The Friday Burrito

Tu Two Tambien

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"Dreams are real as long as they last. Can we say more of life?"

Havelock Ellis

"I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today what I established yesterday or some previous day."

James Joyce

Seasonal atmospheric rivers have landed in Southern California this week. The doom-and-gloom media stories have turned from "not enough rain" to "too much rain." Whatever gripes you will be the story. Our weather breaks last weekend and earlier this week were spring-time temperate and very welcome. Now it's back to the dark clouds, life-saving precipitation, and glorious snowfall in the mountains.

Football crazy was last weekend. The first half of the 49er's game against the Lions did not entertain me. It's a mystery why a team as talented as the 49ers must come from behind to win in the late quarters. Since the Bill Walsh days as head coach of San Francisco (a la Santa Clara), the squad has had an intellectual bent. Other teams, such as the present-day Detroit Lions, play(ed) with a lot of emotion, and it works … for a while. A winner needs luck, passion, and smarts, and I don't know how the first is garnered without a freak mishap that hands a favor to the smartly coached team and also sparks the zeal of its players. I'd like to believe that a game's outcome is more formulaic than that, but it ain't. As golfers well know, the scorecard doesn't show the lucky bounces and good misses, but it does show the horrors of a shot gone astray that adds strokes (and might cause a few).

More on the Chevron Deference Likely Flip

John Dizard's inaugural Burrito column two weeks ago touched on a topic referred to as the "Chevron Deference" that few of us follow as a matter of course unless you are an attorney representing clients in a legal dispute against a federal agency such as FERC. There is the high likelihood that a pending case before the SCOTUS will overturn the principle. In short, and to quote John, the Deference means: "… W*hen Federal Courts have to decide on gaps or ambiguities in Federal law, they should defer to the judgment of experts in Federal agencies.* If the Deference is overturned, then: "*The short version is that the end of 'Chevron' will be hard*

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Western States Ticker

CAISO YTD Renewables Curtailment:

As of 12/31/23:	2,659,526 MWh
As of 12/31/22	2,449,248 MWh
% of solar and wind output curtailed:	
YTD as of Dec. 2023	4.12%
YTD as of Dec. 2022	3.97%

on the renewables sector and a win (or reprieve) for fossil generally and coal in particular."

David French wrote an opinion piece in the NYT that agrees with the reversal of the Chevron Deference guideline: "*The case, which revisits a judicial doctrine known as Chevron deference, has been widely described as a conservative effort to limit government. But that's not entirely correct. The case is better understood as a key part of the effort to restore the proper balance of power among the three branches of government.*" Not a small item of import. How did our nation's government become so out of kilter? French thinks that the U.S. Congress has not done a good job and has been torn into factions that hinder anything close to a unified vision. Per his column: "*As Congress has shirked its duties, presidents and the courts have filled the power vacuum … Executive agencies publish 3,000 to 4,500 new rules per year, and these regulations have a substantial impact on the American economy. Compounding the problem, courts have ratified that presidential power grab by enacting a series of judge-made rules that require federal courts to defer to the decisions of executive agencies.*" In short, the Chevron Deference granted in 1984, in favor of the EPA in a Clean Air Act dispute with Chevron, extended the reach of the Executive Branch, vis a vis the use of Executive Orders, which have gone way beyond anything imagined four decades ago.

That's your high-school civics lesson for today.

Joint WPTF/PGP Study and Videoconference on Potential Western Seams Issues

WPTF and the Public Generating Pool (PGP) have sponsored a study of potential "seams issues" if separate day-ahead markets arise in the West … i.e., the CAISO's Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM) and SPP Markets+. While the West already manages a significant number of seams, it does not have a lot of experience managing seams between organized wholesale markets.

The firms of Energy Strategies and Gridwell Consulting conducted the study. WPTF Executive Director Scott Miller wrote in his regular blog, "*Our study was not intended to be favorable to one day-ahead platform over the other, nor was it proposing solutions. It was merely meant to help provide a context for the broader Western stakeholder community to discuss the issue of seams.*"

The seams evaluation is a starting point for understanding the potential for expected issues with two day-ahead markets. It can serve as a launching point for detailed discussions about the nature of the actual differences as they become known.

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 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.

Next week, WPTF and PGP jointly will host a webinar for their members on February 6th from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Pacific Time. To register, please use this link.

Oil Drillers and Electricity Load Growth

Although not a concern for the coastal states in the West, other pockets of the country, where there is extensive oil and gas exploration and production, have seen a shift in energy usage from diesel to grid-provided electricity. The volumes have been significant. Last December, these pages discussed the rapid growth in power demand with only a wisp of an idea as to what might be causing the swell. Well, fossil-fuel drilling is part of the picture, and one I didn't know about.

Continued on the next page

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

Support choice among retail electricity customers.

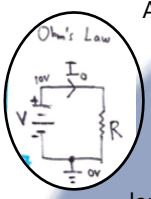
Lobby for core/non-core split of retail customers.

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

Catch Some Z's

FACT NOT FICTION!

Click here to learn more about Ziad Alaywan



As a former PG&E employee living in PG&E territory, I frequently get asked the same question from friends, colleagues, and neighbors, "What is going on with electricity rates?" Of course, I've noticed a big jump in what I'm paying PG&E every month, too. I researched residential rates on the Department of Energy website and other publicly available sources. Here's what I found: The average annual residential rate in California has more than doubled in the last 10 years, from 0.143 $/KWh to close to 0.30 $/KWh, but this is deceiving because of the multitier rates. So, I focused my analysis on the moderate residential consumption of 755 KWh per month for a typical household and looked at a larger sample of California utilities. I was stunned how difficult it was to gather this information!

I discovered that the latest increases in PG&E's rates mean that the utility has the highest average monthly residential rate in California, even higher than SDG&E.

Is California's electricity restructuring the cause for PG&E retail rates to double? The simple answer is no!! In fact, restructuring of the wholesale energy market, which is only one component of the residential bill, mainly the energy line item, has decreased, but the remaining components of residential electricity costs that were not restructured have skyrocketed.

Utility	Average Monthly Residential Bundled Rate $/KWh	% from PG&E
PG&E	$0.46	
SDGE	$0.39	-14%
SCE	$0.36	-22%
LADWP	$0.25	-46%
Modesto	$0.22	-53%
Roseville	$0.16	-65%
SMUD	$0.18	-61%
Turlock	$0.16	-64%
IID	$0.12	-75%

Rate increases are disproportionate among California utilities for a variety of reasons. As an example, IID, a public power utility, has the lowest rates in California. This despite being in the desert of southern California where there is no hydro generation and extremely hot weather. We certainly should give them a lot of credit for keeping rates low, but this disproportionality across the utilities, regardless of why, is worth exploring.

A typical residential electric bill comprises four components: (1) Energy; (2) Transmission; (3) Distribution; and (4) Public Purpose Surcharge & Other. For instance, in 2024, the customer bill from PG&E will be: Energy $0.1332 (30% … used to be much higher), Transmission $0.18/KWh (40% … used to be much lower), Distribution $0.13/KWh and Public Benefit & Others $0.02/KWh, for a total of 0.46 $/KWh.

The good news is the energy cost component decreased due to competition, but the T&D costs have tripled or quadrupled. For instance, transmission costs increased from 0.045 $/KWh in 2006 to 0.178 $/KWh as of 2024, a fourfold increase, wiping out all the energy-cost reductions deregulation afforded. The T&D rate increase is prominent across the IOUs and to some extent LADWP, whereas the rest have lower transmission rates between 0.02 to 0.05 $/KWh, up to 7x lower than the IOUs.

Some may argue transmission cost increases were the result of renewables development, while the increase in distribution costs is a result of climate change and wildfire prevention, in particular. Whatever the reasons, T&D remains regulated and monopolized, and the costs keep going up. My prediction is that we have not come close to hitting the ceiling on these costs. Perhaps we need to focus on a different approach to lowering utility bills or, at least, prevent these opened-ended increases. Is it the time to open T&D to competition?

An article that ran this week explained the phenomenon. One motivation for the switch is to reduce GHG emissions instead of using onsite diesel generators. Per the article: "*As drillers have faced investor and public pressure to cut greenhouse-gas emissions, they have ditched polluting diesel-power generators and plugged into the grid at breakneck speed. Sourcing electricity increasingly generated by wind and solar power allows the companies to cut their carbon footprint.*" There was also an acknowledgement about reduced production costs, but I'm not entirely convinced that in all cases grid power is cheaper than on-site fossil fuel. Sort of depends on the rate structure, which moves up more quickly than it moves down, and the market prices of either diesel or natural gas, which vary a lot.

Texas, New Mexico, and North Dakota for obvious reasons have noticed the shift. Utilities serving those customers are scrambling to add transmission and distribution infrastructure to meet the surge. How ironic. So many wise people thought that utilities would be scrambling to deepen their distribution networks to support increased household demands for electric appliances and EV charging. Yet, oil drilling is at least one application that is causing breakneck-speed reactions. The heavy machinery used in oil production amplifies the issue. For example, commonly used are 5,000-horsepower fracking pumps to blast underground rock with sand and water. Per the article, "*While the oil patch has never been more grid-connected, the congested power network is falling further behind ballooning crude production, threatening to stall companies' progress on curbing emissions.*"

Drillers that are constrained from using more grid electricity are developing alternatives. For example, on-site natural gas plants for electricity generation, and in one case in the Permian Basin, a micro-grid has been established by "*VoltaGrid to develop a system built around four bus-size, natural-gas engines.*" So, it is an interesting plot twist in that the move to reduce GHG emissions rests upon either grid electricity laced with renewables, or on-site gas-fired generation. Either option can rightly claim it is reducing the driller's carbon footprint.

As we know, increased oil-field dependence on grid electricity is only part of the picture. Data center growth is also burgeoning, so where the two industries co-locate the pressure to quickly add delivery capability, not to mention generation, is high.

California Electricity Rates: Who is #1?

Coincident with Ziad Alaywan's column, above, San Diego Union Tribune energy reporter Rob Nikolewski penned a piece this week on the same topic titled, "SDG&E No Longer Charges the Highest Rates in California — for now." As Ziad pointed out, the top spot goes to PG&E. This is fierce competition. Not between Rob and Ziad, but between PG&E and SDG&E.

Rob did the research and found that "*SDG&E's average for January stands at 32.8 cents per kilowatt-hour — 4.7 cents lower than PG&E.*" Wildfire investments have much to do with PG&E's recent rate hike. Rob said, "*Wildfire prevention programs and the associated costs of those corresponding infrastructure enhancements have been significant drivers in higher rates that California utilities charge their customers. While SDG&E is considered the pacesetter when it comes to state-of-the-art wildfire prevention, the utility has spent about $5 billion in ratepayer fund[s] since 2007.*"

Speaking of EV Derived Demand for Electricity …

More reports of easing demand for EVs are appearing in the news. Two weeks ago, the WSJ Editorial Board ran a story about the topic titled, "The EV Backlash Builds." Do tell. Ford is cutting back on production of its F150 Lightening EV truck. "*It sold a mere 24,165 Lightnings last year and lost roughly $36,000 on each EV in the third quarter.*" Separately, Consumers Report conducted a survey last November and found that new EVs have 79 percent more problems than internal-combustion cars. The U.S. climate keester, John Kerry, blamed the

lackluster demand for EVs on disinformation. The WSJ Editorial Board replied, "*Mr. Biden's green industrial policy isn't failing because of bad marketing. It's failing because Americans don't like the product.*"

I can't leave this topic without sharing yet another developing story about GM. The corporation is earning tremendous profits from its gasoline-powered trucks and SUVs. Alas, GM's dealers have registered a complaint to the GM headquarters that customers want hybrid vehicles, not pure EVs. I guess the former Toyota CEO pegged this trend almost a decade ago. Contrast that to GM CEO Mary Barra's comment in 2019 at a Barclay's conference, "*Customers generally aren't interested in hybrids. The value proposition there we believe [is] moving to electric vehicles as quickly as possible …*" The WSJ reported this week: "*Making such a move* [to include hybrids] *would mark a major strategic reversal for GM, which unlike many of its rivals, went all-in on EVs and largely sat out the hybrid market, which executives viewed as an unnecessary interim step.*"

Things In the People's Republic of California

An Interview with Hal Dittmer

Burrito interviews are infrequent, but I use them to highlight special people in our industry. Often I seek former regulators, public advocates, and in one case a former director of the Cappuccino Energy Division. Today, however, is a departure from that formula. I want to introduce a person I have known for almost thirty years who, in my opinion, has been a David in a land of Goliaths regarding power plant development in California. His story has always inspired me, and I want to share it herein. As was the case with my previous interviews, the words are mine alone based on my conversation with my guest. Any errors or omissions are my bad.

Wellhead Electric is based in Sacramento and was founded by Hal Dittmer. He began his venture in 1984 as an outgrowth of his consulting work for Caterpillar. They endeavored to install low-Btu 500 kW engines to generate power in locations that had access to recovered natural gas supplies. Before he had his own shop, he consulted for and co-developed low-head hydro facilities. The burst of interest in gas-fired cogeneration in California in the 1990s led to more projects, sometimes with partners but increasingly doing it himself using seed money that he personally guaranteed. If you know anything about non-recourse financing, then you can appreciate the *cajones* it takes to sign away your personal assets to guarantee debt repayments for a power project. Sleepless nights.

From that time until today, Wellhead has created a 600 MW portfolio among 12 projects, all located in the Golden State. What has always amazed me is that Hal's company is one of two that I can think of that survived the heyday of cogeneration development … the other being Calpine, which of course is a huge company but also very different from its origin, and one time was re-organized through bankruptcy. That makes Hal the lone symbol of persistence. So, I wanted to know; how did Wellhead prosper where all others failed or ceded to new owners?

Hal had several answers. Among them was the changing nature of the development business model. The nascent market had many players with access to capital but also strings attached requiring use of certain equipment. Today's environment is much different as there are multiple levels of development from green-field early stage to mid-stage when a power-purchase agreement (PPA) has been signed, to the construction phase, and finally commercial operation. Most developers specialize in one but not all of those steps. Thus, non-recourse project financing has also evolved to match the balance sheets of the owners at each stage. It doesn't always happen in exact separable measures, but it provides an easy-to-understand paradigm.

Second, in the early days the biggest hurdles in power-plant development were securing land rights, the land use permits, and PPAs. Today, those challenges still exist, but the scene is also burdened with tightened regulations and rules that include environmental restrictions, public processes, and a host of state and local agencies that must be appeased before granting a certificate to construct and operate.

Third, the PPA counterparties, the buyers of the energy and resource-adequacy capacity, seek a product with cleaner emission attributes to help comply with state renewable portfolio standards.

Hal and his group of almost 60 employees have all the same challenges as any developer siting in California, and they achieve success through hard work, and an emphasis on innovation. One more thing: Hal established long-term relationships with lenders, investors, engineering and procurement shops, and fuel suppliers that remain intact to this day. That too is a rarity.

Hal and his team always try to create a project that does more than the baseline application and seek features that make theirs a potential winner. As he said, "*We figured out ways to do things a little differently.*" (Yes, that's an actual quote, unlike what I told you at the outset.) One such innovative difference was the intent and ability to complete projects in six months vs. the conventional timeline of 18 months. Another was to cut each project's capital outlay by 60 percent of normal by using grey-market equipment (e.g., rebuilt or used).

Their latest set of projects have combined a gas turbine alongside a battery energy storage system. The operating results are encouraging. GHG emissions are greatly reduced, and dispatch response times are shorter and more flexible.

My final questions to Hal were about the people he brings onboard. When hiring, what does the ideal Wellhead employee have that he seeks? The personality traits include the ability to be flexible, try new ideas, not be wedded to convention, and above all be keen on problem solving. He asks his people to think like an owner, if that is possible. It must be possible; otherwise, how could Hal have built the legacy that is unique and so successful?

ENERGYGPS

Grand Phunk Salsa a la EnergyGPS

The Op Ed below is from the team at EnergyGPS with Jeff Richter as the lead writer. EnergyGPS covers the intersection of renewables and wholesale markets in its *Renewable Monthly Report*, which is part of the EnergyGPS eCommerce Platinum Plus package. For more information, email sales@energygps.com.

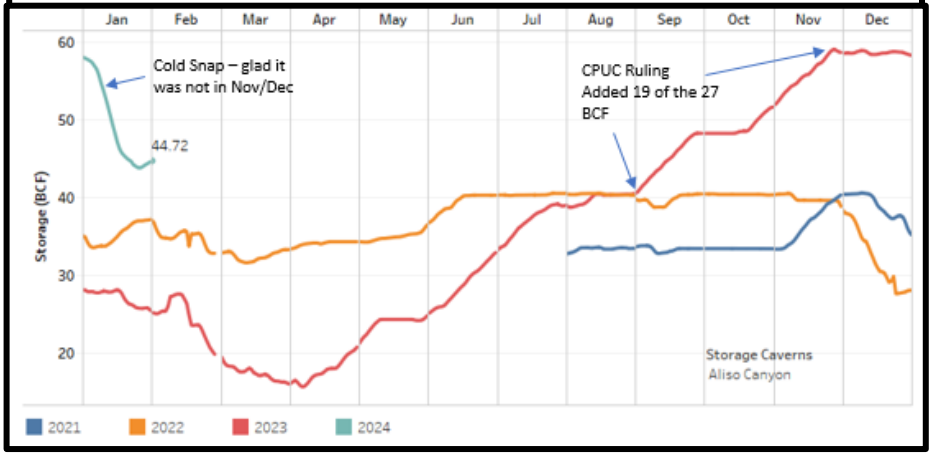
Plenty This Go Around

Last year at this same time, California was bracing itself for deep conversations tied to the high gas prices that kicked of the 22-23 Winter Season, in addition to another round of atmospheric river precipitation that changed California's hydro landscape. Fast forward to today, a robust California energy market where the middle of January cold snap saw California's ability to stand strong and ultimately be the one that was on the outside looking in.

Starting with the natural gas landscape, the CPUC ruling that initiated more capacity at Aliso Canyon as of August 31st came in handy in the eyes of the entities that pushed for such throughout the spring and summer months prior. The thing that might be more important is the simple fact that the cold snap happened later this year compared to the colder start to the 2022 Winter season. If you look under the hood of the natural gas balancing in the middle of January 2024, the biggest impact to the storage withdrawals being as steep as they

were was the loss of production in both West Texas and the Rockies, where the remaining molecules coming out of the ground were being re-routed to, say, the Midwest and/or Rockies, given the plus $20 price signal in the cash market. Despite the lack of transport volume into the LA Basin, SoCal Citygate could only muster a $13 cash settle price before quickly retreating into single digits. The level of pricing seen in January 2024 is a far cry from the plus-$58 peak cash settle price during the cold snap in December 2022. It is comforting when Mother Nature delivers the first (and potentially the only) cold spell of the season after the calendar turns to a New Year.

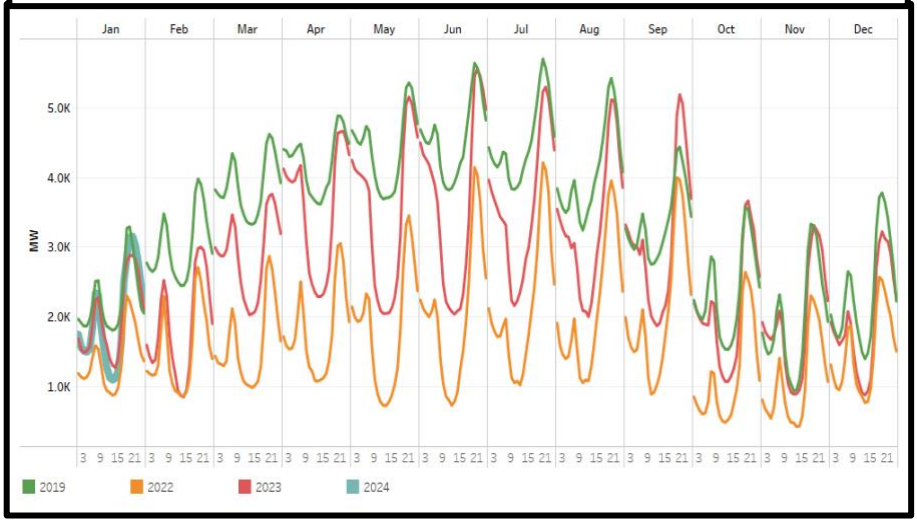
Figure 1 | Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Levels – Daily



On the hydro front, it is hard to imagine that just over a year ago the California hydro system was on the tail end of a five-year drought where lakes were drying up, water rights were being challenged and the electricity generated was scrapping to get as much flexible generation onto the grid with low flows. Since the middle of January 2023, the grid received a lifeline where the term atmospheric river system trumped that of the ageless pineapple express precipitation pattern. The 2023 California Water Year saw record snowpack levels in every key mountain range, which led to the storage facilities refilling and holding such levels well into the summer. On the generation front, the 12x24 profile hydro shape displays lessons learned around the renewable solar penetration across both utility-scaled and behind-the-meter volume.

The chart to the right compares that of 2019 and 2022 California 12 x 24 hydro generation to that of 2023. It took some time early in the year for the massive snowpack to melt, but by March 2023 there was no looking back. Once we moved into Q4-2023 the volume pulled back from the summer months while the flexible shape continued to be in play. With January 2024 now in the books, it is clear that having more water in California has benefited the electricity grid's ability to balance without too much concern. It should be noted that Mother Nature is ready to deliver another set of storms (Pineapple Express is the descriptor this go-around), which increases the snowpack level in Northern California while the hydro storage facilities are boasting a similar tune to that of the natural gas caverns mentioned at the onset of this discussion.

Figure 2 | California Hydro Generation – 12x24 Profiles



Shout Outs and Recipes

Homemade Gyros with Chef Laura Manz

"*Impress your friends with homemade gyros for a superb game-day treat. I was curious and enthusiastic when my son declared he wanted to learn how to make gyros. A little research and we discovered it was surprisingly simple to bake the gyro meat in a loaf pan just like a classic meatloaf. You can go all in with homemade tzatziki sauce (adapted from July 7, 2017, Burrito[1]) and homemade pitas. After a couple of attempts, we liked this pita recipe and changed the three cups of AP flour to 2 cups AP flour and 1 cup whole wheat flour.*"

Gyro meat: Very finely chop one large onion and six cloves of garlic in a food processor. Prepare a seasoned breadcrumb mixture of 1 Tbsp. of dried oregano, 1 Tbsp. of ground cumin, 2 tsp. of salt, 1 tsp. of black pepper, 1 tsp. of Aleppo pepper and ¼ cup breadcrumbs. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine all ingredients along with 1 lb. ground beef and 1 lb. ground lamb. Pack the mixture firmly into a 9"x5" loaf pan and bake at 325° for an hour. Cool for 20 minutes, transfer drippings to a separate small container and refrigerate the loaf and the reserved drippings for at least 8 hours. When ready to serve, heat about a Tbsp. of drippings in a frying pan over medium heat. Cut meat into thin strips and heat for a minute or two in the reserved drippings. Assemble gyros with warm pita, tzatziki sauce, chopped tomatoes, chopped cucumbers, romaine lettuce chiffonade and a sprinkle of feta cheese. My son's "authentic" addition is a topping of French fries at your option.

Tzatziki: Grate 1 large cucumber, mix with 1 tsp. of kosher salt and set into a sieve over a bowl in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Give it one last squeeze in lint free or paper towels. In a bowl add 2 cups of Greek yogurt, 2 grated cloves of garlic, ¼ tsp. of dried dill, 1 Tbsp. of fresh chopped mint leaves, ½ tsp. of white pepper and the zest and juice of 1 lemon. Refrigerate at least one hour before serving.

Thanks, Laura. I've been a fan of Greek gyros since my days living in Chicago. Late-night visits to the Five Faces eatery at 2 a.m. or later (😢 closed since 2019) kindles my memory of the beloved dish. Haven't had a gyro in years due to my reluctance to take on red meat. But I do recall the fabulous flavors.

[1] Use a thick Greek yogurt or strain plain yogurt through a butter muslin until thick. Salt (Kosher) 1 cup of grated cucumbers and let drain in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes, discarding the liquid. Pat dry and set aside. Mince 1 small shallot and 1 (or more) cloves of garlic. Add 2 Tbsp. of chopped fresh dill and/or 2 Tbsp. of chopped fresh mint leaves. Squeeze in the juice of one lemon. Stir in 2 cups of yogurt. Salt to taste. Let rest for at least an hour or overnight for flavors to develop. Serve chilled, topped with fresh mint and/or extra virgin olive oil at your option.

Odds & Ends (_!_)

I'm a self-confessed Wordle addict. My morning routine, assuming the usual rise and shine time at 9:30 a.m. or later, includes the NYT Wordle challenge followed by a riveting game of online Scrabble. I rarely miss either. I can't stop myself. Other Wordlers such as Dan Douglass, Tim Belden, and Clare Breidenich exchange boasts with me about how they solved the puzzle in two tries … as if. It's a rare thing to guess a 5-letter word in two passes. When I do it, I boast to Clare, who then shows me how she also did the same thing. Takes away all my bragging rights. TODAY ALIVE SPOKE REAMS ABOUT WORDL.

Some people start each puzzle using the same word. I'm not that way. I use ESP to help me fashion the beginning. Erin uses the word SHARE to begin and one time she hit the jackpot. That was the word of the day.

WPTF General Meeting

The next WPTF General Meeting in Palm Springs on February 29 – March 1, 2024. The place will be the Omni Rancho Las Palmas and registration is available by clicking here. One of the keynote speakers will be Andy Ott, former CEO of PJM, and current Board member of WRAP.

The hotel is located about 15-20 minutes from the Palm Springs Airport in Rancho Mirage, California. Our resort near Palm Springs offers an ideal escape in the Coachella Valley. Rooms are $269/night, plus taxes, fees, and assessments (approx. 13.45%). There is also a $35/night resort charge.

The hotel charges an early departure fee to ensure you have your correct arrival and departure dates. If you need to cancel your hotel reservation, do so 72 hours prior to the arrival date or one night's room and tax will be charged.

Program of Events

Thursday, February 29

WPTF Golf Tournament (9:00 AM shotgun start)

- Separate registration required ($175 total fee - includes golf, cart, and luncheon. Rental shoes and clubs are an additional fee)
- Sponsored by Gregory Klatt, Partner, Douglass, Liddell & Klatt

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.: Hosted Reception

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- Dinner and Keynote Presentation Andy Ott, former CEO of PJM, and current Board member of Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP).
- Presentation of the Jackalyne Pfannenstiel Award

9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.: Dessert Reception

Friday, March 1

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.: Buffet Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – Noon: Roundtable Discussions

Noon - 1:00 p.m.: Luncheon

1:00 p.m.: Program Concludes

In the section below are your stories for the week if you are a meat eater. Have a great weekend.

gba

EVER WONDER ...

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

Answering Machine at the Mental Hospital

Hello, and welcome to the mental health hospital.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3,4,5 and 6.

If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so we can trace your call.

If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be forwarded to the mother ship.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you which number to press.

If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer.

If you are dyslexic, press 9696969696969696.

If you have a nervous disorder, please fidget with the pound key until a representative comes on the line.

If you have post-traumatic stress disorder, s-l-o-w-l-y & c-a-r-e-f-u-l-l-y press 0-0-0.

If you are bi-polar, please leave a message after the beep or before the beep or after the beep. Please wait for the beep.

If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9.

If you have low self-esteem, please hang up. Our operators are too busy to talk with you.

If you are menopausal, hang up, turn on the fan, lie down and cry. You won't be crazy forever.

If you are blonde, don't press any buttons, you'll just mess it up

Subject: Can I take that back?????

Have you ever spoken and wished that you could immediately take the words back...or that you could crawl into a hole? Here are the Testimonials of a few people who did..

FIRST TESTIMONY: I walked into a hair salon with my husband and three kids in tow and asked loudly, "How much do you charge for a shampoo and a blow job?" I turned around and walked back out and never went back. My husband didn't say a word ... he knew better.

SECOND TESTIMONY: Have you ever asked your child a question too many times? My three-year-old son had a lot of problems with potty training and I was on him constantly. One day we stopped at Taco Bell for a quick lunch in between errands. It was very busy, with a full dining room. While enjoying my taco, I smelled something funny, so of course I checked my seven-month-old daughter, and she was clean. Then I realized that Danny had not asked to go potty in a while, so I asked him if he needed to go, and he said "No". I kept thinking "Oh Lord, that child has had an accident, and I don't have any clothes with me." Then I said, "Danny, are you SURE you didn't have an accident?" "No," he replied. I just KNEW that he must have had an accident, because the smell was getting worse. Soooooo, I asked one more time, "Danny, did you have an accident?" This time he jumped up, yanked down his pants, bent over and spread his cheeks and yelled, "SEE MOM, IT'S JUST FARTS!!" While 30 people nearly choked to death on their tacos laughing, he calmly pulled up his pants and sat down.

An old couple made me feel better by thanking me for the best laugh they'd ever had!

LAST TESTIMONY: This had most of the state of Michigan laughing for 2 days and a very embarrassed female news anchor who will, in the future, likely think before she speaks. What happens when you predict snow but don't get any.... a true story...

We had a female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked: "So Bob, where's that 8 inches you promised me last night?" Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too they were laughing so hard!