

Wandering & Wondering



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YELLOW SKY

Australian climate change activist Tim Flannery proposes adding sulfur to jet fuel to fight global warming. He says “solar dimming” by injecting sulfur into the atmosphere could help cool the earth, but he admits that no one knows if there would be any unintended consequences. Duh! (Earthweek.com)

SOUL FOOD

Sonny Buxton played a jazz song by The Cunninghams on KCSM with the intriguing lyrics “there’ll be fried chitlins in the White House some-day.” Bring on the soul food, Brother Obama! (Juan Mayburrito, President, Gringos for Obama)

GREEN FUTURES

Environmental Futures: A Contest for Public Schools will hold a pilot contest for San Francisco public schools next year to encourage and reward teachers and students who devise in-class environmental lessons and projects based on existing lesson plans and subject matter, such as 10th-grade English with an environmental tinge. Prizes up to \$5,000 for a winning class, plus gifts, are offered. The contest will be judged by leading community environmental educators. We have funding for the pilot

program. If you are interested in helping us reward teachers and students for their environmental effort, and in building community support not only for San Francisco environmental education but for all school districts across the United States, contact Coordinator Jim LeCuyer at jimlecuyer@sbcglobal.net.

YES ON O

San Mateo County Parks is the only county or regional park agency in the Bay Area without a source of dedicated funds. On June 3, voters have a chance to change that. This new money will provide additional ranger positions and a resource management position, will facilitate the opening of regional trail connections, and will help the Parks Department to manage existing lands and potential future acquisitions. For just 1/8th of a penny increase in the sales tax—less than \$2 a month for the average person—Measure O would raise approximately \$16 million a year for 25 years to fund parks and recreation in each of the county’s 20 cities, Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, Ladera and Highlands Recreation Districts, and San Mateo County Parks. Measure O needs a two-thirds majority vote to pass, so your YES vote is important. For more information, go to parksforthefuture.net.

YES ON N

Thanks for all of the work you have been doing. Together we are on our way to saving the Pacifica schools! We have amazing teams of people working on all aspects of the campaign. The time has come to focus on voter turnout. Our precinct walk kickoff was a huge success and we are off to a great start. Our goal is to contact more than 4,300 people who will Vote YES on June 3. To do this, we need your help. To get to that number, we need 300 walking or phoning shifts filled between now and June 2. It is a very ambitious goal, but together we can reach it. Many people are intimidated the first time they do this. Our experience has been that with the training we do, and the teamwork we build, people end up having a great time. We have some precinct walkers who have committed to doing every Saturday between now and the election, and a few phone bankers who will be doing every Thursday. Anyone can show up for any of the remaining dates below. Phone bank, Thursday night, May 29, from 7 to 9. Meet at 400 Old County Road, Rockaway Clock Tower Building. Precinct walk, Saturday morning, May 31 from 9 to noon. Meet at 400 Old County Road, Rockaway Clock Tower Building. So please sign up for as many shifts as you can, and do what you can to get friends to do it with you. To sign up, please contact Lisa Bauer at

lisa.bauer@sbcglobal.net. Thanks again, and let’s keep up the great work.

COFFEE BREAK

Mission: Guatemala helped set a worldwide record by hosting a coffee break at its office at Linda Mar Educational Center for World Fair Trade Day, May 10. A small but enthusiastic group (Kathleen Bissell, Kathy Green, Lenny Balbus, Mary McArdy, Theresa Kannengeiser, Mar Kaden, Kay Sweeney, and Shiela Harno and her husband) joined 12,128 worldwide Fair Traders who sipped yummy Thanksgiving coffee from Guatemala at 12 noon Pacific time to set an all-time record. Info: Kay Sweeney, Managing Director, Kateri Tekawitha Fund/Mission:Guatemala, 830 Rosita Road, Pacifica, 650-738-9551, missionguatemala@hotmail.com, mission-guatemala.org

MISTER FIX-IT

Here is an updated list of repair shops that help consumers reuse items that otherwise would clog landfills. As always, call before you go just to make sure of their hours: Gas is a lot more expensive than it was four years ago, no thanks to our Petroleum President:
•Menlo Vacuum and Fix-It, 1179 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-322-9333 (all sorts of small appliances and electronics, also recycles all kinds of batteries and provides reuse/recycle info)

- West Bay TV, 3219 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, 650-368-3384 (TVs, stereos, cameras)
- Rancho Grande Appliances, 2890 Bryant, San Francisco, 415-641-5139 (washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves)
- RepairClinic.com
- Reuse Guide (recycleworks.org, 888-442-2666)

HU’S ON FIRST

Abbott and Costello would have loved the Los Angeles Dodgers’ new Taiwanese second-baseman Chin-lung Hu. It’s another case of life imitating art.

SITSEER

- Unnecessary punctuation: quotation-marks.blogspot.com/
- WRITE THIS ON YOUR CUFF: NO ON 98, YES ON 99

SWAMI SEZ

“I don’t believe there’s any problem in this country, no matter how tough it is, that Americans, when they roll up their sleeves, can’t completely ignore.” (George Carlin)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Breaking news every day: pacificariptide.com
- Email your stories & photos: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- My columns online: pacificatribune.com, wanderingandwondering.com

CHEAP GAS

Cheap gas? Ya gotta be kidding me! Yes, I know, it sounds like an oxymoron. Nevertheless, in these days of rapidly rising gas prices, help is available in the San Francisco Chronicle’s daily updates and online at sfgate.com/maps/gasprices. One day last week, we even made the cut: The 76 station at 498 Palmetto (Manor) was \$3.94 for regular unleaded, but the next day the price went up and we got kicked off the front page.

SEQUOIA NEEDLES

No, it’s not a Narconon group. Sequoia Needles is the San Mateo County Audubon chapter newsletter, and it is jam-packed with info on pesticides and songbirds, birding field trips on land and water, scholarships, action alerts, kayaking lessons, mentoring Cub Scouts, conservation work, political campaigns, Web site content management. Info: 650-529-1454,