

Opinion —

So,  
Anyway...

Just Have a Think



By Greg Wells, editor

The opinions of writers on this page are not necessarily those of the newspaper, or management. We encourage our readers to share their views for publication.

By Greg Wells  
CCN-Editor

So I'll start off with a disclaimer: that title is not my own. A fellow I think of as an essayist, Dave Borlace, is the actual owner of that title, and it is a rather good title, I think. It is, of course, a decidedly British way of saying, "why don't we use our heads?"

But it is a linguistic approach that often escapes me, as I tend toward the more, let's say, direct, though bombastic might be more accurate. My snide asides rarely leave any but the dull-est unaware that someone has been insulted.

He, however, is much more pleasant about the whole thing while explaining that perpetual motion machines do not exist and cannot, while helping people understand the announcements made in new energy technology and renewable energies, as well as how more efficient electrical grids can be built in the future.

Borlace's subject is often climate reports. And no, he's not doing the chicken-little dance, saying, "the sky is falling," constantly. He's just relaying the latest data reports and putting them in context.

To generalize his more recent report, yes, the Pacific is hotter.

The report, like the data it comes from, isn't exactly happy, but it isn't telling you, "rain or drought is coming here or there."

Why isn't he telling us? Is it because the government or corporations don't want us to know?

That's not it,

Click-Bait Junkies!

Though I would bet dollars to donuts that some of the studies he researched for his latest piece containing such prognostications in their conclusions, he passed over them. And no, it isn't because he is funded by this or that corporation or represents some deep-state point of view.

He pointed out in his own conclusion that the data shows and has been trending towards this for some time: we've hit a period never before seen in our brief human history. Our models are built to predict what will come based on data patterns we have accumulated since before human beings were able to write. But now there are no sure predictions to be made.

Through the study of ice rings, tree rings, and various other scientific data over the last century, a mountain of data about the climate of this planet for eons has been compiled, cross-referenced, and verified.

So, to borrow Borlace's title again, "Just Have a Think."

We understand that there is an ocean of atmosphere above us, and it moves based on the turning of the planet and the heat coming from the sun and collected on this surface and in the oceans. There are oceans of water that circulate between the continents driven by the movements of hot and cold water, salty and freshwater, which are whipped by the prevailing winds of the atmosphere above them. All of it works in an intricate dance to create the weather that is modified by the mountains and planes

on the continents it encounters.

Around the 1400s, people decided maybe the rains didn't just happen. Rain, as a regular thing, wasn't a divine reward or punishment and didn't require human sacrifice.

By the 1700s and 1800s, civilizations had started writing down lots of weather information at the state level, though not sharing it. Through the 1900s, we developed highly technical instruments to perfect our collecting, encourage sharing, and started understanding it all. We collated all that previous data, with computers, and as the 2000s dawned, we started improving computer models that could run all that data back through time and forward.

We reached the point in human history where we could understand and predict the weather, planet-wide, across our planet's history and into the future.

And now we broke it.

So anyway, saying something about no 'dinner' for us before we get sent to 'bed' may just be a little too prophetic sometime in the not-too-distant future?

...Wow, that went dark, didn't it?

Is this the end of the world as we know it? No, probably not. But, even though; as the man sang, we didn't start the fire, we are going to have to deal with the smoke.

Maybe keeping that in mind is what we ought to be doing, as we're...

"Skating Away, Skating away... On the thin ice of a new day."

The Feeling of a State Championship Win

By Erica Branham  
CCN—Staff

Softball has always been a huge part of my life. It's more than just a game to me; it's something that has helped shape me into the person I am today. The sport itself has taught me so much over the years, like the importance of sportsmanship, confidence, leadership, teamwork, dedication, and perseverance. These components aren't just things I utilize on the field, but also in everyday life. It's a game that I'm truly passionate about. I'm so thankful for this sport and the career I have had so far.

I first picked up that bright yellow ball when I was 5 years old, and soon after that, I joined a local 6U travel ball team. I had absolutely no idea how much this sport would impact my life. All I knew at the time was that I just wanted to try something new and have fun. Right now, I'm playing high school softball with the same group of girls I grew up playing travel ball with, plus a few other girls who have moved here throughout our years in high school. We're more than just teammates;

we're family. We play together, we fight for one another, and we encourage each other. This year, we accomplished something we have dreamed about ever since we first started this journey.

On April 26, the Cumberland County Lady Panther Softball Team won the Class A State Tournament. Honestly, this was one of the most rewarding and monumental days of my entire life. Now, for some who are reading this, I'm sure you feel no emotion toward what I'm talking about, and rightfully so. As country music star Megan Moroney once said, "We made the memories, we've got the pictures, but you had to be there." These lyrics speak volumes, especially in this case. For the Lady Panthers, coaches, and fans that were there, winning the championship was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime feeling.

April 26 was definitely an important day for me, especially as a pitcher. I began pitching when I was 9 years old. I have put in a lot of work to get to where I am today. I've pitched a lot of games in my lifetime so far, but the

game in the Class A semi-finals against Livingston Central, a team ranked 12th in the state, was probably one of the hardest games I have ever pitched in my life. Mentally, I was focused and determined. I knew that I had to stay calm, trust in my mechanics and teammates, and try my best, and I did just that. The final score was 1-0. That was a key moment in my softball career. As a pitcher, I'm very hard on myself, but this was an occasion where I was extremely pleased with my performance; I was so proud of myself.

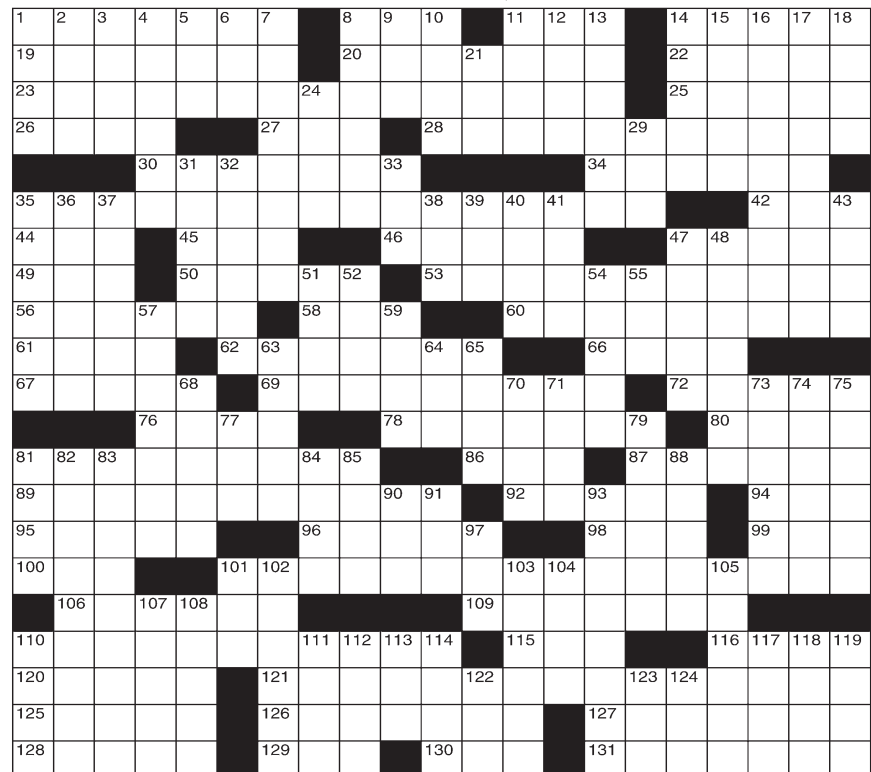
I'm sure I can speak for the entire Lady Panther softball team and coaching staff when I say winning the Class A State was a moment we will never forget. We worked hard, we trusted one another, and we ended up accomplishing a goal we had set since day one of this season. Our bond on and off the field is special, and I'm thankful I have the opportunity to play with such a talented group of girls. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish in the post-season. As our coaches often say, "We aren't done yet!" I hope we can continue to make history.

5/21/26

Super Crossword

POOL PLAY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Clipboard's larger relative
- 8 Nintendo game system
- 11 Funny Foxx
- 14 Law of motion topic
- 20 Behind bars
- 22 Fabric design
- 23 Execute the opening pool shot perfectly?
- 25 Iowa senator Joni
- 26 Mid-voyage
- 27 Inquire
- 28 Unable to find your pool stick?
- 30 Actor Caine
- 34 1950s-'60s Egyptian president
- 35 Puts spin on a pool ball with no further tricks?
- 42 Animal throat
- 44 Chicken —
- 45 River of Bern
- 46 "Cops" sound
- 47 Office scribe
- 49 Road furrow
- 50 Basie's music
- 53 Pool triangle packed in a suitcase?
- 56 Ultimatum end
- 58 Assist
- 60 Anticipates a treat, maybe
- 61 Stridex target
- 62 Some schlumpy physiques
- 66 Bits of land in the ocean, in French
- 67 Label anew
- 69 Toddler who's a whiz at pool?
- 72 Really heavy herbivore
- 76 Lackluster
- 78 Street in Manhattan's Alphabet City
- 80 Scandinavian thunder god
- 81 Having a trio of components
- 86 Alex and — (jewelry brand)
- 87 "Quickly" or "slowly," e.g.
- 89 Perimeter of a pool table that people have plopped down on?
- 92 Habituate (to)
- 94 Org. for cavity fillers
- 95 In spite of the fact that, in brief
- 96 Itty-bitty
- 98 Scoot's refusal
- 99 Ocaxek of the Cars
- 100 Put a tear in
- 101 Resume play after accidentally sinking the white pool ball?
- 106 "Othello" victim
- 109 Pool variety with 22 balls
- 110 Observe a hole in a pool table?
- 115 La mer filler
- 116 Love god
- 120 Jetson boy
- 121 Last shot of a pool game?
- 125 Be at a slant
- 126 Mass in the throat
- 127 Admiral Nelson
- 128 Liv of "Super"
- 129 Riddle-me —
- 130 Facial locale
- 131 Frightful flies
- DOWN**
- 1 Peru's largest city
- 2 Santa — (some winds)
- 3 Certain small pooch
- 4 Reveries
- 5 Zeta follower
- 6 [not my typo]
- 7 Desert region in Africa
- 8 Devirtualize
- 9 Vacation stop
- 10 Long-range nuke carrier
- 11 Gets mature
- 12 Grasslands
- 13 Last name of singer Adele
- 14 Many PC pics
- 15 Alcove-hiding tapestry
- 16 Mixture baked in pies
- 17 Aetna offering
- 18 Kin of -ess
- 21 Grande of pop, for short
- 24 "Ozark" actor Morales
- 29 "Uh-uh"
- 31 "No bid"
- 32 Attacked as a cat might
- 35 Hoopla
- 36 Info provider
- 37 Breadth
- 38 Not a one
- 39 "Despicable Me" antihero
- 40 Thigh locales
- 41 Actress Swenson
- 43 Pad that pans
- 47 Cut, as ties
- 48 Reality shows, to some people
- 51 Not a one
- 52 Singer Barry
- 54 Similar
- 55 Baseballer Hodges
- 57 Guides, biblical-style
- 59 "A little dab'll —"
- 63 Mahmoud of Palestine
- 64 "seaQuest —" (sci-fi series)
- 65 Old Big Apple stadium
- 70 Decade — Roman
- 71 Lay waste to
- 73 "— Huckabees" (2004 film)
- 74 Swedish, say
- 75 Jerry of stage and screen
- 77 "The Simpsons" character once voiced by Hank Azaria
- 79 Ex-president Obama
- 81 Old autocrat
- 82 In a spiral-shaped way
- 83 1960s World War II series, with "The"
- 84 Ostrich kin
- 85 Arena level
- 88 John of plows
- 90 Ottawa loc.
- 91 Abbr. on a bad check
- 93 Not looked for
- 97 Cen. divisions
- 101 Tiny drink
- 102 Over the line
- 103 Central New York lake
- 104 Complain
- 105 Turkey's tallest peak
- 107 Breadth
- 108 More bashful
- 110 Ohio-to-Utah direction
- 111 Witty with fungi
- 112 Large joint
- 113 Berlin article
- 114 General — chicken
- 117 Witty sayings
- 118 Steinbeck migrant
- 119 Old Olds cars
- 122 Large joint
- 123 Call for help
- 124 Uno tripled



Answers on Page 8

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