



Scalia and the Constitution

Page 4



Natural Gas Becomes a Real Mess

The Porter Ranch Disaster May Erase the Industry's Undeserved Reputation as a Clean Energy Source
Page 10

Carmichael Times

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February 19, 2016

CARMICHAEL LOCAL SELECTED FOR DISNEY PARK MOMS PANEL



Page 3

RUNNER RESPONDS TO PROPOSED GAS TAX CUT



Page 2

BOE CONSIDERS LOWERING GAS FOR TAX THIRD YEAR IN A ROW



Page 2

Sharing the Love

Kids Mingle with Residents at Aegis of Carmichael



CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - On Tuesday, Feb. 9th, St. Michael's Episcopal Day School Pre-Kindergarten class visited the residents at Aegis of Carmichael. The students sang love and kindness themed songs and gave each resident a personalized valentine.

This visit is one of the many community outreach programs that St. Michael's students participate in throughout the year. "Service learning allows children to combine what they are learning in the classroom with opportunities to serve their community," said Mary Heise, head of school. "Students benefit academically, socially and



Students sang love and kindness themed songs and gave each resident at Aegis of Carmichael a personalized valentine. This visit is one of the many community outreach programs that St. Michael's students participate in throughout the year. Photos courtesy Aegis of Carmichael

emotionally. They not only learn about civic responsibility, but they also become active participants in their

community."

For more information on community partnerships and service learning programs at St.

Michael's or for information about St. Michael's school, visit <http://www.smeds.net>.

Source: Aegis of Carmichael ★

Confirmed Zika Case in Yolo County

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed today that a Yolo County resident has tested positive for Zika virus. This individual recently traveled out of the country and had a mild case of Zika.

Zika virus is a relatively new disease for the Western hemisphere. It first appeared in Brazil in May of 2015. It has since spread to 20 countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, including Mexico. Zika is spread through mosquito bites, not casual person-to-person contact. According to the CDC, the most common symptoms are fever,



Zika virus is a relatively new disease for the Western hemisphere.

rash, joint pain and red, itchy eyes. Symptoms are usually mild and last several days to a week. Many people who have Zika will not experience symptoms. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Zika.

Pregnant women, however, are believed to be most at risk for complications from the Zika virus because serious birth defects have been reported in infants born to women infected with the virus. The CDC is planning studies to learn more about the connection between Zika and children born with these birth defects. In the meantime, the CDC has issued travel guidance for women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant. To stay up-to-date on the CDC's latest travel notices, visit: www.cdc.gov/travel.

"Yolo County residents traveling to Central or South America or the Caribbean, where Zika is present, should take precautions against mosquitoes," said Yolo County Health Officer Ron Chapman, MD, MPH. "If you are pregnant, consider postponing your trip. All travelers to areas where Zika is present should go to their doctor if they experience any of the symptoms associated with Zika within three to seven days after they return. Pregnant women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika should talk to a healthcare provider about their travel even if they don't feel sick."

Ways to avoid mosquito bites include:

- Using an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus;
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and trousers;
- Using air conditioning or window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside; and
- Reducing the number of mosquitoes inside and outside your home by emptying standing water from containers such as flowerpots or buckets. Mosquitoes can breed in as little amount of water as a bottle cap.

To learn more about Zika virus, visit: www.cdc.gov/zika and www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx.

Source: Yolo County ★

Carmichael Couple Celebrates 70th Wedding Anniversary



A special violinist helps celebrate the 70th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Littlejohn. An original photo from the Littlejohn's wedding 70 years ago. Photos courtesy Atria Carmichael Oaks

By Jan Dalske

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Recently, at Atria Carmichael Oaks, over one hundred guests celebrated a wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Littlejohn have been married for 70 years. Family and friends came to wish them well, listen to the violinist play beautiful music, and share a piece of cake from the giant anniversary cake.

The Littlejohn's favorite song is Frank Sinatra's "Always." If you

listen to the words, you can see why it is their favorite:

"I'll be loving you, with a love that's true, always.

I will understand, always.

Not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just a year, but for just a lifetime."

When they married in 1946, it was for a lifetime.

Josephine Littlejohn believes that the secret to a long and happy marriage is to forgive and forget. "You may have your ups and

downs, but you just have to smile and go on. Blow our stack to get things off your chest, and then move forward with love in your heart!"

Bill Littlejohn was born in Nebraska, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940. He was assigned to the USS St. Louis in December 1940. The ship was moored at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese fleet attacked. Bill remained on the St. Louis throughout the war, and attained the rank of Chief

Petty Officer.

Bill was a member of the retail clerks, and worked as a grocery manager. They raised two sons, and have one grandson and one great-grandson. The couple has lived in the Sacramento area since 1950. Bill is an active charter member of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Chapter 6. They now reside at Carmichael Oaks, where they have many friends, and are enjoying their golden years together. Josephine enjoys playing Pinochle and Poker Bingo. ★



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George Runner Responds to Proposed Gas Tax Cut

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Board of Equalization Vice Chair George Runner today issued the following statement regarding a BOE staff proposal to cut the excise tax on gasoline by 2.2 cents per gallon for the 2016-17 fiscal year, effective July 1st:

"Californians overpaid gas tax last year due to a bizarre and complex formula that most people don't understand. When prices fall we must lower the rate to ensure fairness. The cut will be a welcome and much-deserved tax break for Californians, who currently pay more taxes at the pump than drivers in other states."

"In addition to tax relief, Californians need a clear tax system that's easy to understand. The current



Californians overpaid gas tax last year due to a bizarre and complex formula that most people don't understand—George Runner.

gas tax formula is a convoluted scheme enacted by the

governor and Legislature in 2010. The lack of transparency continues to erode public confidence; the public deserves to know how much tax is being collected and how it's being spent.

"Some will use this adjustment as an opportunity to clamor for tax increases. The reality is that there is more than enough money available to repair our roads without raising taxes. It's all about spending priorities."

The Board of Equalization will consider and vote on the proposed tax rate change at its Feb. 23rd, 2016 meeting in Culver City.

Source: Board of Equalization Vice Chair George Runner's Office ★

BOE Considers Lowering Gasoline Excise Tax Rate for Third Year in a Row

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) will consider lowering the excise tax rate for gasoline by 2.2 cents for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 during its Feb. 23rd, 2016 meeting in Culver City. If adopted, the excise tax rate on gas will be 27.8 cents per gallon from July 1st, 2016 through June 30th, 2017. The current excise tax rate of 30 cents per gallon remains in effect until June 30th, 2016.

"Californians overpaid gas tax last year due to a bizarre and complex formula that most people don't understand," said Board of Equalization Vice Chair George Runner. "When prices fall we must lower the rate to ensure fairness. The cut will be a welcome and much-deserved tax break for Californians, who currently pay more taxes at the pump than drivers in other states."

California drivers pay two types of state taxes on gas: sales tax, which is a percentage of the price and a per-gallon excise tax. Before AB x8 6 and SB 70—collectively referred to as the "fuel tax swap"—took effect in 2010, drivers paid the full sales tax rate (then 8.25 percent), and an excise tax rate of 18 cents per gallon. The fuel tax swap lowered the sales tax rate on gasoline to 2.25 percent and requires the BOE to set a per-gallon excise tax rate annually before March 1st. This excise tax rate is calculated such that drivers still pay the same amount in overall taxes at the pump that they would have paid before the swap.

In FY 2014-15, the BOE collected nearly \$5.4 billion in excise tax for the state's Motor Vehicle Fuel Account, which helps pay for highways, roads and other public transportation projects. The sales tax on gasoline also helps fund a variety of state and local road programs.



California drivers pay two types of state taxes on gas: sales tax, which is a percentage of the price and a per-gallon excise tax.

How the Rate is Determined

The excise tax rate takes into account a number of factors including: forecasted gas price, forecasted amount of gallons sold, sales tax revenue that would have been collected prior to the fuel tax swap, and tax revenue over- or under-collected in the prior fiscal year. The rate ensures that over a three-year period, motorists do not pay more or less in overall gas taxes than they would have prior to the swap.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected

tax board. The BOE collects \$60 billion annually in taxes and fees, supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit the California Tax Service Center.

Source: Board of Equalization Vice Chair George Runner's Office ★

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Carmichael Local Selected for Disney Park Moms Panel

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Recently, Disney Parks officially announced the ten newest members to its 2016 Disney Parks Moms Panel. Among them is Carmichael resident Kiki Wong-Yee.



Kiki Wong-Yee. Photo courtesy Disney Parks and Resort

Ushering in a new era for the celebrated online forum, this year's newcomers are as diverse as Disney Parks' own culturally rich visitors with bilingual parents, single moms, dads, grandparents, and those with special needs children—all eager to share their trip planning expertise and passion for Disney with like-minded families.

Now in its ninth year, the Disney Parks Moms Panel is an online resource to help guests with their Disney vacation planning using the personal opinions, expertise and relatable experiences of everyday parents and grandparents. With just the click of a mouse or touch screen device, travelers have access to a wide-array of enthusiastic panelists who can share advice on how to maximize their future stay and create lifelong family memories. The multilingual resource, offered in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese, can accommodate every Disney trip-planning inquiry imaginable—from the best fireworks viewing spots, tips for traveling with large families and ideal booking windows for popular restaurants, to special dietary dining options, cruise ship itineraries and on-property hotel offerings.

In addition to being well-versed in so many Disney Destinations' amenities available, all of the panelists are genuine, friendly and excited to share their expertise with others, putting fellow parents at ease during the often stressful and overwhelming process of planning a vacation. Originally created with a

a Question" feature. In true Disney style, the website will reflect a sense of community by showcasing trending topics and most popular topics, allowing families to learn from each other's past experiences and inspire the creation of new memories.

"2016 is poised to be an exciting and transformative year for the Disney Parks Moms Panel," said Leanne O'Regan, director of public relations for Disney Parks. "Not only are we welcoming ten motivated and diverse professionals to our esteemed forum, but we are also preparing to debut a new website experience in the coming months, streamlining the trip planning process and paving the way for what should be the most magical time of our guests' lives."

In September 2015, thousands of hopeful parents worldwide vied for a spot on the coveted Panel, making it the second largest pool of submissions since the program's inception nearly a decade ago. Following three rounds of interviews, essays, and video submissions, a strong group of ten passionate parents and grandparents—including university professors, a physician and nurse, event planner, and an Information Technician specialist—were selected to join the respected forum. Since 2008, more than 130 experienced parents have served on the Disney Parks Moms Panel helping in the planning process for tens of thousands of Disney vacation guests.

To learn more about the Disney Parks Moms Panel and meet the newest panelists, please visit <http://disneyparksmoms-panel.disney.go.com/>. For those interested in joining next year's panel, application details will be posted on the website in the summer of 2016.

Source: Disney Parks and Resorts ★

specific focus on the Walt Disney World Resort, the Disney Parks Moms Panel has since grown to include members with extensive knowledge of every other unique Disney property and offering, which also includes Disneyland Resort, Disney Vacation Club, Adventures by Disney, Disney Cruise Line, runDisney and the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Among the most eagerly awaited aspects of the 2016 Disney Parks Moms Panel is the arrival of a refreshed consumer website, slated to launch later this winter. Featuring a sleek new design layout and improved functionality for better user navigation, the mobile-device optimized site will make it easier for guests to plan an unforgettable Disney vacation at home or on-the-go.

Specific updates to the website includes a new topic search structure that will provide guests with easy access to more than 150,000 questions asked by previous visitors and answered by the knowledgeable panelists. With the new feature, guests can quickly sort and filter through tagged topics and find relevant content; and as always, visitors can get their own questions answered using the "Ask

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Scalia and the Constitution A 'Whistle Stop' Meet and Greet



Commentary by Caleb Verbois

important reasons. First, originalism requires careful historical and legal reasoning to determine what the terms and language of the Constitution meant when it was written. As Scalia loved to say, that sort of research is literally the only thing lawyers are particularly good at. The second reason Scalia said originalism was essential is because to read it any other way, as a living document or an aspirational text, is to expect lawyers to be something quite different than what they are—to expect them to

be judges who will behave rather like senators.

Given the politicized nature of the Supreme Court, it is no surprise that Washington is already squabbling over Scalia's replacement, less than 48 hours after his death. Democrats are already declaring that Republicans are duty bound to confirm Obama's replacement. Senator Chuck Schumer has been particularly insistent on this. But this is nonsense. Democrats have made it quite clear in the 30 years since Scalia was confirmed



For Scalia, the only justification for the Supreme Court's power of judicial review to strike down laws that violate the Constitution is that the Constitution has a specific meaning that we can know.

be moral philosophers or policy makers. And really, Scalia asked with a twinkle in his eye, who would pick nine lawyers to be moral philosophers?

For Scalia, the only justification for the Supreme Court's power of judicial review to strike down laws that violate the Constitution is that the Constitution has a specific meaning that we can know. If not, there is a real problem. By what authority can the Supreme Court strike down a democratically passed law, if not by an appeal to a specific, clear meaning of the Constitution?

That is why Scalia said that moving to any method of interpretation other than originalism would, in the end, destroy the Constitution. If justices are not bound to a specific understanding of the Constitution, we should not pick them on their legal qualifications. We should pick them based on their politics. Scalia was confirmed to the court unanimously in 1986, despite being known as a conservative. He liked to say that would never happen now, because the Senate has realized if they are not picking originalist judges, they are picking people to

that a confirmation hearing is no longer a sure thing, and candidates should be evaluated on their record and method of interpretation. Moreover, no justice has been appointed and confirmed in an election year since 1940. Senator Schumer, in his rush to insist Republicans rubber stamp Obama's appointee, has apparently forgotten his own promise in 2007 when George W. Bush was president, that "We should reverse the presumption of confirmation."

Scalia was right about the danger that the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court would be politicized if the court itself came to be seen as a political instrument. That, I think, is why it is so important that Scalia's successor think about the Constitution as Antonin Scalia did: that is, as a document with a knowable, if imperfect, historical meaning—as an originalist.

Dr. Verbois is an assistant professor of political science at Grove City College and an affiliated scholar at the John Jay Institute. He teaches American Politics and Political Theory and specializes in American constitutional thought. ★

Join the Republican Women Federated and Get to Know the June Primary Candidates

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- On Wednesday, March 2nd, the Sacramento Republican Women Federated invites you to their candidate forum and luncheon. The luncheon is set-up as a meet-and-greet for Republican candidates.

All Republican candidates on the June primary ballot for federal, state, and county races

have been invited to mingle with their constituents. Guests are welcome to attend the luncheon.

Food will include a petite filet mignon with rosemary port jus, dessert, and beverage. The cost is \$25 per person, cash or check only. Reservations for the luncheon must be received by

Wednesday, Feb. 24th.

For more information or attendance to the meet-and-greet only, please call Terri Lyn Alexander at (916) 723-6156 or email her at terri-lyn1@aol.com.

Source: Sacramento Republican Women Federated ★

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Academic Excellence in College by Carmichael Local

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Michael Paul G. Jimenez of Carmichael, Calif., is a sophomore at Occidental College where his freshman GPA of 3.51 earned him similar recognition in receiving Dean's List honors at Oxy in 2015.

His declared major field of study is Urban and Environmental

Policy and he has already taken an upper-level Spanish course that included a two-week period of study in Madrid and Barcelona in May of 2015. Michael attended Deterding Elementary, Arcade Middle, and graduated high school from El Camino Fundamental in 2014.

Source: Augustin Jimenez ★



Michael Paul G. Jimenez in August 2015. Photo courtesy Augustin Jimenez



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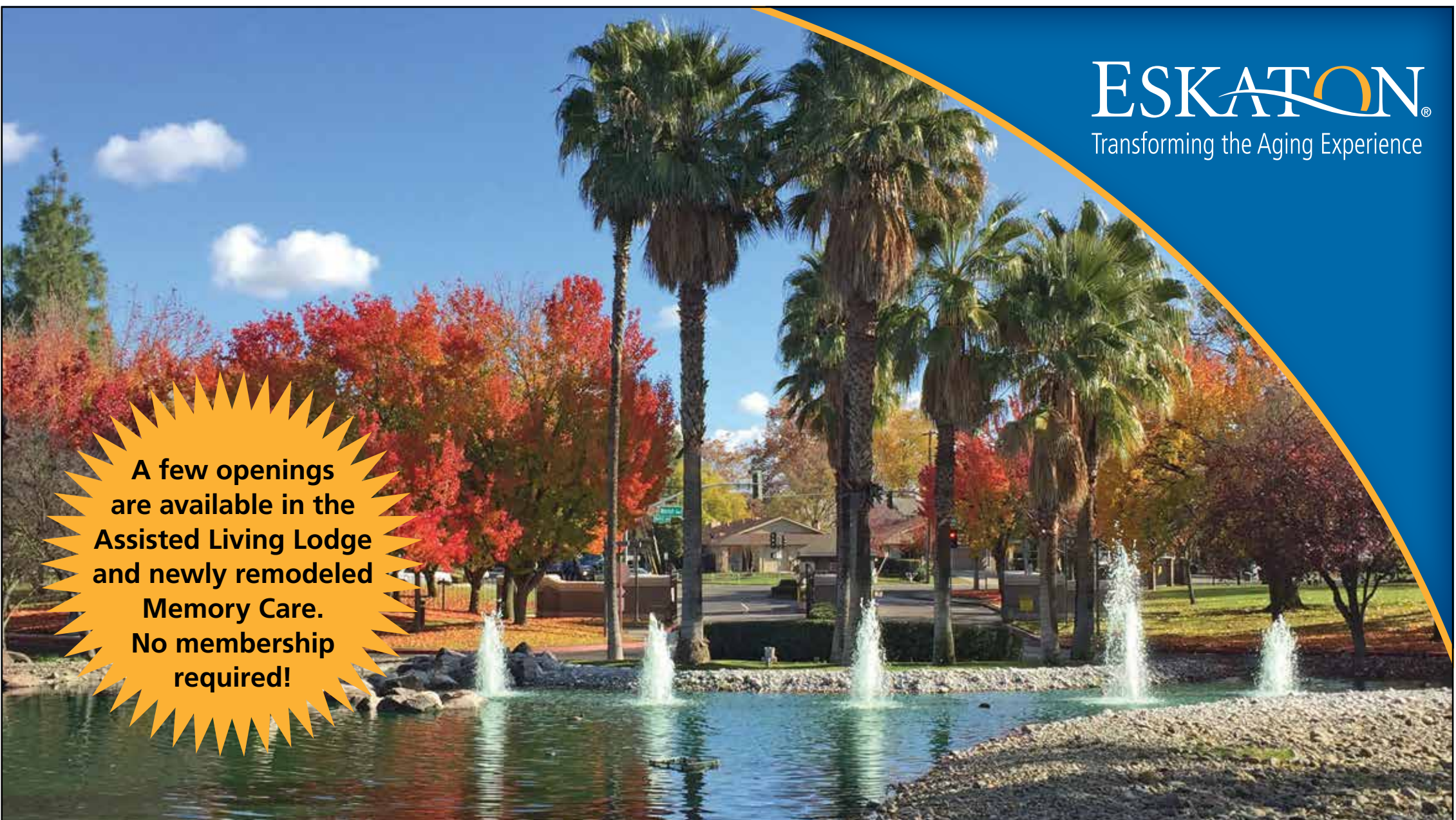
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FBNF2016-00357 Equitymojo LLC, 1679 S. Dupont Highway Suite 100 Dover, DE 19901 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Equitymojo" at 8054 Dorian Way Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 15, 2016. Publish: January 29, February 5, 12, and 19, 2016. EQUITY 160119 02-19-16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FBNF2016-00257 The Ale Apothecary, LLC, 61517 River Road Bend, Oregon 97703 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "APTH" at 61517 River Road Bend, Oregon 97703. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 13, 2016. Publish: January 29, February 5, 12, and 19, 2016. APTH 160122 02-19-16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FBNF2016-00773 Kristian Zelada, 4731 16th Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Microphone Check Records, Mic Check Sports" at 4731 16th Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 29, 2016. Publish: February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2016. MIC 160129 02-26-16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FBNF2016-00416 Kathleen Tran, 3036 Sherman Island Road West Sacramento, CA 95691 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "49th Ave Self Storage" at 3850 49th Avenue Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 19, 2016. Publish: February 12, 19, 26, and March 4, 2016. 49TH 160204 03-04-16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FBNF2016-00208 Ramez Kadhim, 5635 Palmgate Court Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "California Language Services" at 5635 Palmgate Court Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 12, 2016. Publish: February 12, 19, 26, and March 4, 2016. CALIFORNIA 160201 03-04-16

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FBNF2016-00824 Ghazi Hagegaleiman, 2278 Sierra Boulevard # Sacramento, CA 95825 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "GH Cigarette Plus" at 6716 Madison Avenue Suite 4 Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 2, 2016. Publish: February 19, 26, March 4, and 11, 2016. GH 160210 03-11-16

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- ACROSS**
1. Closet wood
6. Universal time
9. Baby's first word?
13. Courtyards
14. Galley equipment
15. Two-____ like Janus
16. To eat greedily
17. "Much ____ About Nothing"
18. Give a speech
19. *Tarantino's "The ____ Eight"
21. *Matt Damon's nominated role
23. Party bowlful
24. Larger-than-life
25. *Competitor to The Oscars' 2016 broadcaster
28. Mt. Everest to Earth
30. Like meters and kilograms
35. Foot curve
37. World's Fair, e.g.
39. Get wool from sheep
40. Hard to find
41. Rekindled
43. "The Road Runner" corporation
44. Not hidden
46. Black Friday event
47. London subway
48. Moves down
50. Theories
52. Relieve from
53. *Oscar-winner De Niro in "Once ____ a Time in America"
55. Club on a card, e.g.
57. Barely adequate
61. *Seven-time nominee Kate
65. Like a lemon, tastewise
66. *____ Cube outta Compton
68. Glittery stone
69. Place to throw shrimp on the barbie
70. *____ Heflin, Supporting Actor winner in 1942
71. With clear mind
72. Moore in "Arthur" and Belushi in "Animal House"
73. Paris in Tour de France, e.g.
74. *What the winner for Film Editing does
- DOWN**
1. *Witherspoon won for starring in his biopic
2. Europe's highest volcano
3. "Doggone it!"
4. *ABC did it to 2015's Academy Awards show
5. Basket-making fiber
6. Orr's score
7. *Like Max
8. Walk heavy-footed
9. Marketplace
10. Palm tree berry
11. Of higher order
12. Port in Yemen
15. Military units
20. Ritalin, e.g.
22. Deadeye's forte
24. Make comprehensible
25. *Cate Blanchett's 2015 role
26. Audience's approval
27. Nut holder
29. *The two leads in 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer"
31. Not this
32. Happen again
33. More than one iamb
34. *It stars Stallone
36. This location
38. Great masters' medium, pl.
42. Allegro and lento, in music
45. *Blacklisted screenwriter
49. Baden-Baden, e.g.
51. *Firth, nominated for 2009's "A ____ Man"
54. EV00 source
56. Imposter
57. Rand McNally products
58. UN civil aviation agency, acr.
59. As opposed to gross
60. *2001 Oscar-nominated movie starring #61 Across
61. Direct one's way
62. Sites
63. Leave on the cutting room floor
64. Kennedy and Turner
67. Campbell's container

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Natural Gas Becomes a Real Mess

The Porter Ranch Disaster May Erase the Industry's Undeserved Reputation as a Clean Energy Source

Commentary
By Emily Schwartz Greco

Until late last year, Laura Gideon's family lived in Porter Ranch on the outskirts of Los Angeles. "We didn't ever want to leave," Gideon told the Associated Press. It's "a nice gated community."

What uprooted them from one of LA's wealthiest pockets? They became climate refugees when the nearby Aliso Canyon natural gas storage well sprang a nasty leak.

Clouds of gas have billowed from the faulty well, which lacked a subsurface shutoff valve, for three and a half months. After inhaling nonstop plumes of methane, benzene, and other toxic chemicals, local residents began to suffer nausea, vomiting, headaches, and nosebleeds. The disaster has also smacked local businesses hard and eroded real estate values.

Erin Brockovich, the activist and legal researcher made famous by an Academy-award winning film depicting her against-all-odds victory against another California utility, lives only 30 miles away. Now working with a law firm to help the locals file claims, she calls the Aliso Canyon leak a "BP oil spill, just on land" — because of its magnitude, duration, and climate impact.

And that's why this incident imperils more than the people who live there and the bottom line of Southern California Gas Co., the local utility that ran the well.

Just as the Gulf Coast disaster invigorated opposition to offshore oil drilling, the Porter Ranch debacle may sap the natural gas industry's



Natural gas will soon become the nation's top power source, eclipsing coal. Photo courtesy Earthworks / Flickr

popularity. Above all, it's exposing the fuel's persistent reputation as "clean" and climate-friendly as a complete lie.

Environmentalists, backed by ample research, have struggled to debunk that narrative for years.

Although burning natural gas releases less carbon dioxide than coal or diesel, extracting and distributing it releases methane into the atmosphere. And so do storage accidents like this one.

And methane is between 86 and 105 times as powerful as CO₂ at disrupting the climate over a 20-year period. The now common practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to obtain natural gas also pollutes waterways and squanders water — a big problem for parched California.

Environmental Defense Fund is tracking the climate damage wrought by the broken well, which is located in a vacant oil field about a

mile and a half underground. The group calculates that the roughly 100,000 metric tons of natural gas that escaped is the equivalent of burning nearly 900 million gallons of gasoline.

This big climate footprint is particularly troubling because thanks to record production levels, natural gas will soon become the nation's top power source, eclipsing coal. Natural gas supplies have grown so fast that U.S. prices are crashing due to oversupply. The industry wants to fix this imbalance through exports.

Shipping the stuff overseas requires condensing natural gas into liquid form at very high heat, using expensive infrastructure. More production will trigger more pollution and potential leaks.

Exporting liquefied natural gas, or LNG, also depends on persuading foreigners to buy it. But where are the customers?

Selling to Europe means competing with Russian

producers. And the Russians stand ready to block this competition by slashing their own prices. At the same time, liquefied natural gas prices in Asia have fallen. Experts say they could plunge further as supplies outweigh demand.

In other words, the natural gas business has turned into a money-losing venture at the same time that the fossil fuel's real costs to people and the planet are becoming clearer.

Capping the failed well won't stop all the physical, emotional, and financial distress experienced by Laura Gideon and thousands of other Southern Californians. As she told the AP: "We're in mourning now."

The natural gas industry probably is too. It's a fracking mess.

Columnist Emily Schwartz Greco is the managing editor of *OtherWords*, a non-profit national editorial service run by the Institute for Policy Studies. OtherWords.org. ★

Taxpayers Aren't Propping up Big Pharma



By Sally C. Pipes

Like your iPhone? Federal officials designed it. Couldn't live without the Internet? Thank Uncle Sam he invented it. Sick and need a new medicine? Don't worry—the government is here to help.

This fantastical line of thinking—that because the government funded basic, early-stage research, it can claim credit for a final product decades later—underpins the latest calls for more federal control of drug prices. Such calls are grossly ill-informed and demonstrate a deep misunderstanding of the drug development process.

And if lawmakers listen to them, they could prove deadly.

With rare exceptions, the NIH doesn't create new medicines, nor does the government cut checks to pharmaceutical companies. Less than 10 percent of all new drugs—and less than 20 percent of the most innovative "priority-review" drugs—are patented by public-sector developers.

Instead, the NIH funds and conducts important but extremely early stage scientific research that may prove useful—or may not. For instance, NIH researchers might seek to discover the structure of a

protein found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. They're not looking to create a medicine—just to better understand the possible cause of a disease.

Sometimes, the NIH's research points the way to potential avenues of treatment.

Biopharmaceutical firms, large and small alike, then run with the NIH's findings to research possible new medicines.

Small biotech startups are particularly good at this sort of technical work. But they often lack the financial wherewithal to conduct giant clinical trials and navigate the tremendously expensive, distressingly complex and lengthy process that leads to final FDA approval. Large biopharmaceutical companies can provide that kind of support, which is why the biggest pharmaceutical companies constantly purchase start-ups.

But even this later-stage research and testing is far from a fait accompli. Many pending drugs are removed from development or clinical trials when they don't meet expectations.

Eli Lilly recently removed evacetrapid, a drug once considered extremely promising for treating cardiovascular disease, from late clinical trials. These failures represent hundreds of millions of dollars in lost investment.

Despite such setbacks, the pharmaceutical development system is working. In recent years, U.S. firms have produced over half of the world's new prescription drugs.

Drug development is

a symbiotic chain, with each link—the National Institutes of Health, the smaller biotech firms, and the large biopharmaceutical companies—supporting each other.

Federal interference in drug pricing, such as through the price caps and controls, would break this chain. Indeed, a National Bureau of Economic Research study concludes that reducing drug prices by 40 to 50 percent will cause new early stage R&D projects to decline by 30 to 60 percent.

If biopharmaceutical companies can't earn a return on their investments, they won't invest in the research or clinical trials that yield new drugs. That means fewer new treatments.

The NIH doesn't focus on drug development—and doesn't have the infrastructure or know-how to develop actual medicines. Less investment would mean fewer new treatments.

If lawmakers opt for short-term savings via price controls, America will lose its preeminence in biopharmaceutical research, and patients will lose out on dozens of new medicines that are never created and that provide hope and cures for diseases for patients now and in the future. That's one disaster the government would be able to take credit for.

Sally C. Pipes is the President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book, "The Way Out of Obamacare," was published by Encounter Books, December 2015. ★

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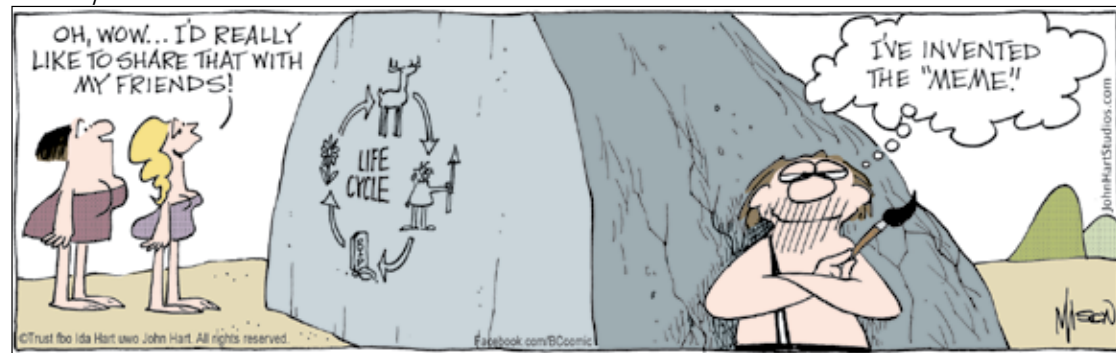
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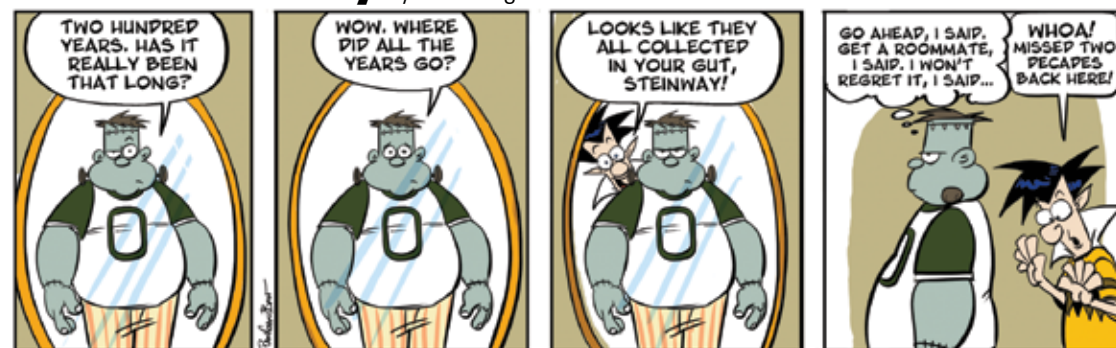
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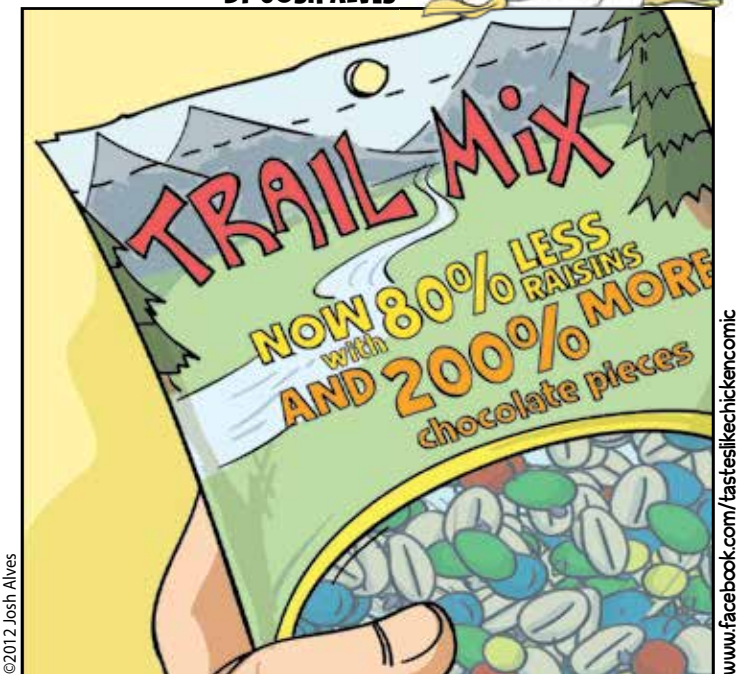
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END OF THE BENCH BY GERRY SCHOU

The Road Least Traveled

So, what would you like to talk about? The NBA All-Star three-ring circus? Golf for the privileged at one of the most beautiful spots on Earth? The festering story of Peyton Manning's past transgressions? Fan Fest? College hoops?

Nah! Who cares about any of that?

The NBA held its annual "look-at-me, look-at-me" party last weekend. It was more of the usual, though there were some redeeming features this year.

The Skills Challenge was a bore, but Golden State's Splash Brothers did put on a hoped-for show in the Three-Point Shooting contest. This time, Klay Thompson edged out his "brother" Steph Curry by sinking his last six shots in the finals. Minnesota's Zach LeVine and Orlando's Aaron Gordon revived the faltering excitement surrounding the Slam-Dunk Contest with their incredible mid-air acrobatics. LeVine was voted the winner after extra rounds were needed to determine the outcome; Gordon was robbed. The All-Star Game itself became quickly unwatchable as it turned into a parade of uncontested dunks and three-pointers (139 in all), and another scoring record in the West's 196-173 win. Goodbye, Kobe.

That crafty old tax-dodger Phil Mickelson came up just short at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am to some 40-year-old guy nobody knows, Vaughn Taylor. Good for him. Not so good for Manning, whose suspect behavior back in his collegiate days at Tennessee has come to the fore again. That's a wait-and-see. So is college hoops; it's not March quite yet.

This is not the time to dwell upon such mundane topics, but rather a time to take a short walk back down the road least traveled --- time for the fifth annual review of another season at the End of the Bench for the few, the proud, the lonely that have nothing better to do.

The season began with a suggestion that the words "adversity" and "miracle" should be ones reserved for real life, not sports. Even though the temptation was there to apply those terms to the 49ers'

state of affairs, we chose, instead, to observe that the winds of change really blow. When the winds blow through, they clear the air setting the stage for a fresh new story --- and what a story that turned out to be! Coach Jim Tomsula and his staff's time at the Cuckoo's Nest was little more than a fly-by, while the Men from U.N.C.L.E. held themselves accountable in absentia.

When we learned that a pricey statue of Piglet to grace the entrance of the Sacramento Kings' new Golden 1 Center it seemed to make sense, because nothing says Sacramento like a pig with its nose in the air. While contemplating its worth we came to understand that "art is confusion organized through the complicated mind of the floundering artist, confounding us all." In sports lingo: It is what it is.

Again, football reigned as No. 1, because it adheres to its winning formula: the three Bs --- beer, ball and babes. The NCAA and the NBA have obviously caught on, leading to the deduction that men are easily-manipulated fools.

We discussed one of the great discoveries of our youth --- baseball on the radio --- when Lon Simmons told us goodbye as he left for the grand broadcast booth in the sky. We acknowledged that, despite some minor flaws, we've got it really good with our current Giants broadcast team. We witnessed the emergence of Jordan Spieth on the golf scene --- the land of pink and purple shirts, plaid and orange pants, visors and white belts, sundresses and pimento sandwiches, magnolias and cigars. The anti-Tiger Woods showed it is possible to win with grace and humility.

We found it baffling that with all of the concussion talk surrounding sports that so many still embrace boxing (and the like), where the ultimate goal is to inflict bruises upon the brain of the opponent until he collapses, unconscious. And why, when a football player makes a great play, do his teammates and coaches pound him on the helmet many times over to celebrate?

We learned --- not to ask your better half whether you are a champ or a chump, because, at best, the answer

would be "a little of both;" that all you need to get into a front-row seat at a Warriors game is to be independently wealthy or a star of some kind; that when basketball announcers say, "That's a good no-call," they mean, "There should have been a call there;" to let your kid decide for himself if that stinking, little "participation trophy" holds any value; that Kurt Warner, apparently, is not a very good teacher; that competitive eating is not a sport; that an "underrated" player is a guy that's not as good as they thought he would be when he was drafted; that the "next man up" is not good enough; and that losing your cool is never cool.

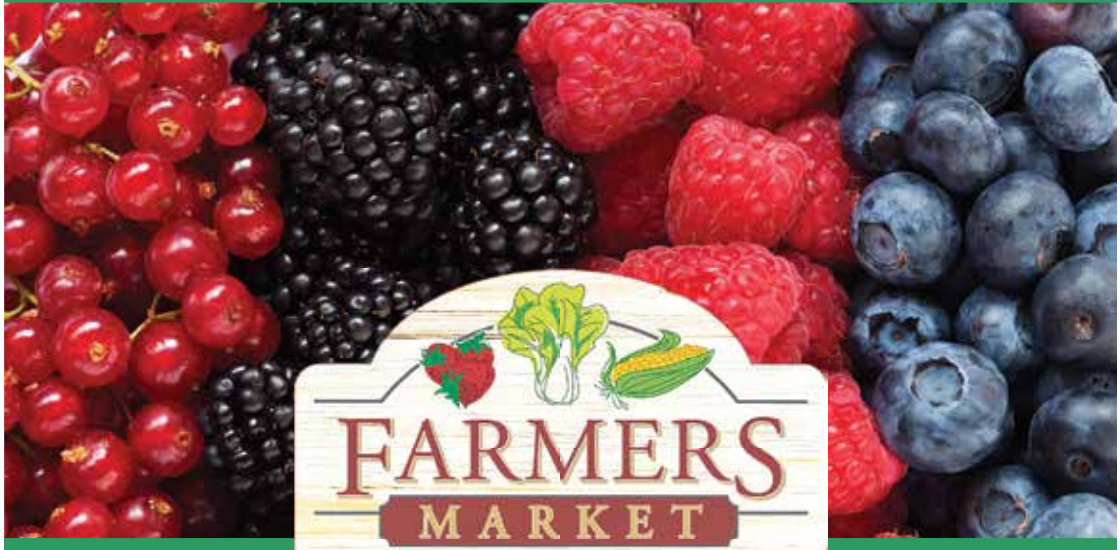
We were reminded after the terrorist attacks in Paris that we are all under the same umbrella and we must ponder our sports world with much perspective, and we all must persevere and sustain a resolve to do and be better in our daily lives. The well-to-do world of professional sports needs to give us more people like Manute Bol, who became a beacon of hope for peace in his homeland of Sudan. During the performance of our "Anthem," take to heart the phrase "crown our good with brotherhood."

Sadly, this was the year that it was all over for Yogi Berra; but it really ain't over, because his many quips will live on. If he was still alive today he would likely state, "I never said most of those things I might've said, but I might've said them," and he might warn us that "The future ain't what it used to be."

On a much lighter note, we found that Tug McGraw and the World Champion New York Mets of 1969 have "Gotta Believe" that their success stems from an inconspicuous night on the hardwood of Memorial Center Gym in Vallejo.

There were so many more fractured fairy tales that emanated from this space for the amusement of the EOB bunch; so keep up, or join us, as we continue along the road least traveled. Nobody else does this, nor would they ever consider it. There is no rock-bottom to the depths to which we are capable of sinking. There is always room for more --- way down at the End of the Bench. ★

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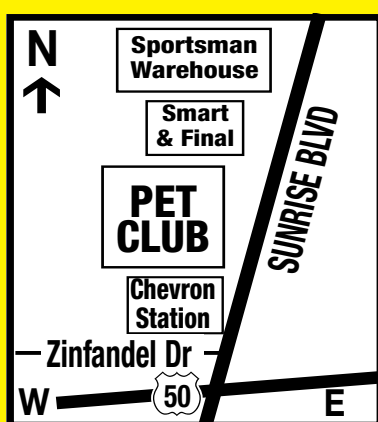
Look for Advertised Sale Items Everyweek at
www.petclubstores.com

PET CLUB is Excited to Offer: Blue Buffalo, California Natural, Chicken Soup, Earth Born, Evo, Innova, Diamond Naturals, Pinnacle, Taste of the Wild, & Royal Canin Pet Foods

PET CLUB

FOOD AND SUPPLIES

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
 Super Discount Prices* Hot Specials & Coupons
*Short term promotions from vendors
(No Membership Fees)



2344 Sunrise Blvd. Rancho Cordova, CA
916-635-5008

We Only Accept ATM, Cash, & Checks M-F 9-8, SAT 9-7, SUN 10-7 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

COUPON

FREE 2 CANS OF CAT FOOD
 5.5 Oz Tin All Varieties
 Friskies (Selected Indoor Included) & 9 Lives

OR

1 CAN DOG FOOD
 13 - 13.2 Oz Tin All Varieties
 Pedigree & Alpo

With Any Purchase of Pet, Fish Food, or Supply Limit 1 PLU 321
 Limit: 1 Coupon Per Family CT
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

COUPON

\$7.50 OFF

ANY PURCHASE OF PET OR FISH SUPPLY
(Excluding Pet Food or Litter)
 Cannot be used in conjunction with advertised sale items or similar percentage or dollar off coupons. Limit 1. PLU 324
 Limit: 1 Coupon Per Family CT
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

BLUE BUFFALO DRY DOG FOOD

- Chicken (Reg & Lrg Breed)
- Fish & Sweet Potato (Reg & Lrg Breed)
- Puppy (Reg & Lrg Breed)
- Senior (Reg & Lrg Breed)
- Lamb & Rice
- Healthy Weight

AS MARKED \$5 OFF
 Our Regular Low Prices!

30 Lb Bag
 Limit 2 bags
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

NATURAL BALANCE ULTRA-PREMIUM DRY DOG FOOD

- Potato & Duck, 26 Lb
- Reduced Calorie, 28 Lb
- Regular, 30 Lb

SUPER BUY!

\$5 OFF Our Super Low Prices

Limit 2 Bags Per Family
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

WELLNESS DRY DOG FOOD

30 Lb Bag

- Chicken •Lamb
- Healthy Weight 26 Lb **\$49.99**
- White Fish •Senior **\$54.99**

•Large Breed Adult 30 Lb
 3 FREE Wellness can dog food 12.5 oz with each purchase

Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

PURINA KIT N' KABOODLE DRY CAT FOOD

16 Lb Bag

\$9.49

Limit 2 Bags Per Family
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD

5.5 Oz All Varieties

Limit 2 Cases Per Family

20/\$9.00

Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

FUSSIE CAT PREMIUM CANNED CAT FOOD

Black label 2.8 Oz
 (Gold Label 2.8 Oz. 20/\$14.00)

Limit 2 Cases Per Family

20/\$13.00

Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

TIDY CATS SCOOP SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER

20 Lb Jug

- Regular
- Multiple Cat Formula

Limit 2 Jugs Per Family

\$6.99

Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

HI-COUNTRY WILD BIRD SEED

20 Lb Bag
 (Kaytee, 20 Lbs - \$8.99)
 (Audubon Friends, 20 Lbs - \$4.99)

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$4.99

Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

MERRICK'S GOURMET CANNED DOG FOOD

13.2 Oz All Varieties Limit 2 Cases

On Sale

WHISKAS DRY CAT FOOD

With Savory Nuggets
 15 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$9.99

SWHEAT SCOOP NATURAL WHEAT LITTER
 (14 Lb Bag - Original \$10.99 Multi Cat \$11.99)

36 Lb Bag
 Limit 2 Bags Original **\$25.99** Multi-Cat **\$26.99**

SCIENCE DIET SMALL BITES DRY DOG FOOD

- Adult •Light •Mature

17.5 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$22.99

EVERCLEAN PREMIUM CAT LITTER

- Extreme Clump •ES Unscented
- Unscented Ever Fresh 25 Lb. Box Limit 2 Boxes

\$10.99

PESTELL CLUMPING CAT LITTER

40 Lb. Bag
 Limit 2 Bags

\$8.49

FRESH STEP CAT LITTER

21 Lb Bag (14 Lb Bag - \$4.19)
 Limit 2 Bags

\$5.99

PREMIUM CHOICE "EXTRA" CLUMPING CAT LITTER

50 Lb. Bag
 Limit 2 Bags

\$11.99

NUTRO MAX MAX CAT DRY CAT FOOD

- Adult •Indoor Chicken •Salmon

16 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$17.99

KAL KAN CESAR SELECT DINNERS DOG FOOD

All Varieties
 3.5 Oz Limit 2 Cases

69¢

ZIGNATURE LIMITED INGREDIENT FORMULA DRY DOG FOOD

- Turkey •Lamb •Duck •White Fish
- Trout/Salmon •Zssential

13.5 lb **\$3.00 OFF** 27 lb **\$5.00 OFF**
 OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

CORE NATURAL DRY CAT FOOD

- 3 FREE Core Cat Cans 5.5 Oz With each purchase
- Original •Indoor •Turkey
- Grain Free 12 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$37.99

CASUAL PET BEDDING PRODUCTS

- Loungers •Orthopedic Beds •Cat Beds **20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES**

ALL VARIETIES EXCEPT:

ORTHOPEDIC MAT 30"x 40" - **\$23.99** PILLOW BED (Small) - **\$18.99**
 PILLOW BED (Large) - **\$23.99**

TRUE CHEWS PREMIUM JERKY CUTS \$7.99

All Varieties 12 oz Pkg
 100% Natural Dog Treats

PETKIN PET WIPES 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

- Doggy •Eye •Kitty
- Ear •Itch Stop •Tooth

All Varieties

KONG PRODUCTS 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

- Classic •Dental •Air Dog
- Chews •Wubba •Stuffin
- Treats •Soft Toys All Varieties

NINA OTTOSSON 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

Fun Interactive Games & Dog Treat Maze

HAGEN FLUVAL FILTER SALE

MODEL.....TANK.....	PET CLUB SALE	MODEL.....TANK.....	PET CLUB SALE
106... 25 GAL.....	\$84.99	306... 70 GAL....	\$129.99
206... 40 GAL.....	\$99.99	406... 100 GAL...	\$174.99

TETRA BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit

Just add Heater For Tropical Fish **\$39.99** Limit 1 Per Family

KENT MARINE WATER SUPPLEMENTS 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

KORDON CORAL SEA 50 GAL SALT MIX WITH AMQUEL \$11.99

BONUS COUPON

JONNY CAT PREMIUM CAT LITTER

10 Lb Bag
 Limit 2 Bags With Coupon
 Limit One Coupon Per Family
 Price Valid Only With Coupon
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

\$15.99

CT PLU 365

BONUS COUPON

WHISKAS ALL NATURAL TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS

- All Varieties - 2.4 Oz

Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon
 Limit One Coupon Per Family
 Price Valid Only With Coupon
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

\$12.99

CT PLU 423

BONUS COUPON

FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD

3 Oz - All Varieties except Elegant Medley
 Limit 1 case with coupon
 Limit One Coupon Per Family
 Price Valid Only With Coupon
 Effective 2/17/16 - 2/23/16

53¢

CT PLU 361