The Friday Burrito

The Constancy of Uncertainty

Vol. XXVII #33
November 22, 2024

"You can make more friends in a month by being interested in them than in ten years by trying to get them interested in you."

Charles Mengel Allen

"I get no respect. The way my luck is running, if I was a politician I would be honest."

Rodney Dangerfield

"The biggest lesson I've learned from my children is to look in the mirror at myself, not at them. I've realized that everything I've done has had an impact on them. We have to understand that they are like little paparazzi. They take our picture when we don't want them to and then they show it to us in their behavior."

Jamie Lee Curtis

I started this week's edition in my hotel room while staying in Veracruz, Mexico. The Mexican trade association that I initiated in 2017 held its annual assembly to share huge doses of ambiguity about changes to the country's energy reforms. Surprisingly, the association has remained potent and active despite six years of anti-competitive attacks by the country's former president. No one is sure where the new Sheinbaum Administration will land on energy reforms, but early indications are guarded that there will be limited expansion of opportunities for foreign investment. The key word is "limited". We must await a slew of new laws on these matters come February.

Our meeting included an online session with two officers of the U.S. State Department assigned to the U.S. embassy in Mexico City. Both demonstrated detailed knowledge about energy and the upcoming legislative changes being proposed. They characterized the new Mexican Administration as being receptive to their concerns but beyond that it is too soon to know how different the new prez will be from the old one. Further, come January 2025 the new U.S. Administration will have something to say about U.S./Mexico relations, and while energy matters are not the most pressing item on the list, they are in the top five for sure.

Separately and unrelated, Becky Gile alerted me that WPTF is open for registration to attend the Winter General meeting in Santa Barbara on February 5-7, 2025. The meeting location will be the Ritz-Carlton Bacara. Situated on 78 acres overlooking the Pacific, the resort has beautiful natural surroundings. There are two beaches, three infinity

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Western States Ticker

CAISO YTD Renewables Curtailment:

As of 10/31/24: 3,253,568 MWh
As of 10/31/23 2,554,513 MWh

% of solar and wind output curtailed:
YTD as of Oct. 2024 5.03%
YTD as of Oct. 2023 4.81%

pools, and a 42,000 sq. ft. spa. The WPTF room block is priced at $309.00/night, plus taxes and a $40/night resort fee. Reservations must be made by January 15, 2025.

WPTF Members receive complimentary entry to the event whereas spouses, guests, non-members, and members of government agencies must pay a fee. Details can be found on the registration website.

The program includes an early morning golf tournament on Thursday at Sandpiper Golf Course, followed by an evening reception (plus dinner) at the hotel, a keynote speaker (TBA), and the presentation of the Jackie Pfannenstiel Memorial Award. On Friday, there will be a buffet breakfast, a guest speaker, and briefings by the WPTF consultants.

Improving the Power Supply Chain

Both locally and nationally, I see small but significant steps made to bolster the future power supply picture. In California, the CPUC issued a proposed decision on the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility, that if approved on December 19 by the full Commission, will assure reliable delivery of fuel for thermal power plants as well as home and domestic water heating in Southern California. With all due apologies to you electrification purists, natural gas will simply not go away anytime soon. Separately, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public meeting on permitting requirements for advanced nuclear facilities. I discuss each item below.

WPTF CPUC Committee consultant, Gregg Klatt, briefed his group on the PD which states, "*Aliso Canyon is necessary for natural gas and electric reliability and cost containment*," and will continue to be so until "*the peak day natural gas demand forecast drops below 4,121 million metric cubic feet per day [MMcf/d].*"

There will be a biennial assessment process to evaluate the progress toward this natural gas demand threshold and the extent to which Aliso Canyon's capabilities might be replaced with carbon-neutral resources — i.e., renewable generation, storage, building electrification, and energy efficiency. On the other hand, and this is noteworthy, if the price of natural gas in Southern California for the upcoming winter is forecast to be 50% or more **above** the Henry Hub price, then Cappuccino staff will not recommend reducing the inventory level at Aliso Canyon during the two-year period covered by the assessment, even if all other criteria for doing so have been met.

Said Gregg, "*Aliso Canyon is going to continue in operation for many, many years to come…albeit at the current 20% reduced maximum inventory capacity level of 68.6 Bcf.*"

I will revisit this topic if and only if the Commission makes major modifications to the proposal before approving it.

What we believe…

Competition yields lower electricity costs. 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 effectively cover the utilities' costs.

Overcapacity lowers electricity spot market prices; yet retail rates can still 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 prices.

And what we should do …

Believe in ourselves.

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

Support rules for resource adequacy that apply uniformly to all load-serving entities.

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

The Power & Utilities equity assessment arm of Bank of America Global Research (BofA) reported earlier this week about a now-completed NRC public meeting on permitting advanced nuclear projects. Per BofA, "*The purpose of this proposed rule is to offer separate technology inclusive classification for advanced reactors. This will offer new reactors separate methods of evaluation, which have historically been standardized for large scale light water reactors (LWRs).*" The NRC's mission in the years ahead will be interesting to watch as this agency holds the key to transforming the country's generation mix in a significant way, and one that supports clean energy goals. That is, through the efficient deployment of small modular reactors.

Speaking of New Leadership in Energy

Trump put forward his candidate to lead the Department of Energy, and I was pleased to see that Chris Wright, CEO of Liberty Energy, caught the bridesmaid bouquet. I wrote a glowing piece about Mr. Wright in

Continued on the next page

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 Suedeen

Click here to learn more about Suedeen Kelly

When trying to predict the future of U.S. energy policy in the next Administration, it's hard to calculate where FERC will go. That's because everything depends on who chairs the agency. FERC is a commission, but, by statute, FERC staff work for the Chairman, not the commissioners. The Chair sets and controls the agency agenda. Currently, with three commissioners holding Democratic seats and two in Republican seats, there is no opening for a new (Republican) appointment unless current Chair Phillips decides to leave. He does not have to; his term is not up until June 2026. Chairmanship of FERC is in the sole discretion of the President. He will soon appoint either Commissioner Christie or Commissioner See as Chair/Interim Chair.

All will be uncertain for a while, but here's where I see things going. Expanding the grid (aka transmission) has become something of a partisan issue. The Biden Administration promoted it as needed to bring renewables to market, leading to the partisan clash—"climate change" (D) versus "affordability" (R). Now, having the Rs in charge portends a de-emphasis of new transmission, keeping us on the path of affordability. But wait. There is the new wild card of exploding demand for electricity for data centers, AI, and crypto mining. Do you need transmission to serve that or is behind-the-meter generation OK? Recently, FERC's Republican commissioners threw cold water on BTM service. Going forward, will they flip, embracing BTM service to dampen demand for more transmission? Fascinating question, with a difficult-to-predict answer. Other areas of unpredictability are the future of markets as well as RTOs themselves. There has been A LOT of dissatisfaction with them both, especially in PJM, over the last four years. But reforming them would be a huge undertaking. Will it be on the next (permanent) FERC Chair's to-do list? At the risk of repeating myself, it depends on who the Chair is. We live in interesting times.

the [February 2023 Burrito](#) entitled, "Electric Shock Therapy," because of a WSJ article about a LinkedIn post that he wrote, removed by the platform managers, and then reinstated a day later because Mr. Wright complained.

I reported: "*Chris Wright bluntly stated in a 12-minute video he uploaded on LinkedIn: 'There is no climate crisis, and we're not in the midst of an energy transition either.' According to the Journal, ' Then LinkedIn took the post down. The social-networking site for professionals, which is owned by Microsoft Corp., said the post went against the platform's policy on misinformation.*'" I continued in my summary, "*He believes that the dialogue around climate has become alarmist, that the need to quickly pivot away from fossil fuels is overstated and that public policies favoring renewables result in higher energy prices.*"

I sense a measure of poetic justice coming his way.

His company was founded in 2011 and today is a $2.8 billion enterprise that pumps water and sand underground to frack oil wells. Mr. Wright's final rap was, "*I think we should speak more honestly, and less and less appeasement oriented.*" That resonated with me then and now.

Seasick Green

So, let's talk about the dawn of clean energy around the globe. Here's a recent Op Ed by David Wallace-Wells in the NYT on where he thinks things are headed. He wrote this while COP(out)29 was wasting time in Baku, Azerbaijan. It was entitled, "Climate Change Is Losing Its Grip on Our Politics." Do tell. He mused, "*The skeptic's election is … a confirmation of an international turn in the politics of warming as much as it is a sharp or distinctly American break. Yes, a global renewables boom is well underway, with worldwide investment in clean energy reaching $2 trillion this year and total solar capacity doubling since 2022. But the climate logic of that transition increasingly goes unspoken in all but the most committed corners, replaced by chin-scratching about energy politics.*" It must have been painful for Wallace-Wells to write that confession as he is "*a science writer and essayists [exploring] climate change, technology, the future of the planet and how we live on it.*"

Wallace-Wells tries to sew a silver lining in the dark cloud cast by voters who are tiring of the mission. He noted milestones of progress made in renewable energy developments across many different countries and the success in advancing the debate. I felt his claims were a sad apology to the purists. Good job, mate, and time to move on. From bad to worse, he projects quite correctly, "*Trump is bad news for offshore wind power and regulatory action on methane.*"

A separate NYT article that ran on the same day as Wallace-Wells' Op Ed was entitled, "A Big Climate Goal Is Getting Farther Out of Reach." It summarizes the findings of a recent report published by the Climate Action Tracker that, "*The climate and energy policies currently pursued by governments around the world would cause global temperatures to rise roughly 2.7 degrees Celsius, or 4.9 degrees Fahrenheit, above preindustrial levels by 2100. That estimate of future warming has barely budged for three years now, the group said.*" The group is actually a consortium of non-profits engaged in this type of work.

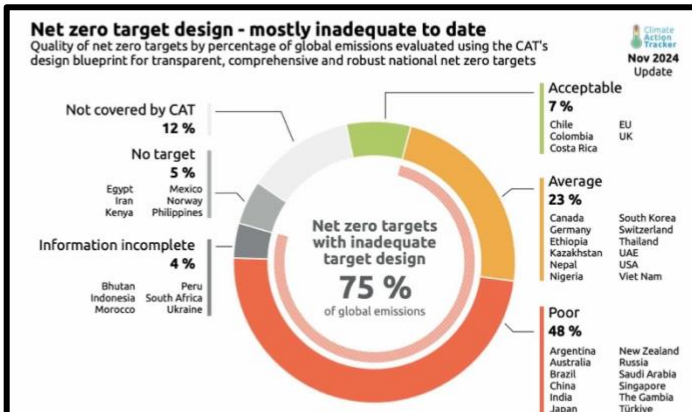

Figure 6: Share of global GHG emissions by Climate Action Tracker's headline evaluation for announced net zero targets as of November 2024. Emissions data excluding LULUCF for 2019 taken from PRIMAP emissions database (Gütschow et al., 2021).

As the authors went on, I thought it was poignant that they added: "*As part of global climate talks, many countries have formally pledged to zero out their emissions by around midcentury. If governments followed* *through, warming might be limited to roughly 2.1 degrees Celsius, the report said. But many countries have not backed up those lofty promises with concrete action.*" No, they haven't, and no, they won't. Raise your hand if you are surprised by the news. If you do raise your hand, then use the palm to slap yourself in the forehead.

My final entry in this crying-salty-tears-in-your-beer-about-unabated-climate-dangers is from the WSJ that ran an Op Ed about Germany's flight from the climate fight entitled, "Germany's Government Gets Mugged by Climate-Change Reality." The columnist, Joseph Sternberg, opined, "*At the same time the U.S. was electing a new administration, Germany was losing its old one. The awkward three-party coalition that has governed in Berlin since December 2021 collapsed on Nov. 6 in a paroxysm of policy sparring and political recriminations over climate policy. Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced this week he plans to call an early election for February, which he's widely expected to lose … Germany's highest constitutional court ruled in November 2023 that the government's climate spending must be paid for on the government balance sheet, rather than via off-balance-sheet borrowing as Berlin had intended.*" Thus, the German politicians, whoever they may be starting next year, must make some hard choices about priorities between defense, social spending, and the environment.

Sternberg hits the religiosity nail on the head when he states: "*What's collapsing here—aside from a German coalition—is the political method of net zero. That method, devised by activists and evangelized by political, business and media converts, was to shift the issue out of the political realm and into an otherworldly space where stopping climate change became a religious mission for moral redemption.*" Amen. When do services conclude?

Things in the People's Republic of California

A Change is Coming to Media Reporting

My discourse today isn't about energy per se but rather the broader awakening (awokening?) by the owners of print, online, and broadcast mediums that once held sway in the court of public opinion. The changes I summarize here have been brewing for years, but the election results seemed to trigger an overnight reaction. I have two items uppermost on my mind to share with y'all: First, the Los Angeles Times owner, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, is considering removing the remaining guild members of his editorial board and he explained his reasons on a local TV station interview. Second, the WSJ ran a story about a new media landscape that emerged after the election results were revealed. In that order, here we go.

I have oft whined about major media outlets attempting to compete with social media platforms in an effort to hold on to a declining base of readership/viewers. News isn't supposed to be opinion but you might wonder how the two became so casually mingled. Therefore, I was stunned, simply stunned, when I first read about staff anger and vocal revolt in the LA Times newsroom. It started in earnest earlier this year and culminated with Soon-Shiong's stated intention two weeks ago. I didn't expect to ever hear something like it in my lifetime.

On November 11, an online digital platform called The Wrap News Inc.[1] ran a detailed story about the LA Times reorg. It reported that:

1. There was major internal controversy when the formation of a new editorial board was announced that would emphasize "fair and balanced" journalism.
2. The paper's traditional endorsement of Kamala Harris led to significant backlash by key staffers accusing Soon-Shiong of undermining the paper's credibility.
3. Soon-Shiong stated his goal is to foster balanced reporting that includes perspectives across the political spectrum.

Those were the talking points. But wait a second. The Wrap isn't the end-all in breaking news. Let's just say the event hasn't been well-covered in the legacy media outlets … at least, not at first. However, on November 15, Fox 11 News, the Los Angeles arm of the national network hosted an interview with Pat Soon-Shiong where he stated: "*We've conflated news and opinion.*" I was stunned again. You mean, someone, in this case the owner of the LA Times, noticed the blather coming out of his newsroom? Thirty-five years ago, the LA Times was the largest daily major metropolitan newspaper with circulation of over 1.2 million copies. Current subscriptions are barely one-third of that ancient zenith.

The paper and its disputes between owner and staff haven't been limited to endorsing left-leaning presidential candidates. It also bumped hard for an uber-liberal district attorney who I have personally come to hate (literally, we being victims of a home felony robbery last year). That DA was thrashed at the polls but the LA Times endorsed him, showing that it was totally out-of-touch with the majority.

The Fox 11 TV journalist, during his face-to-face interview with Soon-Shiong, held up a copy of an LA Times headline and read it aloud, "Trump's Rally Doubles Down on Hatred." Soon-Shion calmly replied in agreement that, "*The first thing I want to do is ensure that we explicitly say that if it is news then it should just be the facts. If it's opinion then it is an opinion of the news. That is what I call a voice. So, we want voices from all sides to be heard.*" Given such rational thinking, I might be a future subscriber to the LA Times. But let's give him some time to work out the details.

Turning now to a WSJ story on a similar theme that ran three days after the election, entitled, "Trump's Win Cemented It: New Media Is Leaving the Old Guard Behind". Maybe it no longer is news that social media is overtaking the shrinking audience for what was once the major information and opinion outlets. Per the article, "*The traditional gatekeepers of political discourse—TV networks and newspapers—are shrinking in influence as Americans turn to many more outlets for information.*" The authors further clarify that, "*TV news remains a massive draw for Americans in the biggest moments. But younger audiences have fled, and there were signs even on election night of an overall erosion in the medium. The main three cable channels were down 32% in viewership collectively compared with 2020, to around 21 million, with CNN losing almost half its audience.*"

Elon Musk, the self-proclaimed champion of democratized discourse, has embraced his role as owner of the X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. His rallying cry to 200 million followers was, "*You are the media now.*" It captures his vision of a decentralized information ecosystem. But I can't share his enthusiasm for this notion. Yes, it's true—we see it in action every day. Yet, how do you cultivate shreds of leadership and intelligent influence amid a host of competing voices? Too often, we dive into silos, reading only what aligns with our preexisting beliefs while dismissing opposing viewpoints. None of us is blameless in this, least of all me. But I

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[1] TheWrap is the leading, authoritative digital news organization covering the business of entertainment and media. Founded by journalist Sharon Waxman in 2009,

try to challenge myself, to expand my perspective—as long as there are sensible arguments and solid grounds for harboring reasonable doubt. It helps if there are other choruses from info outlets that share my shaky attempts to do so.

ENERGYGPS

Grand Phunk Salsa a la Energy GPS

The Op Ed below is from the team at Energy GPS with Tim Belden as the lead author. To request more information about Energy GPS email sales@energygps.com.

How Deep is Thy Hydro?

Total installed nameplate capacity in the WECC is approaching 300 GW with hydro accounting for about 23% of the total. The Pacific Northwest accounts for about 43 GW of installed hydro with California adding another 11 GW. Hydro is the original intermittent resource, although its intermittency occurs seasonally rather than hourly. One thing that makes western electricity markets interesting is they re-shuffle the hydro cards every year. The hydro year officially begins on October 1st, but meaningful precipitation in the west doesn't usually begin until November. This week we've been hearing about the "Bomb Cyclone" hitting northern California and the Pacific Northwest. To quote a few headlines:

> *"Northern California faces possible record-breaking rainfall from atmospheric river and another storm is coming": CNN*
>
> *"Atmospheric River Pummeling N. California, Northwest with Flooding, Rain, Snow, Strong Winds": The Weather Channel*
>
> *"California snow forecast: Atmospheric river poses flooding risks after 'bomb cyclone'": USA Today*

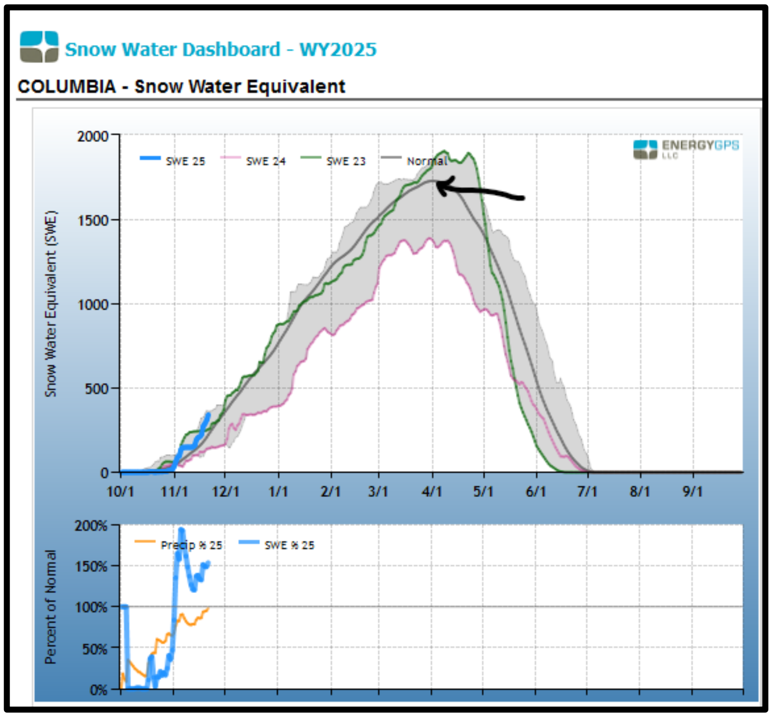
Indeed, this has been an impressive storm causing flooding and damage to the areas hit the hardest. If you look at the "percent of normal" numbers for snow water equivalent for the west the numbers are huge. There are many snotel stations in the Sierra's and the Cascades with season-to-date values of 200% of normal (or higher) for precipitation or snow water equivalent (SWE). Some ski resorts in Oregon have opened early.

This is good news for hydro production. But we shouldn't get ahead of ourselves just yet.

The image on the page below is data from the USDA depicted on the Energy GPS subscribers web portal, showing precipitation and SWE for the Columbia River basin.

> *We are coming off back-to-back 75% of normal water years in the Columbia Basin: an early chunk of precipitation and a coin toss's chance of above normal conditions is welcome news for electricity supply in the West.*

The basin has 150% of normal SWE for the season-to-date. But in the scheme of the overall water year, we are just getting started. Normal SWE for the entire season is around 1750 (see arrow) while season-to-date SWE is around 300. We are fast out of the starting gate, but the race has just begun.



There is reason to be hopeful. In October I attended a talk by Larry O'Neill, the official Climatologist for Oregon. We are currently in a weak La Nina environment. "Weak La Nina conditions in the Pacific Northwest are somewhat cooler, wetter, and snowier than normal" with the caveat that "these outcomes are not certain and depend on other factors that cannot currently be predicted" – which kind of sounds like a coin toss to me. Nonetheless, we are coming off back-to-back 75% of normal water years in the Columbia Basin: an early chunk of precipitation and a coin toss's chance of above normal conditions is welcome news for electricity supply in the west.

Shout Outs and Recipes

Letters

The first letter in the mailbag is from Jason Cox. He wrote: "*Germany recently (11/5/24) experienced a "dunkelflaute" that [their Greens said was impossible](#).*

"[UK may be in trouble as well.](#)

"John Dizard used the term in the last Burrito talking about the political climate post-Trump victory, but the real event was about the German grid that happened on our election night .

"I'm serious when I say that Dunkelflaute should be considered as the new Most Severe Single Contingency for future planning analysis of grids with high penetration of wind & solar. It can be a multi-day event... current planning does not take this into account."

Thanks, Jason.

Here is a note from Peter Griffes who is closely monitoring the CPUC's Slice of Day (SoD) Resource Adequacy implementation: "*The CAISO issued its annual RA Deficiency Report on November 7, and no LSE failed to meet the CAISO's 90% summer peak requirement for System or Flex RA. I was concerned that the complication of meeting the CPUC SoD requirement may lead to deficiencies in these compliance showings. Not surprisingly, there are only local deficiencies in*

PG&E's local areas where six of the seven local areas are deficient. The total maximum local deficiencies are nearly 850 MW in comparison to last year's 640 MW where only five of the seven local areas were deficient. It looks like many more small resources still have capacity that hasn't been shown."

Thanks for the insights, Peter, and send more as the story unfolds. They will be most informative.

Glen Casanova penned this short note not too long ago. "*I liked the solar curtailment MWH comparison in the Burrito to some of the California municipal loads. I've sometimes heard the following expression about developers in the energy industry, 'If I had some ham, I would have a ham and egg sandwich, if I had some eggs.' I guess in California the expression could be, 'If I had some batteries, I would have some free solar energy, if I had some new transmission.*"

Ain't it the truth.

Southern Cornbread Dressing for Thanksgiving with Chef Laura Manz

"*It's a time-honored tradition to debate the virtues of stuffing vs. dressing for the Thanksgiving holiday. With a nod to my favorite Alabama friend, dressing wins the toss up this year – southern cornbread dressing, to be exact. There are a few recipes that require a first recipe – in this case, corn bread, that is then crumbled as the main ingredient for the featured recipe. And to be truly southern, only white cornmeal will do.*"

Corn bread: Whisk together 1¼ cups cornmeal, ¾ cup flour, 1 Tbsp. of sugar, 2 tsp. of baking powder, ½ tsp. of baking soda, ½ tsp. of salt. In a separate bowl, whisk together 2 eggs, ¾ cup milk, 2/3 cup buttermilk. Combine the wet and dry ingredients and add 2 Tbsp. of melted butter. Pour mixture in a buttered 9x9 baking dish, or for a crunchy exterior, a 9" cast iron skillet. Bake at 425° for 20 minutes until a toothpick in the center comes out clean. Cool completely, then crumble into a baking sheet and let is dry out as you prepare the dressing.

Dressing: Preheat oven to 400°F. Coat a large souffle dish (10") with cooking spray. In a large skillet over medium-high heat; melt ¼ cup butter. Add 1½ cups diced celery and 1 cup of diced sweet onions, and sauté 5 minutes or until onions are tender. Add ¼ cup chopped fresh chopped sage and cook for another minute. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and add the crumbled cornbread, 1 cup of fresh breadcrumbs and 2 lightly beaten eggs. Season with 1 Tbsp. of freshly ground pepper. Add 3 cups chicken broth. Bake 45 to 55 minutes or until set and golden brown.

Thanks for all your wonderful recipes, Laura. Alas, most of my family is allergic to fowl so Thanksgiving for us is absent the bird … and the dressing, and the cornbread. 😥

Odds & Ends (_!_)

WESTERN POWER TRADING FORUM

The Winter Meeting will take place on February 5-7, 2025 THE RITZ-CARLTON BACARA, SANTA BARBARA. Registration for the winter meeting is open! Click here to register!

ACCOMODATIONS

There is a room block at The Ritz-Carlton, Bacara Santa Barbara; 8301 Hollister Ave, Santa Barbara, CA 93117.

We have secured a room block for our meeting. Link to book your room will be included with your registration confirmation email. Rooms are $309.00/night, plus taxes and a $40/night resort fee. ***Our room block is for Wednesday and Thursday nights*** so make your reservation and call the hotel to add additional nights before or after the meeting. **Reservations must be made by January 15, 2025.**

FLYING The nearest airport to Santa Barbara is Santa Barbara (SBA) Airport which is 8 miles away.

Starting on the next page is the below the belt section if you receive the red-meat edition. No Burrito next week.
Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.
Gba

NEW DRUGS FOR WOMEN

D A M N I T O L

Take 2 and the rest of the world can go to hell for up to 8 full hours.

ST. M O M M A'S W O R T

Plant extract that treats mom's depression by rendering preschoolers unconscious for up to two days.

E M P T Y N E S T R O G E N

Suppository that eliminates melancholy and loneliness by reminding you of how awful they were as teenagers and how you couldn't wait till they moved out.

P E P T O B I M B O

Liquid silicone drink for single women. Two full cups swallowed before an evening out increases breast size, decreases intelligence, and prevents conception.

D U M B E R O L

When taken with Peptobimbo, can cause dangerously low IQ, resulting in enjoyment of heavy metal music and pickup trucks.

F L I P I T O R

Increases life expectancy of commuters by controlling road rage and the urge to flip off other drivers.

M E N I C I L L I N

Potent anti-boy-otic for older women. Increases resistance to such lethal lines as, "You make me want to be a better person. Can we get naked now?"

BUYAGRA

Injectable stimulant taken prior to shopping. Increases potency, duration, and credit limit of spending spree.

J A C K A S S P I R I N

Relieves headache caused by a man who can't remember your birthday, anniversary, phone number, or to lift the toilet seat.

A N T I-T A L K S I D E N T

A spray carried in a purse or wallet to be used on anyone too eager to share their life stories with total strangers in elevators.

N A G A M E N T

When administered to a boyfriend or husband, provides the same irritation level as nagging him.

The Odd Old Couple

An old couple are at a restaurant when the husband leans over and asks his wife, "Do you remember our first time over fifty years ago? How about taking a stroll around behind this very tavern where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you. We can do it for old time's sake?" "Oh, you old devil. That sounds like a very good idea!"

In the next booth listening to all this is a police officer having a chuckle to himself. "I'll just keep an eye on them so there's no trouble." So, he follows them out. They walk haltingly, leaning on each other for support, aided by walking sticks. Finally, they get to the back of the tavern and make their way to the fence. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that the policeman has ever seen until they both collapse panting on the ground. The policeman is amazed!

After about half an hour of lying on the ground recovering the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back on. The policeman still watching asks, "Excuse me, but that was something else. Is there some sort of secret to this?" The old man says, "Well, fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence..."