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There is plastic in our oceans, can we remove it? *by Charlotte Bakum*

Bakum



The Great Pacific garbage patch is more than twice the size of Texas. It's the most significant accumulation of plastic the world has ever seen! This garbage patch is not as far away as you may think. It's halfway between California and Hawaii. That's around 1,168 miles away from Santa Cruz, California.

"...plastic is persistent, and it doesn't go away by itself and the time to act is now," (U.S News) said Boyan Slat, and he's right. Plastic isn't going anywhere. It will just get moved around. Plastic is just chilling in our oceans and killing marine life while it's there. However, there may be a start to a solution to fix that problem, and it's called a boom.

Specifically, called system 001. System 001 is a U-shaped barrier that is wind-powered. It also has solar lights cameras and satellite antennas. The way it works is that underneath the main barrier, there is a screen or a "skirt" attached. The "skirt" goes three meters down so that any plastic floating underneath the surface can be caught. System 001 has already launched one year and nine days ago, and it came back nine months ago. System 001 and all future systems will launch out of San Francisco bay. Only an hour and a half away from here. Ocean Cleanup, which created System 001, found that there

were some things wrong with system 001. The main problem was that system 001 wasn't fast enough, or it was too fast (it depended on the conditions). When it was going to slow or fast, plastic would escape and float off. Ocean Cleanup's new system is called system 001B. They added a sea parachute to slow system 001B down, and a buoy system to speed system 001B up.

Boyan Slat has also said that with technology system, 001 has the information it has brought "will then allow us to scale up a fleet of systems." (Tween tribute) Ocean Cleanup was founded by Boyan Slat. Ocean Cleanup not only works on machines like system 001 but they also believe in the education of younger generations on the impact of plastic pollution.

In the end, once Ocean Cleanup has a system there happy with, and they launch it into the Pacific ocean full time, they will tackle the great Pacific garbage patch. Ocean Cleanup scientist has estimated once a final system has been launched, it can remove 50% of the great Pacific garbage patch in five years. All plastic caught will be recycled back on land.

Endangered Loggerhead Sea Turtles make a comeback *by Ava Root*

Foxes, surprisingly, the green loggerhead sea turtles' biggest predator. These sea turtles are named for their specifically large head. They are the most common sea turtle in the southeastern part of the US. They live in tropical waters. These sea turtles are getting caught in fishermen equipment and are suffering from the foxes and the equipment.

All seven different species of sea turtles are on the endangered species list. They are found throughout North Carolina to southwest Florida. They spend most of their lives in the ocean. This can be seven to fifteen years. They spend this much time in the sea so that they can migrate to coastal shores. According to NOAA Fisheries, "Through satellite tracking, researchers have discovered that loggerheads in the Pacific have a highly migratory life stage."



"The biggest threats facing loggerhead turtles are bycatch in fishing gear, loss, and degradation of nesting habitat, vessel strikes, and entanglement in marine debris." Reported NOAA Fisheries. The NOAA Fisheries are trying to help the turtles and regrow their population. This shows you that fishers need to be careful what they fish for and that they don't hook a sea turtle with their nets.

The green loggerhead sea turtles' most significant populations are in the Bahamas, Cuba, Greece, Honduras. The population of these sea turtles that live in Japan has decreased from 50-90 percent in the last 60 years. "In 1977, about 3,500 females may have nested in the South Pacific — today, there are only around 500 per year." This shows that the sea turtle population has decreased a lot in the past few years.

Sea turtles are being hunted down and being caught in nets and are being hunted by foxes. Sea turtles are prey to

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foxes around the Mediterranean. These sea turtles nest all around the world. However, they mainly nest around "They nest primarily along the Atlantic coast of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina and along the Florida and Alabama coasts in the Gulf of Mexico."

California boat fire kills 34
by Tanner Towbridge



It is crazy," how such a wonderful vacation on the boat could go so wrong... Thirty-three passengers and one crew member confirmed dead on the *Conception*, Labor Day night. The start of the fire and further evidence of how the fire started are still being investigated, but there was talk that the fire started near an area where people were charging their phones, concluding that something electrical could have gone wrong in the boat.

A crew member who survived the tragic boat fire is filing a lawsuit on the owner of the boat; he claims, "the boat was not properly maintained, and employees lacked proper training." The crew member who filed this lawsuit was sleeping on the top deck when the fire started and managed to jump into the water while breaking his leg in 3 places.

The recruitment for the ship was that at least one crew member was awake at night at all times, at the time the fire started on the boat, there were no crew members up or even passengers, everyone was asleep. If someone was awake, the fate of the 34 people who lost their lives that day, could have changed.

The *Conception* was a diving boat, and they had spent the afternoon diving in Santa Cruz before the horrible tragedy had happened. In the Los Angeles Times states that "The *Conception* wasn't built to charge dozens of phones, batteries, and cameras. Did this cause the blaze?" as they said the boat was not meant to charge dozens of phones and batteries. With 34 people on the ship charging electronics, it leads me to think this was the start and cause of the fire that sadly took many lives.

Hopefully, people start taking the dangers and risks of a boat more seriously after reading this. The U.S. Coast Guard took the unprecedented step of recommending that owners of passenger vessels immediately urge crews to "reduce potential fire hazards and consider limiting the unsupervised charging of lithium-ion batteries and extensive use of power strips and extension cords." This proves that people need to be more careful about using electricity and charging items when on a boat. Next time you or someone you know goes on a boat, make sure you are careful and that there is always someone on watch at night.

Should kids be vaccinated *by Carlos Zavala*



Should kids and toddlers, and teenagers get vaccinated at such a young age? A question is being asked repeatedly to doctors.

1: Vaccines have saved children's lives and decreased the risk of getting diseases that could be fatal.

2: Major Medical Organizations even admitted that vaccines are safe, and chances of getting side effects from vaccines are one in a million.

3: Vaccines also save parents and children's time and money. That and vaccines protect future generations.

"Childhood vaccines are one of the great triumphs of modern medicine. Indeed, parents whose children are vaccinated no longer have to worry about their child's death. Disability from whooping cough, polio, diphtheria, hepatitis, or a host of other infections." From Ezekiel Emanuel.

This paper could be vital for someone to read since it'll help the reader make a more comfortable choice to either get vaccinated or not. That you'll learn about vaccines, and you'll understand why we get them, to begin with. And lastly, you'll see all the benefits of getting your vaccine shots.

To try to help you see the bigger picture in case you're still somewhat confused. The point the article is to show how essential vaccines are, why we get them at an early age, and what the benefits are. Here are some diseases that you'll avoid by taking vaccines, Chickenpox, Rotavirus, Hepatitis A. Chicken Pox Symptoms: Shortness of breath, stiff neck, and vomiting may occur.

Rotavirus Symptoms: Loss of appetite, Dehydration, and crying without tears.

Hepatitis symptoms: Fatigue, Joint pain, and Yellowing of Eyes and Skin.

Well, that'll be an attempt on trying to convince you to try and get your vaccine shots. Hopefully, I satisfied or at the very least, explained to you why we get vaccine shots at an early age and why they're essential. "It's like drink driving. Your choice, your life, but you are also

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risking the lives of the families around
you."

NBMS Happenings

*Girls group will meet on Thursday after school
in Room 26.*

*Cross Country Finals Meet Friday 10/18 at San
Lorenzo Valley High*

*NBMS Fee Jays \$30 for youth & \$40 for adults
in the office. Orders until November 1st.*

*Three more days to sell tickets for the Drive to
School Fundraiser!*