

EDUCATION

Power-packed workshops for teachers

“Modern life would be impossible without energy — far more energy than human muscles can muster,” Los Alamos National Laboratory staffer/researcher Greg Swift said via email recently. He wasn’t talking about the way some of us may feel when we wake up New Year’s Day. He went on to point out that humans use gas for our vehicles and home heating and lighting, among other uses, and that we utilize electricity to maintain communication in this technologically driven society of ours.

“And all this would be GREAT except for one big, global problem,” he continued via email. “The carbon dioxide from burning all that fossil fuel hangs around in the atmosphere and ocean for thousands of years, warming the climate and acidifying the ocean.”

What’s all this got to do with education? Swift and one of his colleagues, Rajan Gupta, are presenting “Climate Change and Other Environmental Impacts of Energy Use,” the first in a series of four professional enrichment workshops for teachers hosted by the Santa Fe Alliance For Science this coming semester. The series starts Saturday, Jan. 12, at a yet-to-be-determined locale. The alliance, founded in spring 2005, will pay teachers a stipend of \$48 plus offer light refreshments for attending any or all of these Saturday-morning events.



Robert Nott
Learning Curve

“The basic idea of these workshops ... is to provide teachers with a bit of perspective on topics of great current interest in the math or science world,” explained SFAI founder/director Robert Eisenstein. “Hopefully, the topics are not only of interest to the teachers but also represent ideas that are relevant to their curricula. Teachers also receive professional enrichment credits from Santa Fe Public Schools.”

The alliance may still be best known for its regularly scheduled Science Cafe for Young Thinkers series — the next in that series, slated for February 2013, is “Heads Up! Asteroid Impacts on Earth.”

But it also holds these teacher-oriented programs to help educators find new topics and ideas to incorporate into the classroom. This Saturday series revolves around energy, with upcoming sessions including “Where Today’s Energy comes From And How We Use It” (Feb. 9), “The Future of Energy: Science and Technology” (March 16) and “The Future of Energy: Ethics, Justice, Economics and Politics” (April 20).

The deadline for enrolling is next Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. Visit www.sfafs.org for details.

Campaign finance reform

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2013, is the deadline for candidates to withdraw from the February 2013 school-board election for the two

open seats in Districts 3 and 5. Five candidates are in the race to take the seats currently held by Barbara Gudwin and Frank Montañó: Susan Duncan and David Zimmler in District 3 and Louis Carlos, Lorraine Price and Edward Worten in District 5.

Earlier this month, the Santa Fe Board of Education approved board member Glenn Wikle’s proposed resolution calling for the voluntary disclosure of all campaign contributions and expenditures for these school-board candidates. The state does not mandate such disclosures, probably because school-board candidates usually raise and/or spend somewhere between a few hundred dollars to \$10,000 along the campaign trail.

“It’s about transparency and about knowing who is behind a candidate,” Wikle said earlier in the month. “Now that we added expenditures to the resolution, it provides a little bit of accountability for people who make contributions — how was their money spent?”

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County hosted a campaign contribution website for candidates in the last board election, held two years ago (board elections occur every two years, with three seats being elected in one cycle and the other two seats in the next cycle; all members serve four years). Disclosure forms are available at the district’s Educational Services Center, 610 Alta Vista St., and the district may provide a Web page with this information.

Family best bets

Tuesday

Hello, Dolly!
3:30 p.m. on TCM

Barbra Streisand stars in this 1969 adaptation of the Broadway musical as the widowed matchmaker who turns her talents to fixing herself up with a crotchety merchant (Walter Matthau). Songs include “Before the Parade Passes By,” “Ribbons Down My Back” and the salutatory title tune. Louis Armstrong and a pre-“Phantom of the Opera” Michael Crawford also star.

Wednesday

Nature
7 p.m. on PBS

Irish cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson spent almost 600 days filming a charismatic Indian tiger cub and his family for “Broken Tail: A Tiger’s Last Journey,” which chronicles the title animal’s odd journey away from his sanctuary, over farmland and scrub, until he was killed by a train 200 miles from his home.

Sunday

Letters to Juliet
7 p.m. on FAM

Romeo’s true love wasn’t a real person, but that doesn’t keep women from writing her notes about their own romantic trials ... in this movie, at least, which boasts lovely Italian scenery. Amanda Seyfried, pictured (*Mamma Mia!*) plays an American in Verona who decides to respond to the missives addressed to Shakespeare’s heroine, ultimately bringing her in contact with a



counsel-seeking character played by Vanessa Redgrave.