

# The Friday Burrito

As the World Shakes

*"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."*

Theodore Roosevelt

*"If I can get you to laugh with me, you like me better, which makes you more open to my ideas. And if I can persuade you to laugh at the particular point I make, by laughing at it you acknowledge its truth."*

John Cleese



DIY front-yard Halloween decos are the new sensation. Some of our neighbors have created elaborate spooky scenery including 13'-tall monster statues that light up and talk to the trick-and-treaters, as well as the traditional dressed up skeletons and tombstones. Not everyone does this, but in particular, two homes within a block of me top the list. Click on today's masthead picture and you can watch a YouTube video of one front-yard diorama that is around the corner. It attracts nighttime crowds that are in awe of the handywork. My other neighbor's yard can be seen in the [Odds & Ends \(!\) section](#), below.

The MLB World Series is set and ready to begin. If you're wondering which team to support, then choose the Texas Rangers. It's not that I have an inside track on the odds, but any San Francisco Giants fan adores the Rangers manager Bruce Bochy who brought three World Series titles to the Golden Gate. The first Giants' World Series victory was against the Texas Rangers in 2010. How's that for irony? The so-called curse on the Rangers may well be snuffed out next week. On Tuesday, sports columnist [Jared Diamond \(which is a great name for someone covering baseball\)](#), wrote: *"The Rangers ... have quietly earned a place alongside the most cursed teams in North American sports. They came into existence as the second incarnation of the Washington Senators in 1961—the original version became the Minnesota Twins—before moving themselves to Arlington, Texas, in 1972. In 63 seasons, they have won exactly zero titles, an active drought surpassed only by the organization presently known as the Cleveland Guardians, whose stretch of futility dates to 1948."* Yeah. Ouch. I liked it better when the Cubs held that grim record but shed it when they won the World Series in 2016 by beating the Cleveland Indians (before they were Guardians). More irony.

There must be some magic in Bochy's management style because his players come through at key moments. Beating the Houston Astros in the League Championship series, managed by another former Giants

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## Western States Ticker

CAISO YTD Renewables Curtailment.

CAISO YTD Renewables Curtailment:

As of 9/30/23: 2,343,123 MWh  
As of 9/30/22 2,257,168 MWh

% of solar and wind output curtailed:

YTD as of Sept. 2023 4.53%  
YTD as of Sept. 2022 4.50%

© 2023 Foothill Services Nevada Inc. All Rights Reserved. Warning: Burrito reading may be hazardous to your health causing rational thinking and other related diseases. The Burrito contains the personal views of Gary Ackerman and does not reflect the views of any other person or organization. The material is intended for adults, including the humor. If you are offended by the humor, then read the Meatless Burrito. A history of the Western Power Trading Forum (WPTF), including a section on the evolution of the Friday Burrito, can be found by clicking [here](#).

manager, Dusty Baker, was an impressive feat. The second most gratifying outcome in this year's MLB playoffs was watching the Dodgers choke again in their first-round divisional playoff against the D-Backs. Dodger blue goes down in style and Giants fans love it.

### **Is Resi Solar on the Decline?**

Stop the presses. The major vendors of rooftop solar systems in the U.S. are experiencing steep declines in their corporate share value although their product installations continue to grow. The industry analysts at Bank of America Securities (BofAS) noted in their Q3 U.S. Alternative Energy sweep that, "*Residential solar developers SunRun (RUN) and Sunnova (NOVA) ... shares ... are down 59% / 52% in 2023 respectively and 68% / 70% since the start of 2022.*" That grabbed my attention. If anything, I would have expected that these two bellwether firms would be raking in the cash.

The question is whether the decline is a long-term trend or a short-term aberration? Many states are providing significant incentives for resi rooftop installations. Here's the beef according to BofAS: "*We believe growth is now option value on business that are trading like they may never grow. We continue to see prospects for profitable growth as underappreciated but expect both companies to ease expansion plan if the market refuses to pay for it.*" My translation is that investors are weighting cash and cash-equivalents for valuation and ignoring future product-line growth. Interesting. Has resi-solar growth flattened? Turning to the analysts: "*What started with pressure on RUN & NOVA underperforming at the start of the year has grown up to full-fledged contagion across the wider renewable developer space, impacting equities such as large-cap NEE, AES as well as smaller, but utility-scale developers such as Enlight Renewable Energy. We appreciate the perception that these businesses are interest rate sensitive.*"

The ol' interest rate contagion. High interest rates put a lot of dents in our capital-intensive industry. Read more in [Tim Belden's Op Ed, below](#).

### **Big Oil on a Buying Spree**

While the U.S. residential solar business is flattening, oil and natural gas reserves are getting snapped up. This week, Chevron announced its proposed purchase of Hess Oil for \$53 billion. That on the heels of Exxon Mobil buying Pioneer National Resources last month for \$60 billion. Oil fortunes are looking pretty good despite the government spilling cash into clean-energy sectors through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

The [WSJ Editorial Board opined](#), "*As he tried to deflect blame for high gasoline prices last year, President Biden demanded that oil and gas companies spend their record profits on increasing production. That's what they're doing. Chevron says the combined company is "expected to grow production and free cash flow faster and for longer" than its*

### What we believe...

Competition yields lower electricity rates. Stable and transparent rules and regulations promote private investment.

Private investors, rather than utilities, will spend money on new power plants and transmission facilities if they can earn a return that is balanced with the risks.

Private sector investment results in lower average prices without risking consumers' money.

However, when IOUs do the investing, the risks to them are minimal or non-existent because ratepayers cover all the costs.

Overcapacity lowers electricity spot market prices; yet retail rates can increase in this case due to full cost-of-service regulation.

Markets work best when there are many buyers and sellers.

At-risk money will be put to investment where markets exist that are well regulated and yield credible price.

*current five-year guidance.*" Yeah. Ouch. I've been in the energy space for forty-eight years and every prediction about the demise of crude oil and natural gas has been wrong. The pessimistic prognosticators have been consistent in their misguidance. The editorial continued: "*If Chevron believed that demand for hydrocarbons would soon peak and decline—as the International Energy Agency (IEA) claimed last month—it instead could have boosted investment in heavily subsidized green-energy ventures such as hydrogen or increased shareholder buybacks. But oil and gas are yielding a higher return on capital than renewables, even with government's enormous green subsidies.*" The devil you say.

As the esteemed editors noted, the demand for EVs and green energy may peak long before that for fossil fuels. Big oil bets with their own money, whereas government bets with yours.

### **Are Global Temperatures Rising or Not?**

A recent study conducted in Norway found the statistical evidence too weak to conclude that temperatures have been rising, much to the dismay of doomsdayologists. The Norwegian findings were [published by researchers at Statistics Norway](#), the government's official data agency.

[Continue on Next Page](#)

\* Per its website: Unlike other pundits and media celebrities, [Issues & Insights](#) does the hard work of reporting and researching stories before we offer our uncompromising viewpoints on them. We are unapologetically pro free market and for a limited federal government. And we firmly believe that reasoned, intelligent, sober, sophisticated debate, free of insults and pettiness and hatred, is still possible in the U.S.

And what we should do ...

Believe in ourselves.

Encourage creation of independent, multi-state regional transmission organizations that coordinate policies with respective state utility commissions.

Support rules for resource adequacy that applies uniformly among all load-serving entities.

Enforce competitive solicitations by utilities for purchasing either thermal or renewable power.

Support choice among retail electricity customers.

Lobby for core/non-core split of retail customers.

Advocate against policies that limit, through bid mitigation, merchant returns on investment that are comparable to utility returns.

## *Simply Suedeem*

[Click here to learn more about Suedeem Kelly](#)



*In August, I wrote about FERC's reforms of the generator interconnection queue process (Order No. 2023). On Wednesday, the Department of Energy announced thirty-four additional reform ideas for the interconnection queue process. Take a look at its report, "Transforming Interconnection: Paving the Way to Reliably Achieve an Energy Transition on the U.S. Transmission System By 2035." DOE would like to see improvements to interconnection data transparency—to help improve interconnection customers' ability to screen and site potential projects. I think that's a great idea, that could, if implemented, act to prevent a queue glut in the first place. Indeed, as Burrito fans know, our interconnection queues are swamped with megawatts. We have four times as much capacity waiting in queues around the country as we did in 2010; and that's greater than all the generation currently on the grid!*

*DOE offers up its "roadmap" as a collection of strategies rather than a rigid package of prescriptive fixes. It identifies both nearer- and longer-term solutions and doesn't hesitate to present controversial ideas, including proactive transmission investments; departure from the current participant funding model of interconnection cost allocation; and "delinking" network upgrade investments from the interconnection process. The report identifies specific ways to enable efficient resolution of larger volumes of interconnection requests, right-size transmission investments, incentivize efficient generator siting, and maintain real-time operational reliability. I can't do them justice in these few words, but I hope I incent you to take a look at the report. DOE has asked for comments on its draft report by November 22, 2023, so get your comments in!*

A summary of the study was reported in an e-zine called [Issues & Insights\\*](#) created by former editors of [Investors Business Daily](#) (IBD). The study entitled, "To What Extent are Temperature Levels Changing Due to Greenhouse Gas Emissions?" does two things: 1) a broad literature search on the statistical stationarity of urban temperatures (i.e., can temperature series be replicated assuming a distribution that has both a unwavering mean and standard deviation), and 2) long-term historical time-series analysis of urban temperatures sampled around the world to see if either observable or adjusted data series have been stable or drifted upwards possibly due to environmental causes such as CO2 emissions over the past 200 years. If the time-series models do a good job back casting the historical series, then linking temperature excursions to CO2 emissions can be rejected.

The [editorial board of Issues & Insights published the following opinion](#) about the Norway report, "*The ... authors [quickly] get to the point. 'Using theoretical arguments and statistical tests we find,' the researchers say, 'that the effect of man-made CO2 emissions does not appear to be strong enough to cause systematic changes in the temperature fluctuations during the last 200 years.' In other words, our words, the greenhouse effect is so weak that it should be sidelined as an argument.*"

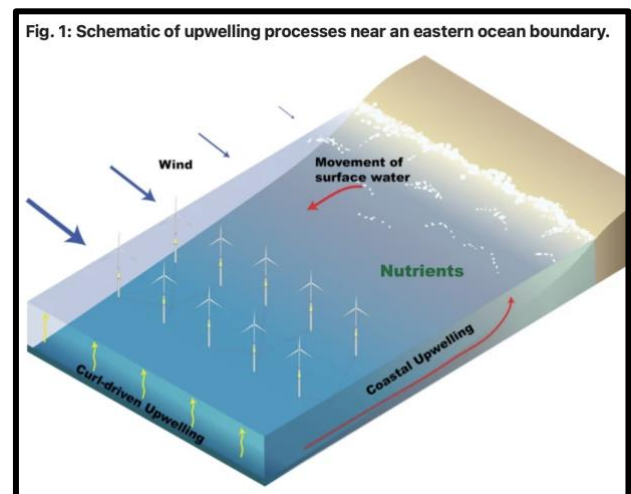
My interpretation is that the mean in urban temperatures remains stationary ... or at least the difference in the mean error between selected time segments does not test significantly different from zero. Thus, claiming that weather variations can be explained using an exogenous variable that is trending upward doesn't seem to fit. The editorial also cited recent work by two climate scientists at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, who have studied Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effects in "U.S. Summer Surface Temperature Data, 1880-2015". The UHI factor was used in the Norway study to normalize the temperature data in urban locations that were studied. Their findings included: "*An estimated 22% of the U.S. warming trend, 1895 to 2023, is due to localized UHI effects,*" and "*the effect is much larger in urban locations.*"

The point is, nothing can be settled about temperature and GHG emissions if the data fails to support the assumption about systemic temperature change.

### Offshore Wind-Driven Upwelling

This is a new topic for me. It has to do with the impact offshore wind turbines may have on oceanic life along the California coast under the assumption that by 2050, 877 offshore wind turbines (probably the floating platform variety) populate the zone and have an installed capacity of 112 GW. The impact of the surface wind reduction has been studied and results were published in [Communications Earth & Environment](#), a subsidiary publication of [Nature](#). The research team based in Santa Cruz, CA is a collection of academic and private consulting expertise.

What a racket. The federal government encourages development of offshore wind, and then federally funded research provides information anathematic to its development. It takes a village, you know? [The researchers testify](#) that: "*The development of large-scale offshore wind farms can reduce the wind stress at the sea surface, which could affect wind-driven upwelling, nutrient delivery, and ecosystem dynamics.*" Just saying, you know. It's the counterpart of avian kills associated with land-based wind projects that require environmental mitigation to satisfy construction and operating permits.



To conclude: "Nonetheless, curl-driven upwelling has been suggested to support smaller plankton while coastal upwelling supports larger plankton, with potential implications for the success of different fish species." There's no free lunch, not even seafood.

# Things In the World

## EVs on Tilt or Full Tilt?

It will come as no surprise that energy policy aspirations and real-world limitations to implement those policies often collide. It's maddening to watch these expensive dramas play out. It's even more upsetting to read the imaginary policy dreams as simply needing tax subsidies and the "will of the people" to make everything come out just fine. But it doesn't work that way, and especially for Electric Vehicles (EV) in the U.S. and the European Union.

I don't have a particular bias on EVs as long as consumers are free to choose what car they wish to drive. In fact, with each new Tesla I see on the road I am a happy early investor. It wasn't my idea to buy Tesla shares but that of my financial advisor despite all the warnings I gave him, etc. etc. He was right and my retirement portfolio is heavily weighted with Tesla stock not because of the number of shares so much as its respective value that has climbed over the last five or six years.

Last week, I wrote about the wobbly nature of future EV sales. It is difficult to ascertain the long-term trend despite the grand policy pronouncements. A number of related articles on the topic have appeared over the last few weeks adding to the discussion ... are EVs at a bend of a technology-acceptance curve, or are growing EV inventories a sign of long-term consumer fatigue? I don't pretend to know, but since EV adoption and its charging is a pillar of future electric power growth, so it is said, we should be attentive to how the EV story plays out.

(Below, when referencing a news article with the hotlink, know that the default source is the [WSJ](#). I explicitly call out alternative media sources as they occur.)

An excellent piece ran as a [working paper released by the Energy Institute at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business](#) entitled, "Political Ideology and U.S. Electric Vehicle Adoption," authored by Lucas Davis et al. The paper's abstract provides a good summary of their findings: "*We use detailed county-level data on new vehicle registrations from 2012-2022 to measure the degree to which EV adoption is concentrated in the most left-leaning U.S. counties, and how this concentration has changed over time. The results point to a strong and enduring correlation between political ideology and U.S. EV adoption. During our time period about half of all EVs went to the 10% most Democratic counties, and about one-third went to the top 5%. There is relatively little evidence that this correlation has decreased over time, and even some specifications that point to increasing correlation. The results suggests that it may be harder than previously believed to reach high levels of U.S. EV adoption.*" Let's bookmark that finding for future reference because it's an important insight.

Separately, a recent news analysis put in sharp contrast the competing political platforms that either endorse broad EV adoption for the purpose of reaching climate goals, or claim that EV policy is an Albatross. [Entitled, "Electric Cars Were Already Having Issues. Then Things Got Political,"](#) it highlights the elements of the debate. In short order those are:

- EVs average prices are trending up despite subsidies and price wars between manufacturers.
- The average median income of an EV owner is twice that of the average American family.
- The UAW is concerned that more EV product lines will mean fewer union jobs.

- EV manufacturers, even Tesla, are calling for production slowdowns or new plant delays.

Other than that, things are great. The politics are highly divisive. Per the [article](#), "*Now, anti-'woke' backlash and high-profile politics are increasingly making the suggestion of owning an EV a political cudgel. Or, as Ford Motor Chief Executive Officer Jim Farley recently lamented: 'They have become a political football.' President Biden's support of the transition, through subsidizing manufacturing, extending tax credits for EVs and giving money for charging stations, has come under attack from Republican rivals.*" The auto industry has become much like the power industry, a pawn for political hacking.

EVs in the European Union are also rubbing consumers the wrong way. [Last month an article ran entitled](#), "Europeans Love Green Policies—Until the Bill Comes Due," about the growing green-policy backlash in general and in particular regarding EV adoption. "*But in both the U.S. and Europe, voters can become far more wary when climate policy starts to involve painful trade-offs, especially when it comes to homes or cars.*" In the U.K., the ban on new gasoline car sales was pushed from 2030 back to 2035 and the government eased its plans forcing households to replace gas water heaters with electric heat pumps. "*The U.K. ... has been hitting its climate goals and has sharply reduced carbon emissions, partly thanks to pioneering alternative energy sources such as offshore wind farms. The decision to delay the ban on selling new gasoline-powered cars—which was five years ahead of the EU plans—caused controversy.*"

Germany has watered down its plan to ban gas water heaters in households. "*Leading politicians involved in the government's green agenda have admitted that they were wrong to rush policies before obtaining a popular buy-in. Germany is regularly missing its climate targets, largely because of its decision to shut down nuclear generation and rely on burning dirty coal as a transitional technology.*" In Poland, the government is suing the EU over the 2035 ban of new gasoline cars. In the Netherlands, farmers have been successful in hauling back emission limits on nitrogen. In France, 65% of the population, based on national surveys, do not believe that banning gasoline cars will address climate change.

Nonetheless, Europeans are more in favor of climate policies than people in the U.S. That belief remains firm. However, the implementation costs of EU policies are coming under fire.

Lastly, auto manufacturers are making louder noises that an EV revolution by government fiat is contrary to consumers interests, labor interests, and ultimately political interests. In an [article that ran this week entitled](#), "[Toyota Chairman Says People Are Finally Seeing the Reality About EVs](#)," the former CEO and current head of the Japanese Auto Manufacturers Association, Akio Toyoda, said there are many ways to approach climate goals, but placing such a large onus on a single industry isn't expedient. Consumers are becoming skeptical that an all-EV mandate will advance the reduction in GHG emissions to the extent promised in political speeches.

The reporter noted, "*The pullback in buyer interest is a worrisome sign for an industry that is sinking billions of dollars in new factories and battery-making facilities and is facing tougher regulations on tailpipe emissions globally. In the latest sign that car companies are walking back their plans, General Motors and Honda Motor said Wednesday that they are ditching a partnership forged a year-and-a-half ago aimed at developing a line of lower-priced EVs.*"

On the other hand, the demand for hybrid vehicles has reached a fever pitch. "*Last month, Toyota had a little more than a week's worth of Prius hybrids in stock, compared with more than two months' supply of its electric SUV, the bZ4X.*" Chairman Toyoda said, "*If regulations are created based on ideals, it is regular users who are the ones who suffer.*" I think he knows what he is talking about. The article also reported, "*Hybrid sales have taken off in the U.S., growing at a faster clip than the broader U.S. car market. That uptick has also prompted other automakers, like Ford and Nissan Motor to shift more resources to promoting their hybrids and plug-in hybrid offerings.*"

# Grand Phunk Salsa a la EnergyGPS

## Surviving Tumultuous Times

*A piece of advice that I received early in my career that I think is especially relevant and timely– to survive tumultuous times in the electricity sector you need to understand the impacts of macro cycles and to know where you are in the commodity cycle (currently dialed to “boom” for the Western US) and where you are in the capital cycle (currently dialed to “caution”). However, so much is in flux in both commodity and capital markets that knowing where we are is a distinct challenge.*

*Let me explain how I settled on that opinion. The Wall Street Journal ([WSJ](#)) ran a number of eye-catching stories this week for this mid-50's, professional, working dude. There was the one about [airplane armrest property rights](#) – who gets to use it and how do you fenagle what you want. Then there was the one [about how the 'Set it and Forget It' 401\(k\) strategy](#) doesn't work anymore when both stocks and bonds are flat to down. Then there was the one about Chevron buying Hess for \$53 billion, a sign of consolidation in on oil-and-gas industry flush with cash.*

*In stark contrast to the booming oil business and other eye-catching items, the article that snatched my attention was the one about clean energy stocks getting pummeled. The iShares clean-energy ETF ([ICLN](#)) is down 32.75% year-to-date. Before reading the [WSJ](#) article, I would have no idea that the sector was getting hit so hard. You certainly don't see it from my chair, as money on top of money keeps flooding into (and crawling over one another) to buy assets in this sector. The Inflation Reduction Act will throw even more fuel on the fire. The [WSJ](#) article lists higher interest rates as one important driver. Traditional utility stocks have always been sensitive to interest rates. With the hefty dividend yield and relatively stable business, utility stock prices often move in the same direction as bond prices – when interest rates go up the utility stock price goes down, and vice versa. The S&P Utility index is down 16%, a hefty decline but only half of the ICLN fall.*

*The image shows the value of \$10,000 invested in ICLN since January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.*



*What gives? Certainly, interest rates are a big part of it. Renewable electricity generation technology is capital intensive. Fuel cost is free. The number of people required to operate the projects is low. A higher percentage of the total lifetime costs come up front rather than over time when compared to a natural gas plant. As such, the “cost” of renewable energy – in terms*

*of levelized lifetime cost -- will be highly dependent on the cost of capital. In theory, most, or all, of that cost could be passed along to consumers when signing a PPA. If a firm is building a new project, they drop the updated debt and equity return numbers into the pro forma and a new, higher, price will spit out. While it may not be possible to pass all of the higher costs on to buyers, I'd expect firms would be required to pass most of*

*the cost on to buyers. There's also the possibility that debt on renewable projects has a shorter duration than its 15-year off-take agreement, so refinancing costs will be higher and those would not be recovered via higher PPA pricing.*

*We can look to NextEra Energy Partners (NEP) as the poster child of this decline. NextEra is a dominant player in the wind and solar business in North America. Its stock price is down about 60% YTD with much of that decline coming since it announced they were lowering their dividend growth target by half from about 14% to about 7%. The company cited higher interest rates as the major hurdle to funding its growth which funds dividends.*

*I'm not an equity analyst, but the interest rate story doesn't fully explain what's going on here. Bond prices are highly sensitive to interest rates. US treasuries aren't down nearly as much as NEP. My take on this is the simple fact that the pendulum is swinging the other way. It is not only renewable IPPs in the clean energy space that are getting pummeled. So too are original equipment manufacturers, technology providers, and others. The growth potential built into the sector when it peaked were way too bullish. Indeed, there have been barriers to growth such as supply chain issues, but also limiting growth will be the pace of interconnection, and in areas without renewable mandates, higher costs for customers.*

The above Op Ed is from the team at EnergyGPS with Tim Belden as the lead writer. EnergyGPS covers the intersection of renewables and wholesale markets in our "Renewable Monthly Report," which is part of the EnergyGPS eCommerce Platinum Plus package. For more information, email [sales@energygps.com](mailto:sales@energygps.com).

## Shout Outs and Murmurs (👁️ & 🗣️)

Scott Miller pointed out the question so many of you outside of Texas and Arizona are facing. That is, which team to root for in the Fall Classic? He wrote: *"Let me suggest that the two World Series teams may represent the first time that no team from the Eastern Interconnect was in the World Series. Not sure who to support: Texas represents a franchise whose origins were as the 'Washington Senators' and thus the power of redemption. The Snakes (Diamondbacks) represent the West and the Plucky Underdog."*

Plucky, indeed. See my ode to Bochy above. The fun starts tonight.

In reply to a piece I read in the BofAS summary of the Pinnacle West ongoing rate case, it stated, *"With the APS rate case ... November updates will stress the need to address persistent capacity tightness. The open question remains the degree to which APS can win regulatory support for greater ownership of generation ... the need for additional generation to serve a quickly growing residential and industrial user base is widely acknowledged - with the opportunity in front of them,*

### Asian Chicken Legs with Chef [Laura Manz](#)

*"Chicken legs are my son's favorite bargain meal, and this recipe was perfect for a potluck with his pals. This can be made with whole pieces, but deboning and cutting the chicken parts in half affords an additional depth of flavor. A quick chicken stock can be prepared by simmering the bones with 1 cup water until it is reduced to ¼ cup. Strain before using."*



Separate 4 scallions into white and green parts cut into 1" slices. In a large skillet heat ¼ cup canola oil. When oil is shimmering, sauté 1½" piece of minced ginger, the white parts of the scallions and 4 cloves of minced garlic. Add chicken pieces and brown on medium high heat until skin is browned. Add ¼ cup rice wine and reduce by half. Add ½ cup soy sauce, low sodium preferred, that has been mixed with ¼ cup brown



*the onus is on PNW to prove the customer value its rider brings."*

Lacking first-hand knowledge of things Arizona, I inquired with Greg Patterson who is a former state legislator and [director of the Arizona Competitive Power Alliance](#). What does the pending rate order do to competitive power? He wrote: "*We are intervenors in the rate case and we've been watching the mechanism closely. It is similar to a mechanism that has existed for many years in water infrastructure cases. The Arizona rules will continue to require APS to conduct competitive RFPs and the company will continue to rely heavily on the competitive market for capacity. If the company is allowed to build a project, this mechanism will help it with financing and will reduce regulatory lag between rate cases. We don't expect the mechanism to reduce the amount of capacity that APS will get from the competitive market.*"

Good news, then.

sugar, 1/4 cup chicken broth and 1 tsp. of dark sesame oil. Bring to a boil then lower the heat, cover, and simmer for 20-30 minutes until pieces are cooked through, turning the pieces every 10 minutes. Prepare a thickener by whisking together 1 Tbsp. of corn starch with 1/4 cup cold water. Remove the skillet from the heat and stir in cornstarch mixture. Add the remaining scallion pieces and serve with rice.

Thanks, Laura. When do the Thanksgiving recipes start to show up?

## Odds & Ends (\_!\_)

Parts of Southern California enjoyed two nights of light rain that was delightful. It chilled the air and fog-like white-tipped clouds hovered like a string of pearls around the peaks of the Angeles National Forest. My front lawn, absent of any Halloween décor, soaked up the unexpected precipitation and let the green grass flourish. That's as green as I am going to get.

Below is a pic of my neighbor's front yard with all the Halloween trimmings. They do a



fantastic job for all the holidays, but especially for Halloween.

If there is a topic that you would like me to cover in a future edition, then please [let me know](#). Directed research based on consumer preference is always appreciated. This week, I had no idea about what I was going to write as of Tuesday evening. Wednesday morning, however, several emails from long-time readers gave me a few newsworthy articles that primed the pump and away I went. So, do you part to make my job easier and my life more pleasant. Is that asking too much?

If you selected the meat-filled Burrito, then here are your stories. Make them last because there won't be a Burrito next week:



### ***Some Wisdom by which to Live***

- 1. Jesse Jackson, Jim Baker and Jimmy Swaggert wrote an impressive book. It's called "Ministers Do More Than Lay People."*
- 2. The difference between the Pope and your boss ... the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring.*
- 3. My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it is gone.*
- 4. The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.*
- 5. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well it really chilled her mood.*
- 6. It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.*
- 7. A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.*
- 8. My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can.*
- 9. A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn signal fluid."*
- 10. I'm so depressed. My Dr. refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.*
- 11. My neighbor was bit by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically on a piece of paper. I told him rabies could be cured and he didn't have to worry about a Will. He said, "Will? What Will? I'm making a list of the people I want to bite."*

### ***Who Has Arthritis?***

*A drunken man smelling strongly of beer sat down on a subway seat next to a priest. The man's tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading. After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked, "Say, Father, what causes arthritis?"*

*"My Son, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women," replied the priest, "too much alcohol, a contempt for your fellow man, sleeping around with prostitutes, and lack of bath."*

*"Well, I'll be damned," the drunk muttered, returning to his paper.*

*The priest, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologized, "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"*

*"I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does."*

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Have a great weekend and a super fun Halloween. No Burrito next week, see you in two.

gba