



The Latest Dirt...

You won't have a pain from the neck up when you work with us from the ground down!

Dig Inside for...

Ben escapes death 2

Don't try this at home.

Crossword fun 3

Hint: Read every word.

Meet Nick 4

The guy who rode bulls for fun!

Laugh a little 5

Thanks Ross for the laughs.

It's pond time 6

Yes, calling us now leaves you free to enjoy the ducks on the pond later.

You're back 7

And it's so good to see you again.

Which state am I? 7

Did you pay attention in fifth grade?

Photo contest 8

Curtis, Marla, and Mary make up the team that records daily events, photographs C&E crews, shares history, and makes sure it's all error free.

We at C&E Trenching offers this monthly publication free of charge to our premier customers. We hope you enjoy reading about the real moments that molded the lives of our customers and crew. If you would rather not receive the exclusive offers we give to our premier customers, send an email to news@candetrenching.com and we will stop sending you our newsletter.

August 2017

Beards, Bacon & Fidget Spinners

Since May, our family has visited eight different states over a couple different trips and I noticed a few things popping up with regularity in all the states we were in. Beards are not a new thing, but over the last few years they seem to have become bigger, bushier and more prolific. In the culture I grew up in, these beards were fairly common. In fact, us kids had a measuring system based on buttons on a dress shirt. A particularly nice specimen might be a "5-button beard" which is one that reached down to the 5th button from the top of a dress shirt. While I saw these growing up at church, they weren't at a lot of other places unless you were hanging out with a biker gang or traveling through the airport and happened across a group of Orthodox Jews. Lately though, standing out via a beard, even a big bushy "5 button" one, isn't as easy as it once was.

I also recently noticed that bacon was leaving the breakfast plate and jumping into the most unusual places. Thereby causing much grief among the previously mentioned Orthodox Jews, I am sure. It is no longer strictly a side dish as in, "Would you like bacon or sausage with your eggs?" Bacon now has a starring role all of its own and, in my humble opinion, showing up where it has absolutely no right to be at all. I will admit, we did order it lately for an appetizer, and it was quite good covered in melted brown sugar with a hint of cayenne pepper. However, I draw the line at bacon toothpaste or bacon on my maple glazed donuts. I could go on about bacon in cupcakes and milkshakes but I won't. Let's just say I look forward to the day that bacon is back in its rightful place and not wrapped around everything you can possibly imagine, or even worn, as in the case of bacon deodorant.

Finally, about a week before we left on our first trip, my son was introduced to a gadget that I was blissfully unaware of. He called it a fidget spinner and wanted one so bad! Marla and I were ignorant of the vast benefits of this device. I had never seen the device before but they were now everywhere and all the kids his age and younger had them, rich, poor and in between. Many of his friends (ALL of his friends, according to him) had them, they were sold at every gas station and in the airport. It was unbelievable. I was recently at a game store in downtown Spokane and the clerk there said that when the fad first hit they sold 1,000 of them for \$12 each in under a week. The same unit was now going for \$6, showing you just how quick the Chinese can outproduce our fads. At any rate, we gave in and let our son join the craziness, thinking of our upcoming road trip and how anything that would save some fidgets over four days of driving was well worth him



Here we are on a quick hike working out some of the fidgets. Behind us you can almost see some cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park.

Continued on page 3

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Ben Casper Escapes Death, AGAIN!!

The other day my phone rang and it was Ben Casper. Yes, adrenaline junkie, crazy stunt pulling prankster Ben Casper that every farmer and Emergency Medical Technician north of Pasco knows by name or scar. Ben pulled out his book "Recovering Idiot" and spent the next hour telling me about his many near death experiences throughout his lifetime. Truthfully, I was quite fascinated that this guy is still numbered among the living after enduring catastrophe after catastrophe beginning with his near drowning in the family swimming pond at age four.

Again at age 10 death seemed imminent but was once again escaped. After driving a slow tractor for six miles, Ben determined that he could take the 90-degree turn at full speed. He tells us, "As I went into the turn, I realized that I had neglected to factor in a change in road conditions. If I had continued on the pavement I was turning off of, it would have allowed me to turn at high speed and still stick to the desired route without much trouble. However, the gravel road that I was turning onto became much like a skating rink, even though it was a hot summer day." When the tractor hit gravel, it slid toward the outside of the turn like an astronaut's centrifuge, skidding off the road and into the deep barrow pit as I frantically turned the steering wheel righter and righter. I had my hands full. I couldn't slow down or stop because I was 110% occupied with the steering wheel and couldn't grab the clutch or gas handles. There were no foot controls for the gas and clutch on this baby! Having no seat belt left me hanging on for dear life by clutching the steering wheel and trying to steer at the same time while bouncing through the off-road terrain."



Ben & Michele Casper share a bit of life in the Basin.

A three inch by eight foot square, solid metal tool bar was hooked on the back of the tractor, sticking ten feet across and poking out two feet on each side of the speeding green machine. Krrack!! "As Johnny Popper and I slid into the barrow pit at full speed, I heard the outstretched tool bar strike and snap off the stop sign post as it passed my

nine o'clock position. Even though the stop sign was for traffic coming the other way, for the first time in my young life, I really wanted to obey it. Johnny didn't. I had the front wheels cranked to the right as far as they would go and yet the tractor wouldn't turn back up on the road. The wheels were sliding, unable to turn the tractor as the momentum, the slope we were on, and the relatively slick dirt and gravel kept the tractor off the road. Finally, the tires grabbed and we shot back up on the desired surface. My speed was still maxed out, however, and before I could take action to get things settled down, we shot across the road and ended up in the exact same configuration and motion. The only difference was we were now on the other side of the road in the opposite gutter and trying to turn left instead of right. Krrack!! Up until that moment there had been a 'SLOW, CURVES AHEAD' sign standing erect on the opposing side of the road from the stop sign location. This was no longer the case. In less than 10 seconds, I had taken out two signs and installed some new ruts in the off-road gutters. Finally, I was able to reach up and pull the clutch back, hit the 2 foot-pedal brakes and stop my ride. I needed a break. I deserved a rest. I had single-handedly stopped a renegade John Deere. I had adrenaline pumping and was totally aware that I had just avoided a major problem, namely my death. I still had a minor problem. Two county warning signs were toast and my dad was going to show up at any moment."

Ben continues in his book recounting the amazing miracle of getting two comatose signs in the upright position at the exact moment his dad rounded the corner. At which time his dad witnessed the never before seen event of two perfectly good county warning signs fall to their death. Ben explained the situation, putting his driving skills in the best light possible, but his dad didn't buy it. The rest of the day Ben listened to tractor-driving safety tips.

Those important safety remarks must have fallen on deaf ears, because at the age of 30 Ben once again was knocking on death's door before flying to escape. After a business meeting, Claude, a business partner of Ben's, took Ben to the La Grande airport where Ben was planning to fly his plane home. As Ben recounts, "The wind was howling in 40-50 mph gusts. When I got out of his Blazer, he said, 'Now make sure that you take off against the wind.' Since there was no control tower, Claude must have thought I needed someone to tell me in which direction my nose should be pointed and on which runway to take off. It struck me as unnecessary advice and borderline condescension. Since it bugged me a little I said, 'Claude, don't tell me what to do. I know which way to take off so you don't need to tell me.' For heaven's sake. I'd only wrecked one plane up to that point. Well, Claude repeated his instructions. I felt like I was getting a lecture I didn't



Next time you are driving by Pasco High on Court Street, check out their new sidewalks! Our thanks to the crew in this photo for making it happen.

Continued on page 5

Fads....Continued from page 1

spending his money on. Unfortunately, I am here to report that we didn't miss out on a single fidget by this less than amazing device. It just gave the three of them (yes, even our 22-month-old thinks she needs a turn) one more thing to argue about. But a road trip without some kids arguing would just be plain boring anyway.

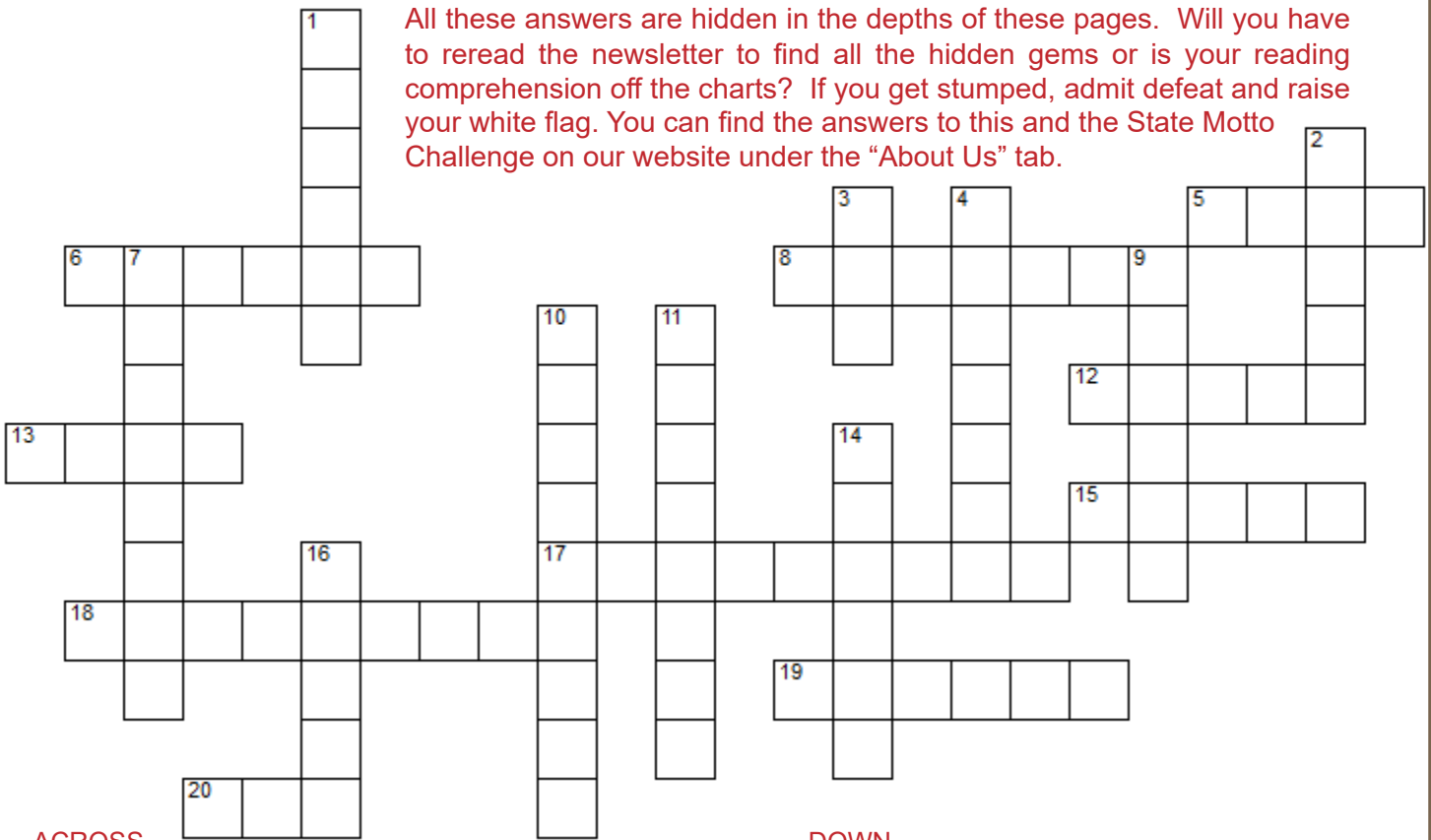
As I thought about all of the above in the bigger picture of what this means for America and the war on terror, I think we are going to be okay. While there is no doubt the beards help the potential terrorists blend in, all the bacon that is wafting through the air has to cause problems for the devoted. Should the bacon fail to ward them off, we can always turn loose our kids with their fidget spinners. That should confuse them if nothing else does. In fact, maybe in light of terrorism, there is a purpose for bacon scented deodorant!



All smiles on this part of the trip high in the Colorado Rockies on an ATV. Above is just one small example of the amazing views we saw at Mesa Verde National Park.

Are you smarter than an average Latest Dirt reader?

All these answers are hidden in the depths of these pages. Will you have to reread the newsletter to find all the hidden gems or is your reading comprehension off the charts? If you get stumped, admit defeat and raise your white flag. You can find the answers to this and the State Motto Challenge on our website under the "About Us" tab.



ACROSS

- 5 The groom wanted to play
- 6 Latest Dirt went here
- 8 At the end of the runway
- 12 Nick wanted to be a Rodeo _____
- 13 He submitted jokes
- 15 Call now about
- 17 We've been at your _____ recently
- 18 The territory Ben and his airship were entering
- 19 17th word in our tag line
- 20 Michele Casper's husband

DOWN

- 1 Ben's airplane
- 2 Anchor team member who helped C&E
- 3 C&E wants _____ to join our team
- 4 Fad gadget: fidget _____
- 7 An old-fashioned thing
- 9 Nick's biggest fish
- 10 Washington's motto
- 11 C&E had the water flowing as _____
- 14 This guy drove a Cat
- 16 Type of toothpaste

Meet Nick

The moment Nick Burt begins to talk, you're immediately taken back to his ten years of bull riding. Nick's rodeo accent just makes you want to yell "Yee Haw" and settle in to watch an 8 second ride. At age 14, he focused in on being a rodeo clown but when that didn't pan out, he switched to bull riding. His mother, like any mother, wasn't fond of the idea. However, Nick kept riding, running when he hit the ground and made a few – LOL, enough that he can't remember how many – trips to the hospital fixing broken bones and stitching up horn gouges. After 10 years in the Idaho circuit, he settled down a bit, got married and learned the peaceful art of fishing. Saying he LOVES fishing is a bit of an understatement. Even 'PASSIONATE' about fishing might not describe it perfectly.



Here's Nate, doing what he loves!

When asked,

- Where do you like to camp? He responds, "Bumping Lake, Tucannan, really anywhere near a lake or stream."

- What are your hobbies and interests? "Fishing. I caught a 38 pound salmon and a 13 pound steelhead." Then he quickly corrects that to, "Well, my kid caught the 13 pounder. Mine was 12."
- Where would you like to vacation? "Alaska! Great fishing and cool scenery." Annually, Nick also fishes the Columbia Bar area near Astoria and goes on a deep-sea fishing trip catching salmon and halibut.
- What are your retirement plans? "I'd like to operate a fishing boat here locally and give guide fishing tours."

The conversation was all going good until I asked how his wife liked to fish. There was a brief pause, then a, "Well, she's not that much into fishing. My kids are though. She likes to stay home and get her nails done, her hair done..." The back woods, retirement life just got "city-fied"! Nick's best financial decision was marrying his wife. "I was kind of free as a bird, spending the coins. Then I married my wife and she had finances narrowed down to a science." Nick's primary goal in life is keeping the family together, the kids above ground, and just being the American pops. Nick, it's been great working with you at C&E for almost a year and we're sure glad there is a big river nearby. Otherwise, we might never see you at work.

We Want You To Join Our Team

Come join our growing team. We strive to offer a great work environment along with the opportunity to advance your career. Let us know if you're interested by sending your resume and reason why you want this job to jobs@candetrenching.com. Most importantly, call 800-984-8360 and complete the voicemail interview questions. Looking for a **project manager assistant**, **truck driver** and an **estimator**. These positions are open until filled. Responding as soon as possible is in your best interest.



It was a lot of fun to turn this rocky mess into a nice finished reservoir (below). Our thanks to Shaw Vineyards & JUB for letting us join their team on this project.



It's not every day you see a large Cat giving a small Cat a hand as Robert compacts the trench back on the slope.

Ben's Antics ...Continued from page 2

need. Claude kept harping and didn't stop the impromptu flight school discourse so finally I said, 'All right, Claude. I'm going to take off with the wind just to show you.'

Ben told him thanks for the ride and to be sure to stick around for the sure-to-be-exciting downwind takeoff. He climbed out of Claude's rig, walked across the tarmac, warmed the plane up, and headed for the prohibited runway that had all of a sudden become a challenge he was willing to pursue to the bitter end. It was all Claude's fault.

Ben continues, "My extreme confidence was smothering my now totally absent common sense. A natural optimist, I didn't consider that there would be any problems because the pavement runway in front of me was nearly a mile. I taxied to the very end of the wrong runway, announced my foolish intentions on the radio, stomped on the brakes, wound the engine up, released the brakes, and let 'er rip. I kept the flaps off because I didn't want anything impeding my acceleration until I reached flying speed. The wind was pushing me from the back end. This would have been a good thing if we were talking about sailboats, but it's not when you're trying to take off in an airplane. I started gaining groundspeed quickly, but soon realized I wasn't picking up appreciable and necessary airspeed. The airspeed indicator was still stuck on zero and a quarter of the runway had already passed under my tail. Beads of sweat appeared on my brow and every body orifice I owned began contracting. Passing the halfway point on the runway, I finally saw the indicator start to move. It showed 10 mph while I was actually tripping along at 60 or 70. The runway was getting shorter in a quick hurry. The airspeed was about half of what the ground speed was. We were screaming over the pavement at a hundred miles an hour. If I had wet my finger and stuck it out the side window, I would have felt a gentle breeze. However, I had no time for an exercise such as this. My airplane had never gone this fast while still on the ground. It started shaking like the wheels were going to come off and I realized both me and my airship were in uncharted territory. I could see the end of the runway looming larger and larger; every instant seemed to be hammering another nail in the coffin. I pulled back on the stick and got no response. I wanted to stop this nightmare, but it was much too late. If I tried to abort the takeoff, I would hit the end of the runway at 120 mph. The point of no return was now a long way behind me."

There was a ditch, fence, pasture, and some cows and trees just off the end of the runway Ben was racing toward. With just a few feet left before the end of the asphalt and the beginning of the cow pies, Ben jerked full flaps on, pulled the wheel back, and rammed the landing gear into the wheel wells. These actions gave him the only chance of getting off the ground and cleaning up the airplane aerodynamics; they were his singular hope of getting and keeping the plane in the air at this late date.

The Mooney sluggishly rose from ground effect, bouncing up and down with the gusts of wind around it. They finally started to crawl upwards into the air, inch by most welcome inch.

These are just two of the harrowing experiences along with many stories of good times about growing up on a farm in the Columbia Basin that are packed into Ben's book, "Recovering Idiot". Thanks, Ben, for sharing the book with us. You all can get your own copy at Amazon.com, Basin City Farm & Home, B&B Printing, or Country Mercantile on 395. It would make a great read-aloud family book. If you happen to be in our local emergency room, look for Ben. More than likely, he's there.

Laugh a Little

A 17-year-old daughter asked her mother, "What is it like to raise a perfect daughter?" The mother replied, "I don't know. You will have to ask your Grandmother!"

A young child walked up to her mother and stared at her hair. As mother scrubbed on the dishes, the girl cleared her throat and sweetly asked; "Why do you have some grey strands in your hair?" The mother paused and looked at her daughter. "Every time you disobey, I get one strand of grey hair. If you want me to stay pretty, you better obey." The mother quickly returned to her task of washing dishes. The little girl stood there thinking. She cleared her throat again. "Mother?" She sweetly asked again. "Yes?" Her Mother replied. "Why is Grandma's hair all grey?"

--Today's humor brought to you by Ross Montierth. Thanks for sharing!



Elvin with Anchor Hauling was giving the C&E crew a hand on the site work for a new Pasco gas station going in.

Ponds and More Ponds



It's about 5:00 PM on a Friday night and C&E has promised that water will run through this pipeline for the customer Saturday morning. There's work yet to do, crew!

Right now is a good time to think about winter coming. Now is an EXTREMELY good time to call and let us know that your pond needs cleaned, fixed, revamped, or anything else it needs before next spring. Don't wait until spring to realize, "Oh, yeah. My suction pipe is all but buried!" Calling us then is still a great choice but gives us the undesirable job of telling you, "We're scheduling about 3 - 4 weeks out." Even begging and offering to bring us lattes twice a day and a hot lunch won't change the facts. Call us now to get on our schedule for this fall. That way you can think about a pond with ducks on it, fish in it, and (my personal favorite) a beach by it.

Call us today
at 509-545-6940
and schedule your pond
cleanout, maintenance or
whatever before the fall
rush.



Here is a view of the almost complete pump station. There's only a few more details left to complete, but water was running as promised!



Finally at 9:00 PM, there's nothing left to do but clean up. At 5:00 AM we're on site again to backfill so we're ready to turn the water on by 8:00 AM. No problem for this crew! There was no complaining, just a lot of laughter and joking along with (of course) hard work!

**Time to face the facts.
Your pond needs to be cleaned.**



**Call us now and we'll get your pond bottom
looking great while you're off duck hunting!**

State Motto Challenge

Alabama	_____	Agriculture and Commerce
Alaska	_____	All for Our Country
Arizona	_____	Bye and bye
Arkansas	_____	By valor and arms
California	_____	Equal rights
Colorado	_____	Equality before the law
Connecticut	_____	Ever upward
Delaware	_____	Forward
Florida	_____	Freedom and Unity
Georgia	_____	Friendship
Hawaii	_____	God enriches
Idaho	_____	Gold and silver
Illinois	_____	Hope
Indiana	_____	I have found it
Iowa	_____	I lead
Kansas	_____	In God we trust
Kentucky	_____	Industry
Louisiana	_____	It grows as it goes
Maine	_____	Labor conquers all things
Maryland	_____	Let it be perpetual
Massachusetts	_____	Liberty and independence
Michigan	_____	Liberty and prosperity
Minnesota	_____	Live free or die
Mississippi	_____	Manly deeds, womanly words
Missouri	_____	Mountaineers are always free
Montana	_____	North to the Future
Nebraska	_____	Nothing without Providence (Diety)
Nevada	_____	She flies with her own wings
New Hampshire	_____	State sovereignty, national union
New Jersey	_____	The Crossroads of America
New Mexico	_____	The people rule
New York	_____	The star of the North
North Carolina	_____	Thus always to tyrants
North Dakota	_____	To be rather than to seem
Ohio	_____	To the stars through difficulties
Oklahoma	_____	Under God the people rule
Oregon	_____	Union, justice, and confidence
Pennsylvania	_____	United we stand, divided we fall
Rhode Island	_____	Virtue, liberty, and independence
South Carolina	_____	We dare defend our rights
South Dakota	_____	Wisdom, justice, and moderation
Tennessee	_____	With God all things are possible
Texas	_____	By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty
Utah	_____	He who transplanted still sustains
Vermont	_____	If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you
Virginia	_____	Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain
Washington	_____	Liberty and union, now and forever: one and inseparable
West Virginia	_____	The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness
Wisconsin	_____	The welfare of the people shall be the supreme law
Wyoming	_____	While I breathe, I hope. Ready in soul and resource

Nice To See You, Again!

We've been at your neighbors recently. Need a project done?
CALL TODAY at 545-6940.

Allied Potato
Andrews & Rowell
Austin Booker
Bart Larsen
Carr Farms
Charlie Higley
City of Pasco
City of Richland
Country Mercantile Inc.
Garden Gate Nursery
Gesa Credit Union
Jim Ebberson
JJ Ag
Kirby Naglehout Construction
Lad Irrigation
LW Weidert Farms - Tim Weidert
Middleton Six Son's Farm
Mike Andrews
Moltus Building Group, LLC
Pearl KM LLC - Tiger Moon
Scott Knight
Shaw Vineyards
South Columbia Irrigation Dist
Taggares Fruit
Tesoro Logistics
Three Monkeys LLC
Valmont Northwest Inc.
Van Rijn Farms
Wilbur Ellis Co.
Wire 2 Water Design & Consulti
Wray Hay
Zen-Noh Hay

Welcome to C&E

Adina Kennell
Green Basin Landscape

See the state motto answers on our website under the "About Us" tab.

Newsletter inside

Escaping death 2

Don't try this at home.

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It's pond time 6

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Which state am I? 7

Fifth grade information.

Photo contest 8

MORE INSIDE!!!



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"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat." - *Laura Ingalls Wilder*

Photo Contest

**The Latest Dirt went to...
...Israel!**



Todd and Lisa Merrill had the privilege of visiting Israel last fall! What an awesome experience. One trip I have yet to take. Thanks so much for sharing.

Send Us Your Picture

Get that camera out and snap some pictures, then send them to us. The catch? Every picture submitted must show a copy of our newsletter. So when on vacation, sitting around a cozy fire, jumping out of an airplane or pulling an Evil Knievel stunt, hold a copy of our newsletter and take a photo. Then send it in to us and you will be entered to win one of our custom C&E dump trucks loaded with C&E prizes. Send your picture to news@candetrenching.com.

