifica plover habitat: pefplus.org
- Contact GGNRA to volunteer as a snowy plover outreach docent in S.F.: george_durgerian@nps.gov
- Call Point Reyes National

Seashore for more information about the snowy plover docent program there: 415-464-5124

BEACH WATCH

This year, NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary celebrates 15 years of ocean protection through its Beach Watch volunteer shoreline monitoring program. The Beach Watch program uses highly trained "citizen scientists" from all walks of life to conduct regular shoreline surveys spanning 150 miles of coastline, from Point Año Nuevo to Bodega Head. The volunteers have also conducted special wildlife surveys during several oil spills, most recently the Cosco Busan spill in San Francisco Bay last November. Find out more about the sanctuary and its volunteer programs: farallones.noaa.gov and farallones.org.

GIT 'ER DONE

Congratulations to all of you who read my column item and contacted City Hall about the dangerous intersection at Francisco and Highway 1 in Sharp Park near the golf course. Last week the city put up two signs warning northbound drivers at the stop sign that oncoming (southbound) traffic does not stop as it turns left into the on-ramp. But please, if you are turning left, use your damn turn signal or stick your arm out the window so the

waiting northbound cars can see that you are indeed turning. And southbound drivers, whatever you do, don't stop. Keep moving through your left turn or you will really gum up the works. Meanwhile, we are waiting for Caltrans to put up the promised larger YIELD sign for northbound drivers merging onto the on-ramp. Let's all take time to thank City Manager Steve Rhodes and City Engineer Van Ocampo. They git 'er done!

AUGUST: NO HOLIDAYS

August may be the only month without any real holidays, but it is special in another way: The Perseid meteor shower peaks August 12. Meteor showers are usually best observed after midnight because then the oncoming meteors are more likely to graze the atmosphere ahead of Earth's orbital path. (Eco Calendar, Pomegranate Press)

COOL GLOBES

Cool Globes is an outdoor art exhibit that highlights climate change and the simple things each of us can do in our everyday lives to prevent it. The exhibit features 40 custom-designed 5-foot globes—each depicting a solution to the climate crisis. The Sierra Club is thrilled to be a sponsor of this "cool" exhibit, which will be on display at Crissy Field in the San Francisco Marina until October 12. Todd Bray says, "My friend Carrie

Nardello, who helped decorate the new Log Shop surf store, is a featured artist at Cool Globes."

DUH!

God love the headline writers at the San Francisco Chronicle. On July 29 they came up with these doozies: "Less driving forces gas prices down" and "Stingy driving reaps rewards at the gas pump." Well, yeah, this economics thing really isn't rocket science, now is it?

SLYDIAL

Sneaky bosses and cowardly ex-lovers now have the ultimate passive-aggressive weapon. To really drop the hammer on someone without confronting him or her, check out Slydial, which lets you bypass a live phone call and get right into your intended victim's cell phone voice mail. Call 267-759-3425 to do the deed, but I hope you can sleep well tonight.

"E" FOR EFFORT

Baseball fans know that "E" is for error, but in this case, "E" is also for effort. To wit: I have a grammar gene that predisposes me to correct other people's bad English. It's practically a reflex action. So the other night I was sitting at AT&T Park watching the San Francisco Giants play a game with much heart but little luck. I looked up at the Giants' giant center-field scoreboard screen and saw the

ballpark described as "premiere." Error! The adjective is spelled "premier," with no "e" on the end. (Premiere is a verb meaning to open or debut, and a noun meaning an opening or a debut.) So the next day I called Lindsay at AT&T Park and told her about the huge, glaring typo on the Jumbotron. She said she would check with her boss and get back to me. I waited a week, then called her back. She said they had looked up the word on Dictionary.com and discovered both spellings but wrongly assumed that either spelling was correct. I explained that premier and premiere are two entirely different words, and that premier is the correct word for the ballpark banner. Lindsay again said she would have to call me back after consulting with her boss. This time she called back within minutes. "We decided you were right," she said, adding that they would notify the team about the blooper and have it changed on the electronic display. Rack up another putout on my scorecard. Give me an "E"!

UNCIVIL WAR

Pacifica Riptide and the Pacifica Tribune have been openly airing and discussing the issue of civility in City Council oral communications, Tribune letters to the editor, and Riptide comments online. Several interesting ideas have been floated: starting a speaker's corner at the farmer's market, public debates or

teach-ins at Sanchez Concert Hall or other public venue, a sergeant at arms for City Council, and allowing oral communications after each agenda item instead of all at once at the beginning or end of the meeting. Let us know your thoughts on these.

SITeseer

- Golden Gate Park science museum/planetarium reopens Sept. 27: calacademy.org
- For bird brains: birdguides.com
- Thousands of documentaries: snagfilms.com
- New search engine that doesn't search you: cuil.com
- Chill out in the hills, a Sonoma County spa destination: osmosis.com
- Make your own word clouds: wordle.net
- Curry time: Oceans of India opens Friday, August 8
- Pacifica makes cover of Chronicle real estate section, July 27: sfgate.com

SWAMI SEZ

"An optimist is a guy that has never had much experience." (Donald Marquis, "archy and mehitabel")

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- Breaking news every day: PacificaRiptide.com
- All my columns online: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com