

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury



SUPREME IRONY

Someone put up a sign at Linda Mar and Alicante to protest against Measure N, the school parcel tax. The sign read: "No More Taxes." Duh. When Sherri Shafer saw this, she added a sign underneath that read: "Learn How to Spell. Yes on N." But she said someone removed her sign. Apparently the illiterate sign poster didn't appreciate the "humor and stark-

ness," Sherri says. Then she put the sign back up.

PRESIDENTIAL WISDOM

"The way chosen by the United States was plainly marked by a few clear precepts, which govern its conduct in world affairs. First: No people on earth can be held, as a people, to be an enemy, for all humanity shares the common hunger for peace and fellowship and justice. Second: No nation's security and well-being can be lastingly achieving in isolation but only in effective cooperation with fellow-nations. Third: Any nation's right to a form of government and an economic system of its own choosing is inalienable. Fourth: Any nation's attempt to dictate to other nations their form of government is indefensible. And fifth: A nation's hope of lasting peace cannot be firmly based upon any race in armaments but rather upon just relations and honest understanding with all other nations." (Which U.S. president wrote these words? Hint: He was a Republican and a former army general.)

TURTLE TRIVIA

Turtles and tortoises are closely related. Both are reptiles. Turtles have flippers. They swim and live in water. Tortoises have legs. They walk and live on land. [World Turtle Day was May 23.]

SOLAR RESOURCES

Try Brian at Owens Electric & Solar in San Mateo. You can also email Tim Swillinger at info@lighthousesolarandelectric.com

in El Granada. Also try the alternative-energy company Real Goods Solar (realgoodssolar.com) or call 1-888-507-2561 for 0% financing and a free site visit/estimate. (Thanks to Steve Patton for the research.)

OLD FAVORITES

Last week the San Francisco Chronicle business section reported on the Hydrox chocolate cookie comeback (due to loyal fan-club lobbying efforts with Kellogg) and the Spam "mystery meat" comeback (due to tight economic times).

MY INNER EDITOR

Drop in and visit Mayburritoville.com/mayburrito/. Here is a place for writers, editors, designers, artists, cartoonists, photographers, and other creative folks to share ideas and publish lively work. Help build it and they will come. I look forward to hearing from you. Let's have some fun together. (Juan Mayburrito, Writer and Editor)

BUTTERFLY COUNT

The 2008 San Bruno Mountain and Milagra Ridge Butterfly Count is on Saturday, June 14. Meet at the entrance to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park at 9 a.m. in the main parking lot just past the entrance kiosk, Guadalupe Canyon Road. Liam O'Brien and Patrick Kobernus lead the count. \$3 fee for data processing. For more information on these counts, conducted throughout North America in June and July, see North American Butterfly Association (naba.org).

CARBON-OFFSET SCAM

International Rivers Network (IRN) recently held an event at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on how carbon-trading scammers threaten to undermine the intent of the Kyoto Protocol on reducing carbon emissions. Since the event, IRN's annual "Dams, Rivers, and People" report went to press, and is also available at irn.org. "Bad Deal for the Planet: Why Carbon Offsets Aren't Working—and How to Create a Fair Global Climate Accord" delves into the murky world of fake carbon offsets and lays out a framework for creating better solutions to solve the looming climate crisis. The U.S. Senate soon starts discussing a bill that could allow U.S. polluters to escape their emission reduction responsibilities by buying hundreds of millions of international offsets every year. ("Follow the money, i.e., campaign contributions," says Jake Sigg, Nature News.)

BIODIESEL BUCKS

The City of San Francisco has committed \$1 million to build a biodiesel refinery at the Ocean Beach water treatment plant. The city plans to collect waste grease from hundreds of restaurants in the gourmet capital and turn it into fuel for city fleets and other uses.

CREEK CARE

One of the best things to come out of City Hall recently is the grant-funded mailing to creekside residents in Linda Mar: a booklet called "Pacifica Creek Care: How

to Live and Work in Pacifica's Watersheds" plus the "Guide for Plant Salvage and Plant Maintenance Efforts." Thanks to Associate Engineer Maria Aguilar (650-738-4660) for sending this useful information. The city is working on an ordinance to protect the creek's flora and fauna. For future developments, visit cityofpacifica.org and pedrocreek.org. Web site of San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition, which created the booklet.

LEAVE IT TO BEAVER

After being hunted to extinction in Scotland 500 years ago, beavers are about to return to their native land, thanks to a Scottish government initiative to restore wetlands ecology, including the bucktoothed, dam-building critters. (Source: earthweek.com)

BEACH COOTIES

Find out how polluted your favorite beach is: links.sfgate.com/ZBAO

THE BIG ITCH

Yet another reason to fear global warming: Scientists believe that climate change causes extra carbon in the atmosphere, spurring rapid growth in the size and potency of poison ivy (and presumably poison oak, too).

WISE GUY

Scott McKellar says that if he ever got locked up in the hoosegow, he would tell people he lived in a "gated community." On a serious note, Scott sent me a newspaper clipping about Dave Brown

of Battle Ground, Washington, who rescues thousands of stranded salmon fingerlings from the east fork of the Lewis River (a tributary of the Columbia River near his home) and grows them to adulthood, when he returns them to spawn in the river. For more information about Wild Fish Rescue, call Dave Brown at 360-687-7049.

SITeseer

- California green technology: cacleantech.com
- Good fish to eat: oceana.org
- Red-legged and otherwise: jumpingfrog.org

SWAMI SEZ

"We can do so much to make the world a better place. The advantage of financial well-being can make a person indulgent, rob him of the true measure of meaningful accomplishment, and allow him to live a shallow life; or it can give him the ability to make a difference in the world that cries out for compassion, action, and commitment." (Stuart Moldaw, founder, Ross Stores, 1926-2008)

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