

# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



## FLU FLURRY

As the president and epidemiology experts continue to urge extra hand washing and the use of gel sanitizers to combat the swine flu outbreak, these supplies appear to be quickly selling out locally. As of last week, hand sanitizer was gone from Target in Colma, and customers looking for that product appeared to be resorting to purchasing other alternatives, such as Clorox brand disinfecting wipes normally used for house-cleaning. Face masks were also sold out at a nearby Rite Aid drugstore, and Home Depot Pro had no economy brand masks left. (PacificaRiptide.com)

## RECESSION AID

Silicon Valley Community Foundation and San Mateo County have announced a joint effort to distribute a total of \$1.5 million in

grants to nonprofit organizations that are helping residents survive the current economic recession. As part of the unique partnership, the community foundation will award \$1 million to food and shelter providers in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The announcement marks the second round of safety net grants from the community foundation since December 2008, when \$3 million was awarded to 47 organizations in the two counties. San Mateo County will distribute up to \$500,000 to organizations in the county as part of an Economic Urgency Assistance Program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April. The county also announced that it has created a special area on its website (co.sanmateo.ca.us) called "San Mateo County Resources for

Those in Need." (Marshall Wilson, Public Communications Manager, San Mateo County, 650-363-4153 office, 650-464-5630 cell, mwilson@co.sanmateo.ca.us)

## ALTAMONT ZEPHYR

The state would establish a direct Amtrak route between San Francisco and the San Joaquin Valley under the terms of a bill that passed its first committee last week, according to the Visalia, Calif., Times Delta (April 29). Assembly Bill 526 by Sen. Roy Ashburn (R-Bakersfield) would authorize the state Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to negotiate with freight and commuter railroads to open up track access for one of the San Joaquin Amtrak trains to go directly between San Francisco and the Valley via Altamont Pass and the South Bay. Currently, the state contracts with Amtrak to operate four trains between Bakersfield and Oakland via Stockton and Martinez. Ashburn is focused on a route that would take a train over Altamont Pass and into San Francisco. Caltrans director Will Kempton said his department would

follow the Legislature's direction but added that the Amtrak San Joaquin also should be viewed as part of the state rail system that is expected eventually to include a high-speed train, running through the Valley between Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Ashburn agreed that his push for rail service from the Southern San Joaquin Valley over the Altamont Pass to San Francisco is part of a larger discussion over high-speed rail. Plans currently call for the high-speed train to use Pacheco Pass as the route into the Bay Area from the Central Valley, but rail planners also are looking at a possible joint-use project of conventional and high-speed rail service over Altamont Pass.

## GREEN JOB

The Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) seeks a coordinator. For the right candidate, the position is a rare opportunity to revolutionize invasive-plant management in the Bay Area and beyond. BAEDN is a collaborative partnership of regional land managers and invasive-species experts that serves the nine-

county San Francisco Bay Area. BAEDN coordinates Early Detection and Rapid Response to infestations of invasive plants, proactively dealing with new outbreaks before they can grow into large and costly environmental threats. This "stitch-in-time" approach prevents environmental and economic damage caused by these invaders; educates citizens on natural resource stewardship; and reduces the need for planning and resources required to control large, established invasive-plant populations. The coordinator will lead development and implementation of BAEDN, with input and direction from BAEDN's Steering Committee. The position is largely office-based, with some site visits and outdoor training expected. Office work may involve extended periods of sitting and using a computer, mouse, and telephone. Work location is flexible, and travel throughout the nine-county Bay Area is expected and will be reimbursed. The coordinator will be hired on a contract basis at a billing rate of \$23 to \$30 per hour, depending on experience. Al-

ternative work schedules will be considered. For more information, email [gluesenkamp@egret.org](mailto:gluesenkamp@egret.org)

## PLAN BEE

Bees pollinate all our food crops, but bees themselves face environmental threats. Help save the bees by contacting Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director, Pollinator Partnership [lda@pollinator.org](mailto:lda@pollinator.org) or 415-362-1137

## SWAMI SEZ

"Stay thirsty, my friend." (Juan Mayburrito, the world's most interesting man, NoBull Prize winner)

## SITSEER

- YouTube video of Yes on D: [PacificaMeasureD.org](http://PacificaMeasureD.org)
- Espresso book machine (print on demand): [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)
- Fido & Fluffy fly first class: [petairways.com](http://petairways.com)

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Community blog: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)
- Editing & proofreading services: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)
- Column archives: [WanderingAndWondering.com](http://WanderingAndWondering.com)
- Email: [mayburrito@goofbuster.com](mailto:mayburrito@goofbuster.com)