



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

VIGIL AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

On a cold, windy, and rainy Saturday night, some two dozen coastsiders held a candlelight vigil in remembrance of the many lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut the day before. The vigil at the corner of Linda Mar and Highway 1 in Pacifica was held in conjunction with MoveOn.org and other groups worldwide. Vigil participants recommended these groups working to stop violence (all are accessible online):
 Legal Community Against Violence
 Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence
 Mayors Against Illegal Guns
 Pacifica Peace People

CLEAN GREEN HOLIDAYS

The holidays can be a time of excess, but here are simple ways to reduce air and water pollution without reducing the fun. Follow these easy tips from the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program:

- Tree trimming: Use heirloom ornaments, not flocking, fake snow, or tinsel. Once trees are put out for recycling, these decorations can be carried by wind and rain into storm drains, negatively impacting waterways, air quality, and wildlife.
- Holiday packaging material such as gift boxes, wrapping paper, and ribbons ultimately end up as waste, which must be disposed of or recycled. But they can create serious environmental impacts when burned, releasing soot and other harmful pollutants. These toxins collect in clouds, roadways, and other surfaces. Rain then flushes them into local creeks, causing stormwater pollution. Avoid foil giftwrap, which is among the worst to burn and is not recyclable.
- Burning wood in fireplaces, woodstoves, chimneys, and outdoor fire pits is prohibited during winter Spare the Air alerts in the Bay Area. Burning giftwrap, boxes, and other wrapping materials is illegal anytime, not just on Spare the Air days.
- Giftwrap and boxes are often coated with toxic materials that are hazardous when burned. Use creative gift giving or giftwrap alternatives such as decorated boxes, scarves, or recyclable bags. They're creative and fun, and good for the environment. Giving the gift of an experience, such as tickets to a movie or sporting event, or gift cards to your favorite restaurant, are great ways to reduce waste this holiday season — no giftwrap required! Visit RecycleWorks for other great green gift ideas.
- Use reusable ornaments or natural items such as popcorn and pinecones to decorate your holiday tree. Avoid flocking and tinsel, which can't be recycled.

- If buying a live tree, find someplace to plant it in your yard or keep it in a planter so you can use it year after year.
- Get creative with giftwrap alternatives. Place a gift within a gift, or in a reusable shopping or tote bag instead of paper. Or go old school and use newspaper comics to make gifts more fun and the wrapping recyclable.
- Check before you burn wood in the fireplace. Call 1-877-4-NO-BURN to find out if Spare the Air is in effect.
- For tips on preventing water pollution, visit Flows To Bay online.

GODAWFUL GRAMMAR

"We could have quickly maybe done just assembly, but it's broader because we wanted to do something more substantial," Cook told Bloomberg. "So we'll literally invest over \$100 million. This doesn't mean that Apple will do it ourselves, but we'll be working with people, and we'll be investing our money." (Apple CEO Tim Cook)

LEGALIZE IT!

Possession of an ounce of marijuana for personal use indoors is now legal in Washington state. The Seattle Police Department website has a photo of Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski" with the caption: "The Dude abides, and says, "Take it inside." The state of Washington stands to make \$2 billion in pot sales tax revenue over the next five years. They're no dopes up north. How dumb is it that California cannot get this law passed?

INNER EDIROT

Scott McKellar, who is basically a cheerful guy most of the time, says he is sick of hearing the word "awesome" everywhere he goes. Scott wonders whatever became of perfectly good words like "spectacular" and "fantastic." Being a cunning linguist, Scott also wants to introduce a new term, "insignificant other," for ex-spouse or former mate. Finally, on a sporting note, Scott says his son-in-law Ross calls San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick "Pumpnickel" because it's easier to remember than Kaepernick.

BASEBALL'S THINKING MAN

Speaking of baseball, San Francisco Chronicle sportswriter Bruce Jenkins quotes Sports Illustrated's Tom Verducci on Barry Zito's "epic" Game 5 performance in the National League Championship Series: "He became the first player in recorded history to conduct his postgame news conference in a blue fedora and use the word 'plethora.'"

DEVIL'S SLIDE CD & T-SHIRT

Nancy Hall writes: "We are all excited about the opening of the new tunnels that will bypass Devil's Slide, but let's remember it is also the end of an era for locals who grew up braving the treacherous stretch of Highway 1. Popular local musicians The

Curios have released a song called 'Last Ride on Devil's Slide' as well as T-shirts and hoodies with original artwork by Andrew Leone. T-shirts from youth size small up to 3X are \$18. Add the CD and it's \$23 with shipping. (If you are local, you can just arrange to pick them up.) The single by the same name sold out at the Curios' recent Winter Concert, but they now have more copies. The CD-only is \$5. Call 650-359-2073 to get yours while they last. Great x-mas gifts!"

THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW— OR NOT

State Senator Jerry Hill writes: "Welcome to my 'Oughta Be A Law — Or Not' constituent bill idea contest for 2013. The contest is open to all constituents of the 13th Senate District and allows residents to submit their ideas for improving the quality of life in our community and/or the state of California. Ideas can vary from local community improvements to statewide reforms. Applicants can create new laws or repeal/revise laws already on the books. I will select a winner in February and work toward implementing the reform during the legislative session. Applications can be submitted online and are due by January 15, 2013. Call 916-651-4013."

BLOCK THAT CLICHÉ

"Living high on the hog." The tenderest and most expensive cuts of pork come from high up on the hog, hence the expression "living high on the hog," as in splurging like there's no tomorrow. So says writer Gregg Levoy.

FOOTBALL VS. BASEBALL

My sister Rachel McDonald emails: "Regarding the question you posed about the popularity of football over baseball, here is my take. Football has an appeal that baseball does not. Why? A lot of people love watching the physical contact and roughness of football, including the ever-present possibility of injuries to the players. Perhaps some folks get a thrill from living vicariously by watching a potentially dangerous sport that they, themselves, might be terrified to participate in. Just think about the Roman gladiators, the Egyptian fisherman's joust, and ancient forms of boxing without gloves."

SWAMI SEZ

"Banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies." (Thomas Jefferson)

SITSEER

- Rescue-and-release wildlife center: ltwc.org
- CORRECTION: OceanSpaces
URL is oceanspaces.org

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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