

Wandering and Wondering

By John Maybury, columnist

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WATERFOWL CRY "FOUL"

"At San Pedro Creek bridge in the past few days, in the midst of Caltrans' cleanup of the marshy area where the creek spills into the ocean, a huge oil slick can be seen from the pedestrian walkway. Disgusting. Thought you might be in a position to ruffle some feathers about this. I'm guessing the ducks and other waterfowl that made the marsh their home are pretty ruffled about now." (Eyewitness news posted on Pacifica Riptide by a reader named "Aich")

UGLY PRODUCE

France's Intermarche supermarkets sell blemished, irregular fruits and vegetables at a discount, rather than discarding the perfectly good produce. Result? Profits are up for the grocery store chain, prices are down for shoppers, and nutritious but cosmetically challenged food is not wasted. Here in America we call that a win-win. Oui, oui!

DUMBER IN THE SUMMER

- Double DUI, Double DUH: In Sonoma County last week, a driver was pulled over for DUI, when his wife drove up in her car looking for her husband. She told police they had been drinking together all day, and she was worried and wondered where he was. Police gave her a sobriety test and promptly arrested her for DUI. (sfgate.com)
- Darwin Award Winner: A Seattle man used a can of spray paint and a lighter as a makeshift blowtorch to kill a spider, starting a blaze that caused \$60,000 worth of damage to his rental home, Seattle fire officials say. The man and his mother got out of the house, and no injuries were reported. (Associated Press)
- Hoist on Her Own Petard: On July 11, Danielle Saxton, 27, stole clothing from Morrie's Boutique in West Frankfort, Illinois, then posted a selfie on Facebook in which she wore some of the loot, namely a leopard-print dress. When the store owner posted pictures of the stolen items on Facebook, some alert readers made the connection and dropped a dime on Danielle. Police arrested her and charged her with petty theft. (San Francisco Chronicle, July 21)

DON'T MESS WITH EDITORIAL

According to a San Francisco Chronicle business story July 19, Integrated Whale Media Investments of Singapore and Hong Kong has paid \$475 million for a majority share of Forbes Media stock. Steve Forbes, staying on as chairman and editor in chief, is quoted as saying: "The buyers are entrepreneurs and they understand entrepreneurial capitalism, and they have a vested self-interest in not messing with the editorial." How refreshing to hear those words. But we wonder how long that will last. So many times we have heard corporate takeover artists promise they would not interfere with editorial or creative, only to find out soon after that they were lying. And inevitably when that happens, product quality, job security, and staff morale go downhill. Just ask anyone who has lived through a merger or acquisition.

SWAMI SEZ

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize."

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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