

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

NOTHING FOR SCHOOLS

At press time, it appeared that Measure N had lost by less than a percentage point. Despite heroic support by teachers, students, and families to pass this much-needed school parcel tax, the measure just barely failed to hit the two-thirds mark imposed by Howard Jarvis' Proposition 13. California schools, services, and infrastructure have suffered serious harm in the 30 years since Jarvis launched his tax revolt.

CHOWDERHEADS!

Yankee Pier at SFO's United Airlines domestic terminal has certified-safe seafood flown in fresh from New England, according to IdealBite.com.

FOREVER FRANK

In the interest of national security, Frank Winston tells me that he can neither confirm nor deny that he has been declared Emperor of Pacifica in perpetuity.

PEDRO POINT POOP

Work crews are gutting the south end of the Pedro Point shopping center that formerly housed Pacifica Athletic Club and Mister Lee's Chinese Food. The contractor says the space is being prepared for tenancy by three businesses but had no further information. A call to the owner was not returned as of press time.

CITIZEN PLANNER

Can you spend \$30 billion in 10 minutes? That's approximately how long it will take you to complete the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's online survey for the current phase of the Transportation 2035 planning process. Test your grasp of transportation facts, and tell MTC planners and policymakers how you would divvy up the \$30 billion in discretionary funding expected to flow to the Bay Area over the next 25 years. Maintain the existing transportation network? Provide more funding to relieve traffic? Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Now is your chance to tell us what you think. Log on to mtc.ca.gov and let us know your priorities by June 27.

WINGED MIGRANTS

Please take a moment to ensure that a key bird bill is passed in Congress. The bill, cosponsored by Representatives Kind (D-WI) and Gilchrest (R-MD), would reauthorize the Neotro-

pical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the sole federal grants program targeted specifically for bird conservation in the Americas. The campaign seeks support from other Congress members to pass the bill with a maximum authorized spending of \$20 million each year. Currently, the act is authorized at only \$6 million, and so many worthy programs go unfunded. Grants must be matched at a rate of three to one by other sources, so this program can leverage another \$60 million for bird conservation each year! Please take part in this campaign today by visiting this abcbirds.org/action and please share this Web site with other bird-lovers. (Thanks to Mary Keitelman for this item.)

EXPLORE FILOLI

One square mile of the Filoli Estate just south of the beautiful Pulgas Water Temple includes hundreds of acres of oak woodlands and grasslands. It's one of the best places to see California's early historic landscape, says David Schmidt of California Nature Tours. Docent-led 2 1/2-hour nature hikes through this area start at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday through the end of July at the Filoli Mansion on Canada Road, about two miles south of the I-280/I-92 interchange. Entrance fee is \$5. Arrive at 10:15 a.m. to park, pay, and find your docent. Lunch is available at the visitor

center cafe. (Thanks to Jake Sigg's Nature News email for this and the next two items.)

S.F. BUTTERFLY COUNT

14th Annual San Francisco Butterfly Count will be held Thursday, June 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All participants convene at 9 a.m. sharp at the Randall Museum (199 Museum Way) to sign in, pay a \$3 fee for butterfly conservation, and get an assigned area to go for the day. There will be easy-reference plastic field cards of San Francisco butterflies to be used for all novices. Butterfly expert Liam O'Brien will lead this activity. If you have immediate questions, email him at liammail56@yahoo.com

EXPLORE MOUNT SUTRO

Reserve your place now for the Mount Sutro Guided Tour and Special Solstice Event, Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon (rain or shine or fog). Join Craig Dawson, founder of the Mount Sutro Stewards, for a guided tour of the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. The hike includes an overview of the history of the area and lots of local knowledge. Complete loop of all Mount Sutro trails, including the historic trail built in the 1800s. Stop at points of interest, including Ishi's cave, NIKE site, and recent habitat restoration and trail projects supervised by Mount Sutro Stewards. Learn what the future has in store for Mount

Sutro and the surrounding San Miguel Hills. Event is limited in size. RSVP as soon as possible if you wish to participate: mediacraig@mindspring.com

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

Please do yourself and the rest of the world a favor when you forward email. Take these measures to protect your identity and that of your family and friends online, by preventing the spread of viruses and spam:

- Click forward and then delete all the other email addresses and headers, forwarding only the page you want to send, not all the previous forwards.
- Delete FW and rewrite the subject line, avoid all-cap heads (they go to spam filters)
- Use BCC (blind carbon copy) for multiple sends, not CC. This protects everyone's identity online (the email will say Undisclosed Recipient).
- Don't forward petitions and chain letters with other people's email addresses on them. Spammers and scammers harvest these. Instead, send a personal letter or petition text to your list using BCC (see above).

CLICHÉ KILLER

"At the end of the day" appears to be everyone's most hated cliché, according to recent Reuters-Dow Jones research. Other pet peeves are: level playing field, wealth of experience, outpouring of support, think outside

the box, last-ditch effort, unsung hero, low-hanging fruit, clean bill of health, better late than never, hot pursuit, up the ante. My personal worst is "needless to say."

SITeseer

- Kids doing animal calls: icallelk.com
- Yellowstone, Old Faithful videos/pix: nps.gov/yell
- Just as it says: menwholooklikekennyrogers.com
- Weird humor: oddtodd.com
- Slang: pseudodictionary.com
- Snacks: taquitos.net
- Computer help: askbobrankin.com
- Business research: factiva.com
- Animal Legal Defense Fund: aldf.org
- Lives of activists: bravenewfilms.org

SWAMI SEZ

"A pirate should always remove his hat in the presence of a bartender." (Pirate Law #9)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- Breaking news every day: pacificariptide.com
- For writers & editors: mayburritoville.com/mayburrito
- All my columns online: wanderingandwondering.com, pacificatribune.com