



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

San Pedro Valley Park Wildflowers

San Pedro Valley Park volunteers have produced a beautiful full-color brochure of the 35 varieties of wildflowers that grow in the 1,150-acre county park. The photographs are accompanied by the flowers' English and Latin names, growing seasons, sizes, and park locations. The park is two miles inland from Linda Mar State Beach. San Pedro Creek's middle and south forks run year-round through the park, fed by springs and approximately 28 inches of winter rain, plus coastal fog in the summer. The creek supports a population of steelhead trout, and the park itself is home to hawks, owls, bobcats, coyotes, deer, and other fauna. Flora include Coast live oak woodland, coastal scrub, maritime chaparral, riparian woodland, grassland meadows, and non-native blue-gum eucalyptus trees. Wildflower brochures are available at the park visitor center.

Plover Protection Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS.gov) on June 18 designated approximately 24,527 acres of coastal habitat in Washington, Oregon, and California as critical habitat for the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover, a small shorebird protected as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Human activity on beaches, such as walking, jogging, walking pets, operating off-road vehicles, and horseback riding, during the plover breeding

season can inadvertently cause destruction of eggs and chicks. Encroachment of exotic European beach grass into nesting areas and predation are other primary factors in the decline of the Pacific Coast western snowy plover. Since the species was protected as threatened, many local groups have voluntarily worked to protect plovers and their breeding areas, and to help educate the beach-using public about the bird's needs. In many areas, beach users have cooperated with local interests to improve the breeding situation for plovers. A good example of this is the Pacifica Shorebird Alliance (pacificashorebird.org).

Paddle to the Sea

Get involved as a river paddler or at a riverside event, including the Grand Finale celebration on Saturday, June 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Aquatic Park in San Francisco (paddletothesea.org, tuolumne.org)

Carburetor Quesadillas

Tom and Ray Magliozzi (aka Click and Clack, The Tappet Brothers) recently told a reader how to cook quesadillas under the hood of her car, using the heat of the engine to warm up tasty treats wrapped in aluminum foil. The raspy-voiced Car Guys recommend a "car cookbook" called "Manifest Destiny" by Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller.

Bear Goes to School

A 150-pound, 3-year-old black bear left the mountains in early June, following the Kern River down into Bakersfield, where it entered a schoolyard. Panicked teachers herded the kids inside and called police, who came and tranquilized the bear, then released it back into the wild at Tejon Ranch. (Source: Bakersfield Californian)

Sergeant Pepper People

Here are just a few of the famous people who appear on the cover of The Beatles' 1967 album "Sgt. Pepper": Dylan Thomas, Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Marlon Brando, Tom Mix, Albert Einstein, Oscar Wilde, Tyrone Power, Johnny Weissmuller, Stephen Crane, Lewis Carroll, T.E. Lawrence, Sonny Liston, Marlene Dietrich, Shirley Temple, Mae West, Lenny Bruce, W.C. Fields, Carl Jung, Edgar Allan Poe, Fred Astaire, Bob Dylan, Aldous Huxley, Terry Southern, Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe, William Burroughs, Karl Marx, H.G. Wells. (Source: Ben Schott, miscellanies.info)

Sanchez Dog Park

It's great to see dogs and their owners playing and having fun at the new Sanchez Dog Park in Linda Mar. If you go there, be sure to pick up a copy of the Dog Park Rules of Conduct and Etiquette. For more information, visit pacificapooch.com. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to sunset. Woof! Woof!

Swami Sez

"The Surf Spot has darn good chili, though the serving size is a bit skimpy. I mean, come on, folks, it's just chili, so supersize it, please. And be sure to order it with onions and cheese on top." (Juan Mayburrito, Pacifica Riptide food critic)

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