



# Opinions

Editorial, Letters to the Editor

## Letters and Op-Ed Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor and guest opinion columns. They are a vital part of this community newspaper. But our time and space are limited, so we ask you to share responsibility with us by following these rules:

- Be brief: 250-300 words for letters, 500 words for op-ed pieces.
- Be civil and neighborly: no name-calling, no rants or sermons, no personal attacks. Stick to the issues. We will not print any libelous or inflammatory material. We reserve the right to decline a letter.
- Be clear and concise. Check your grammar and logic. Do NOT send multiple or rough drafts — final version only. We reserve the right to edit minor errors of spelling, punctuation, and fact, but if your submission requires major editing, we will return it to you to fix and resubmit if you wish.
- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday noon of the week preceding publication.
- We will apply these rules fairly and consistently to all our valued contributors: no exceptions, no special favors.
- Please provide your full name, address, and telephone number with all submissions, but only your name and city where you live will appear in print.
- Email your submissions to [tribune-opinion@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:tribune-opinion@bayareanewsgroup.com).

## Submitted Photo Policy

Email jpeg photos to [tribunephotos@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:tribunephotos@bayareanewsgroup.com). Please provide photographer's name. Photos submitted may be published at our discretion in the Pacifica Tribune or any of its publications, or any other Bay Area News Group newspaper or website.

Opinions expressed by columnists & letter writers are theirs alone and not those of the Pacifica Tribune.



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## Lens on Pacifica

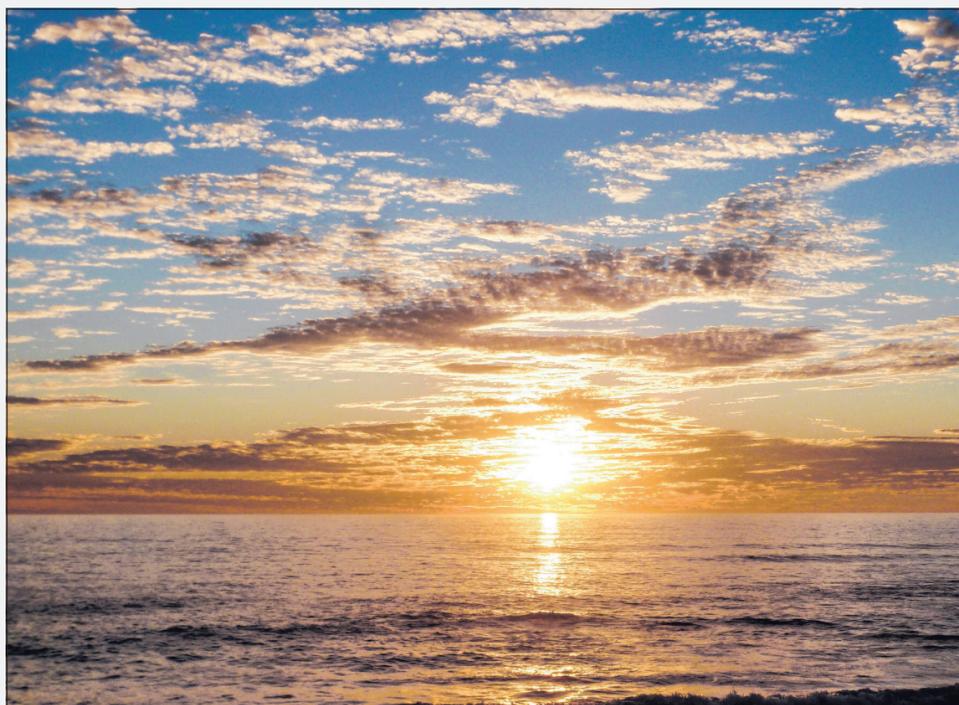


PHOTO BY BEV JACQUEMET

## Letters

to the editor

### Explaining Fog Fest

Dear Editor:

We would like to explain our commitment to this community to ascertain that people here know the facts about how the Fog Fest Organizing Group, Inc. (FFOG) handles the responsibility of doing business in Pacifica.

The Fog Fest does NOT create any expense to the City of Pacifica, nor to any of its departments, that is not reimbursed either by direct payment or by in-kind services. I cannot stress that too much.

The Fog Fest is self-sufficient - it is not a cost burden to our citizens!

Any costs incurred by the Public Works Department are offset by cost savings for the PB&R Department via Fog Fest paying for advertising their events (Fog Jog, Fun Fest) on our poster, on our website, in all printed materials, in our program, etc. (Sometimes we have helped find sponsor for the Fun Fest.) We've all worked hard and cooperatively to achieve this great working relationship.

We do not rely on the citizens of Pacifica to pay for the Fog Fest, other than by attending the festival and buying food, beverages and entertainment there if they choose to.

The Fog Fest, quite simply, exists to create a means for local community groups to raise funds and to attract visitors to spend their money on frequenting the businesses in our beautiful city,

and this done with all-volunteer labor. That is our mission, and I believe we're fulfilling it.

Linda Jonas  
On behalf of FFOG

### International Peace Day

Dear Editor,

In honor of International Peace Day on Sunday, September 21st, the Pacifica Peace People will again put a full page ad in the Pacifica Tribune. Signed by many members of our community, we will declare our ongoing commitment to peace and will request that the money spent on wars be redirected toward the many needs of our own nation and its people.

If you would like to see and sign this declaration of peace, you may do so by going to our website: [www.pacifica-peacepeople.net](http://www.pacifica-peacepeople.net). Donations for the ad will be gratefully accepted and can be made through our website using PayPal. Alternately, checks payable to the Pacifica Peace People can be sent to Leslie Davidson at P.O. Box 334, Moss Beach, CA, 94038.

Finally, we invite you to show your support for peace by joining us in the annual Fog Fest parade on Saturday, Sept. 27th. Contact us for more information: [iinfo@pacificapeacepeople.net](mailto:iinfo@pacificapeacepeople.net)

Linda Peebles  
Vallemer  
Pacifica Peace People member

### Good Samaritan

Dear Editor:

One August 12, 2014, my mother Ruth was walking her dog behind the Chinese Restaurant on Terra Nova Blvd., when she tripped on the dog leash and fell to the ground. She blacked out for a few minutes. She asked someone to help her up because she couldn't move her arm, but when they didn't, two young girls seen what had happened and ran over to help her.

One of the young ladies' name was Julia, the other was a cousin. She thinks they went to Ortega Elementary School. They helped her to her feet and asked if they should call an ambulance for her; she said she was okay. She wants to thank them for helping her, when no one else would. Her family really appreciates what these two young ladies have done for our mother. She lives at Casa Pacific Senior Center Apartments. Please stop by so she can thank you in person. Her family took her to hospital to find out she broke her wrist and arm.

Thank you so much for helping her.  
Justine Marck  
South San Francisco

### Thank you, Sara

Dear Editor:

More often letters are complaints; this is a thank you letter to Sara

See LETTERS, Page 7



### Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

### GIVE ME 3

A bill requiring drivers to give bicyclists 3 feet of clearance when passing was signed into California law August 20 by Governor Jerry Brown. Promoted by the California Bicycling Coalition, Assembly Bill 1371 (Give Me 3) was authored by Assemblyman Steven Bradford of Gardena. Its official name is the Three Feet for Safety Act. Existing law requires drivers to pass while keeping a "safe distance," but the new law establishes exactly what that distance is: 3 feet. The City of Los Angeles - known for generations as a car-centric place that presents difficult conditions for biking - sponsored the bill. The law requires drivers who pass cyclists from behind to keep 3 feet away. But if traffic or roadway conditions prevent motorists from giving cyclists 3 feet of clearance, drivers must "slow to a speed that is reasonable and prudent" and pass only when the cyclist will not be endangered. Violations are punishable by a \$35 base fine, which comes to \$154 with additional fees, according to the California Bicycle Coalition. Drivers who collide with cyclists and injure them while violating the law will be subject to a \$220 fine. The law is slated to take effect September 14, 2014. Twenty-one states have similar laws, according to a list compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures in June.

### DROUGHTBUSTERS

One of our local heroes, Bob Lange of the North Coast County Water District, answered a recent call in this column to help Oceana High School save water at Brink Pool. Bob took low-flow showerheads and timers to the school, but I just heard from John Schultz, director of operations and maintenance

for the school district: "We have used showerhead timers and low-flow showerheads at our other facilities, and they have proven not to be very effective and/or reliable. Due to frustration, the patrons and/or students have a tendency of breaking them; or they become easily misaligned, which has caused costly maintenance and significant water loss." Nevertheless, John says that the district will talk to the city about educating the public not to waste water in the showers. And more good news from John: "Oceana has converted its irrigation system to reclaimed water throughout the Oceana campus. This collaboration with the North Coast County Water District is saving tens of thousands of gallons of water weekly at Oceana." So I say thanks to Bob and John for their efforts. Unfortunately, human nature and bad behavior seem to defeat every effort we make to save water. Some antisocial individuals among us can't seem to follow simple directions or deliberately sabotage water-saving equipment. What a shame. I guess our only hope is education, fines, and rate increases for water wasters. I also suggest that a little more pool staff vigilance and stern talk could help stem the excessive flow of water in the showers. As a frequent user of Brink Pool, I see kids and adults running long, long showers. Some authority figure needs to go in there and lay down the law.

### MAYBURRITOVILLE

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Blog: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)

### SPEAK YOUR PIECE:

We encourage letters to the editor from readers. They must be between 250-300 words, typed and include first and last name, home address and telephone number for verification. Letters will be printed in order of receipt. Requests to author an opinion column of no more than 500 words will be considered by the Editor. Email them to [tribuneopinion@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:tribuneopinion@bayareanewsgroup.com). All submissions must be received by 12 noon on Thursday.