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# The Lake Berryessa News

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June 4 to June 17, 2009

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## Old Resorts, New Resorts, What Resorts?: The Concession Bid Process Starts All Over Again

### History is a Funny Thing

by Peter Kilkus

This issue of the Lake Berryessa News has a lot of history in it. From the death of Spanish Flat's beloved Elsie Plunkett (Page 6) to the opening of the Berryessa Valley History exhibit (Page 5) to the release of the new Bid Prospectus seeking future concession contractors (Page 2).

But history is a funny thing. It's not so much that history repeats itself, but that some people never seem to get beyond it. They tend live in a past in which their lives were either more exciting or seemed to have a more fulfilling purpose. High school and college reunions benefit from that desire to relive past glories.

But many people also suffer tunnel vision to the past and want to make it their present. Rather than enjoy the stories and marvel at the strength and stamina of the folks who built Pope Valley, Chiles Valley, Berryessa Valley, and Lake Berryessa itself, they would prefer to stop time and try to live in some unchanging museum of "rural America" (of course with cars, electricity, running water, and modern toilets!). Why don't they just buy a ghost town in Nevada.

Pope Valley seems to be the epicenter of this "history is more important than real people" time-warp vortex. But Lake Berryessa, like the Town of Monticello before it, just had 50 years of history wiped out.

We are now writing the prologue to the future history of Lake Berryessa. Hopefully, this cycle of the Bureau of Reclamation's bid process will result in a positive future for the lake.

As the Lake Berryessa

Chamber of Commerce said in its recent letter to potential bidder's, "For decades Lake Berryessa has been a prime recreation destination for northern California boaters, hikers, and picnickers. We believe its future potential is greater than ever."

During the next few years they had completed the resort and developed the Village Center, the Mobile Villa and the Water District and established the Spanish Flat post office. My mom became postmaster. They were also involved in the Woodlands subdivision. My mom used her architectural skills to design many of the buildings.

Wes Plunkett's story below is an example of the past forging the future.



### Confessions of a Resort Brat

by Wes Plunkett

In the mid 50's, the residents of Berryessa Valley were being evicted from their farms and ranches.

My grandparents had a summer home in Capell Canyon known as Rancho Tebepa that they would lose to the BOR. Seeing an opportunity to own some property overlooking the new lake, my dad bought about 600 acres in the area known as Spanish Flat.

He chose a homesite and built his house in 1957 and 58 as the dam was completed and the lake began to fill. During that time my mom and dad met and were married. They shared a vision of building a family, a business venture and community there. My dad would say he was going to get Spanish Flat "on the map".

Scott Young is now my boss at BV. Ruth McGinnis and her daughter Carol Fitzpatrick were my second mom and sister.

(Continued on Page 6)

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**Elsie Plunkett had plenty of attitude!**

### Bureau of Reclamation Letter to Prospective Bidders

This letter is to bring to your attention the concession business opportunity at Lake Berryessa Federal Recreation Area located in Napa County, California. Lake Berryessa is a part of the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Solano Project within the Mid-Pacific Region's Central California Area Office. Lake Berryessa is a beautiful recreation lake, adjacent to the world famous Napa Valley, and located within 1.5 to 2 hours drive from the San Francisco Bay Area and the Greater Sacramento Area.

Nestled between Blue Ridge and Cedar Roughs, east of the Napa Valley, Lake Berryessa offers year-round recreation opportunities. The water temperature reaches up to 75 degrees in the summer, making it an ideal place for water sports. Anglers enjoy fishing for both cold and warm water species, such as rainbow trout, bass, catfish, crappie, and bluegill. At capacity, Lake Berryessa stores 1.6 million acre feet of water and is one of the largest bodies of fresh water in California. The lake is 23 miles long, 3 miles wide, with 165 miles of shoreline. Currently Lake Berryessa serves approximately 1.5 million visitors annually and Reclamation strongly believes that the development of new facilities and services at Lake Berryessa in combination with its location within 2 hours driving time of 8-10 million people is an outstanding business opportunity...

As a result of the expiration of six existing concession contracts between June 2008 and May 2009, Reclamation has issued a Concession Prospectus for the development and operation of the six individual concession areas. Because of your experience in the recreational hospitality industry, you have been identified as a potential bidder on this opportunity. Reclamation will announce this opportunity in several locations, BOR website, <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/berryessa/Prospectus.html>, local newspapers, and in Federal Business Opportunity website, [www.fedbizopps.gov](http://www.fedbizopps.gov). We are also providing this notice directly to some parties that we believe are potential bidders. Thank you for your consideration. Letter sent to list below:

Acadia Corporation  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Laguna Hermosa Corporation  
Napa, CA 94558

George Annereau  
Napa, CA 94558

Lake Oroville Marina  
Paradise, CA 95969

ARAMARK  
Atlanta, GA 30315

Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Inc.  
Henderson, NV 89009

Berryessa Houseboats Rentals  
Napa, CA 94558

Markley Cove Resort  
Winters, California 95694

California Guest Services, Inc.  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Oak Bottom Marina  
Whiskeytown, CA 96095

The California Parks Companies  
Red Bluff, CA 96080

The Pensus Group,  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Delaware North Companies  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Seven Resorts, Inc.  
Irving, CA 92718

Recreation Del Sol Enterprises.  
St. Helena, CA 94574-2438

Steele Park Resort  
San Francisco, CA 94124

Forever Resorts  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Trinity Lake Resorts  
Trinity Center, CA 96091

Glacier Park, Inc.  
Phoenix, AZ 85077-0925

Water Resorts, Inc.  
LaGrande, CA 95329

Grand Teton Lodge Company  
Moran, WY 83013

West Coast Mobile Home Parks, Inc.  
San Bruno, CA 94066

Guest Services, Inc.  
Ashford, WA 98304

Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc.  
Aurora, CO 80014

Houseboats.com  
Bella Vista, CA 96008

Yosemite Concession Services Corp  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Hudgins Consulting PC  
Scottsdale, AZ 85267



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**Owner/Editor**  
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415-307-6906 (Cell), Email: [PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net](mailto:PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net)

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**1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558**

### 2009 Lake Berryessa Calendar

June 6: 27th Annual Lake Berryessa one-mile and two-mile swim races, Davis Aquatic Masters, Oak Shores Park, <http://www.damfast.org/berryapplication.htm>

June 7: Winters EARTH Festival, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M., Rotary Park, 795-4910 ext. 108

June 7, 14, 28, and July 5: Valley Christian Church, Outdoor Worship Services, Senior Center Parking Lot, Pastor Randall Roach, 707-718-0995

June 8-12: Repaving of Circle Oaks roads. Residents are asked to avoid driving on streets until the slurry dries.

June 10: Pope Valley School Graduation Ceremony 6:30 P.M.

June 13: A celebration of Elsie Plunkett's life, 1:00 P.M., Lake Berryessa Senior Center

June 13: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli

June 20: Berryessa Seniors Wine, Cheese, and Olive Oil Tasting, 4-7 PM

June 21: Valley Christian Church Annual Fathers Day Service and Cookout, Oak Shores Park

June 27, 28: Spanish Flat Village Center 3rd Annual Flea Market. Display spaces - \$10. Some indoor spaces available. Call Christine, 707-748-6036, or Donna, 707-967-2196.

June 27: CAST for Kids Foundation, Pleasure Cove Marina, 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. The CAST for Kids Foundation provides opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged children to experience the joy of fishing! BOR, 707-966-2111, ext 143, [www.castforkids.org](http://www.castforkids.org)

June 27: Quilt Festival, Saturday, Downtown Winters, 530 795-2580

July 18: Senior Center Casino Night/Pasta Dinner/Big Raffle. 5:30-10 PM.

August 19: Capell Valley School All Day Kindergarten Begins

August 25: Berryessa Seniors BBQ. Chef Paul will cook. 4 PM.

Winters Farmers Market. Every Sunday, 8 AM - 1 PM. Rotary Park, Winters California

Senior Center Bingo, 1 PM (Every Monday); Cards & Movie 7:30 PM (Every Fri.) 4380 Spanish Flat Loop Road, 966-0206

To list your event, contact Peter Kilkus at [PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net](mailto:PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net) or call 415-307-6906.



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### Dam Level Update as of Monday, 5/31/09

The elevation of (Glory Hole) at Monticello Dam is 440 feet. Lake Berryessa has had 20.12 inches of rain since July, 2008.

The water is now 21.57 feet below the top of the spillway.

Date	Elevation	Evap	High	Low	Rain
5/4/09	419.91	0.08	70	47	0.00
5/5/09	419.96	0.04	68	48	0.00
5/6/09	419.96	0.11	72	47	0.00
5/7/09	419.95	0.09	73	46	0.00
5/8/09	419.93	0.15	79	47	0.00
5/9/09	419.90	0.22	84	48	0.00
5/10/09	419.87	0.14	87	49	0.00
5/11/09	419.83	0.24	89	47	0.00
5/12/09	419.78	0.25	86	47	0.00
5/13/09	419.75	0.16	80	46	0.00
5/14/09	419.67	0.27	86	49	0.00
5/15/09	419.61	0.15	85	52	0.00
5/16/09	419.56	0.20	93	55	0.00
5/17/09	419.50	0.21	98	56	0.00
5/18/09	419.44	0.27	102	56	0.00
5/19/09	419.36	0.20	95	51	0.00
5/20/09	419.29	0.25	84	46	0.00
5/21/09	419.23	0.17	81	49	0.00
5/22/09	419.15	0.22	87	47	0.00
5/23/09	419.08	0.26	89	47	0.00
5/24/09	419.00	0.18	82	46	0.00
5/25/09	418.92	0.21	78	47	0.00
5/26/09	418.85	0.16	87	44	0.00
5/27/09	418.78	0.23	94	55	0.00
5/28/09	418.70	0.24	97	55	0.00
5/29/09	418.61	0.22	97	54	0.01
5/30/09	418.51	0.22	87	53	0.01
5/31/09	418.43	0.25	83	51	0.00



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### Fishing with Bill Ryan

(Reprinted from the Napa Register):

#### Napa River

Sturgeon are still the big news. Good reports of action and success south of the Southern Crossing Bridge. Stop in at Sweeney's (255-5544) for the latest updates and gear before heading out.

#### Lake Berryessa

Kokanee bite is hot right now, so look for kokes over 18 inches where inflows are colder. WON staff writer Robin Wade reported the best rigs seemed to be a 3/0 Sep's Chrome Starlight and a 3/0 watermelon dodger.

Radical Glow Tubes or Uncle Larry's Red Tiger Spinners have been producing daily limits over several trips for guide Troy Barr at T-Troy's Guide Service. Look for this cooling trend to kick the bite up a notch.

Because of the closure of many of the resorts, it may take a while to launch your rig. Even so, we need to show some support to those Berryessa businesses that have been harmed by the BOR's poor handling of contracts for new operators. It looks like it will be 2010 at the earliest before the other resorts will be ready to open.

Those that are open at present are Markley Cove Resort (966-2134), Pleasure Cove Marina (966-9600) and Steele Park Resort (966-2414). One of our favorite places to eat is the Cucina Italiana at Spanish Flat, 4310 Knoxville Road, Lake Berryessa. Call for reservations at 966-2433.

#### Clear Lake

While there have been plenty of fish caught here this spring, I'm convinced that our best days are yet to come. Those big fish haven't come out to dine yet — combined with my diary, that says June is a good "Hawg" month.

So, we're going up twice — the 4th and the 11th. Both of these dates straddle the June 7 full moon. I'll post you on the action there.

#### NVFF Youth Essay Contest

The Napa Valley Fly Fishers Club has announced its 2nd Annual Essay Contest. Kids ages 9-16, write "My Biggest Fish Tale" in 500 words or less to enter this competition. It can be about a fish you caught — or a tall tale about one you'd like to catch.

Judges will be looking for originality and clarity. The 2008 winner, Gerardo Aquiniga of Napa, wrote a fanciful tale about a big one that did not get away. I was proud to include it in

one of my columns.

Details: Deadline for entries is June 5. Submit entries to the Napa Valley Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 2373, Napa, Ca. 94558. Or at www.napavalley flyfishers.org. Include name, age, mailing address and other contact info.

Prize is a fly rod and reel outfit. Last year's winner, Gerardo, promptly went out and caught a fish with his new rig.

#### Fishing With Sid

Yes, its really me!!! This past weekend was the first chance I had to really fish and not think about anything else. Friday night Warren and I fished from the shore using weightless senkos and River2Sea crawdads. The water is gin clear and the fish are active.

Launched my boat Saturday morning and fished till about 1 PM using only plastics. Had five bass in the first half hour only one keeper. It was a very soft bite. I sent Warren to the Berryessa Quick Stop to get minnows. We headed out again. It was a very hot day and not much boat activity compared to last year.

As the sun was starting to set we headed to my favorite cove and began using top water lures. Albert used a black with silver bottom Zara Spook and I used a white and chartreuse chugger. He was getting roll over fish left and right. He was surprised that when I threw the chugger to the rocks the bass were hitting it at the moment it touched the water.

Fishing is good to excellent if you know where to go and what to use. Sorry it was not a more exciting report. If I get to keep my boat docked in the water at Steele Park it will make a big difference on my fishing. If I didn't have to pull my boat out of the water that evening I would have fished into the night the top water bite was so fantastic.

[www.fishingconnection.net](http://www.fishingconnection.net), [bestguide@hotmail.com](mailto:bestguide@hotmail.com), 650-583-3333.

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**LARGE APPLIANCES:** dishwashers, refrigerators, ovens, washers & dryers, etc.

At this year's event, we will accept: Residential only for these items  
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To donate working or non-working Pentium 4, fast Celeron, or newer computers and peripherals to the Napa Valley Computers to Schools Program, email [info@nvcts.org](mailto:info@nvcts.org)

All e-waste will be accepted at the event. However, this collection is intended to recycle older "end-of-life" equipment. For working equipment, please consider reuse or donation as an option.

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#### Blonde Guy Joke or Stereotypes Know No Gender

An Irishman, a Mexican, and a Blonde Guy were doing construction work on scaffolding on the 20th floor of a building. They were eating lunch and the Irishman said, "Corned beef and cabbage! If I get corned beef and cabbage one more time for lunch, I'm going to jump off this building." The Mexican opened his lunch box and exclaimed, "Burritos again! If I get burritos one more time I'm going to jump off, too." The blonde guy opened his lunch and said, "Bologna again! If I get a bologna sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too."

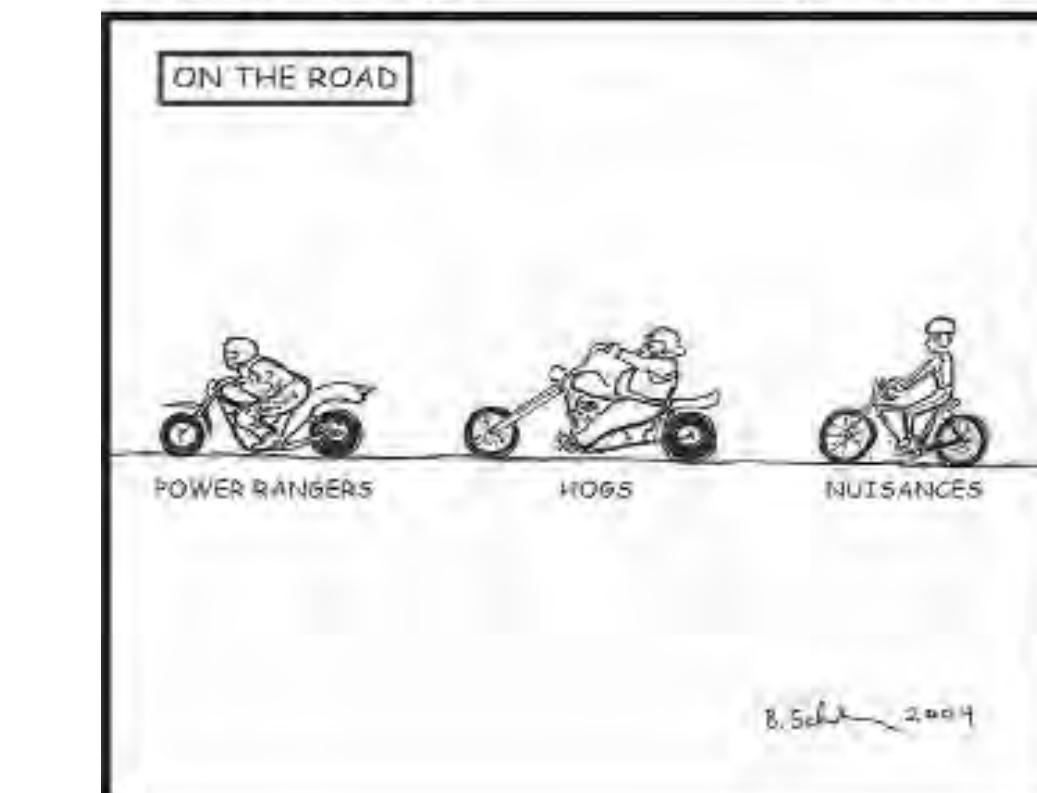
The next day, the Irishman opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage, and jumped to his death. The Mexican opened his lunch, saw a burrito, and jumped, too. The blonde guy opened his lunch, saw the bologna and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the Irishman's wife was weeping. She said, "If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage, I never would have given it to him again!" The Mexican's wife also wept and said, "I could have given him tacos or enchiladas! I didn't realize he hated burritos so much."

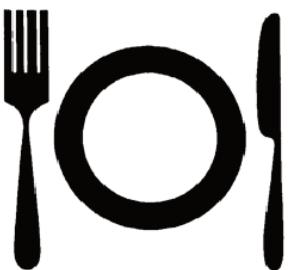
Everyone turned and stared at the blonde's wife. The blonde's wife said, "Don't look at me. He makes his own lunch."

### NAPALACHIA

By Bill Scholer



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Small pet OK.

\$550/mo. plus utilities and assessments.

Seller financing with good credit.

### Mobile Home Lots For Rent

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Capell Valley School  
Student Garden

05/29/2009

### Field Day 2009 at Capell Valley School

Capell Valley Campus hosted this year's Field Day on May 29 for Capell Valley, Pope Valley, and Wooden Valley Schools. They provided lunch prepared by their own students. Wooden Valley School led the physical activities for the day and Pope Valley School were the honored guests! Capell Valley School has a large, beautiful campus and a very extensive garden. This type of rural school environment is something no one wants to lose. See the full photo album at [www.LakeBerryessaNews.com](http://www.LakeBerryessaNews.com)



### Community Church of Lake Berryessa

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There's nothing quite as much fun on a holiday or any other summer weekend as sitting with friends at Turtle Rock, beer and eggroll in hand, watching the people, motorcycles, boat rigs, and miscellaneous strangeness that goes by or stops in. Although Memorial Day was relatively quiet this year, there was still enough action to enjoy, including a group of Japanese tourists in sombreros! Larry and Frank seemed to be amazed by it all.



### Grand Opening of the Berryessa Valley History Exhibit, May 24, 2009

Special thanks to Carol Fitzpatrick for creating this incredible museum of Berryessa Valley history. As Murray Clark said in his introduction, there were more people from the Town of Monticello at the Spanish Flat Village Center that day than had been gathered in one place for many years. The Exhibit will be open on weekends from 9 A.M to 5 P.M. See Marcia at the Country Store or Donna at the Handmade Store if you wish to see it.

See the full photo album at [www.LakeBerryessaNews.com](http://www.LakeBerryessaNews.com).



## Confessions of a Resort Brat

(Continued from Page 1)

Ruth worked in the store for many years and is still famous for her great food. Her pies are legendary. Carol worked at the marina in the 80's and recently put together the Berryessa Valley Exhibit. (See story on Page 5) Once she gets on a mission there's no stopping her.



It was a great place to be a kid, we were outside a lot, playing and kicking around in the hills. I would cut weeds and rake leaves in exchange for rides in the kayaks and paddle boats that were rented at the marina. I must have caught thousands of bluegill fishing in the marina cove.

Every Easter they would put on a huge Easter egg hunt in the resort. People came from all over to be in it. When we were little we participated in the hunt, then later on we became the "Easter bunnies", and hid the eggs.

Another summer tradition was the outdoor movie theater. We worked in the popcorn stand and the ticket booth and eventually learned to run the projectors. They were cantankerous old beasts and the film usually broke right at the climax of the movie. But the real drama was in the audience as countless young Romeos and



July, 1966

Juliets made their plays.

The boom continued into the seventies, but it was dampened by the transition from Napa County management to the BOR.

The BOR tried to end the resort leases in '78 and it literally took an act of Congress to get them extended. During that time BOR built Oak Shores and the free launch ramp, moves viewed by the resorts as unfair

rental fleet and was a wizard with outboards. It was a career I would follow almost 20 years.

Over the years there were some great people living around Spanish Flat who made it a fun and interesting place. Bill and Jean Barta managed the resort and village center. They helped out



I became friends with their son Troy. They had a bartender named Kenny Carter who was quite a character. He would put on a bunny suit for the Easter egg hunt in the resort—imagine a 300 pound 6'2" Easter bunny.

The resort was sold in '82, and my dad died unexpectedly of a stroke in '83. Unfortunately the guy who bought the resort turned out to be a crook, he defaulted a few years later and my mom got it back. It was tough times for her, but like a good strong Norwegian she never complained.

Mike Quecke did all the maintenance for the resort and water district. His wife Mary worked in the store. Mike still lives in the mobile villa. That guy could fix anything. He was my hero.

When I broke my dirt bikes, he would weld them back together. He drove all over in a '55 Willys that belonged to the water district. I used to steal the keys and take it four wheeling, he probably had to fix that too after I was done with it.

Stan and Ella Klang had a trailer in the Villa, when they retired they moved to the lake full time. Stan managed the marina and Ella worked in the country store and lake store.

In my later teens I learned how to work on boats from Tom Virden, a retired Navy man who maintained the

They were fun people, they always had a smile and a joke to tell. They were my second mom and dad in my teens. I became friends with their son Doug, we skied, rode dirt bikes and chased girls when we weren't working.

Tom and Pat Turnpaw took over the Spanish Flat Inn in the late 70's and ran it for 10 years. They put in an outdoor deck with a dance floor and stage and had live music. The restaurant and bar were jumping every weekend.

I moved to Calistoga and got a



stuck. From that point on she was able to enjoy her retirement fully although she still remained active in the water district, chamber of commerce and the community.

The company who bought it, REL, has been great, they honored every agreement she made with them. Too bad this time around there is no Congressman Leo Ryan to save the day like in '78.

In '85 I started Spanish Flat Marine with my wife Debbie and Paul and Chris Roussopoulos. (See story and photo on Page 5.) We closed after 6 years, due in part to the lake being 80 feet down. Those were hard times for all the businesses at the lake.

I moved to Calistoga and got a



"real job" but still spent a lot of time at the lake, visiting mom and old and new friends at the lake, and teaching my kids to ski and wakeboard. My in-laws bought a trailer in Spanish Flat, they spent a lot of time there and we visited as much as we could. I had as much fun there as I had when I was a kid.

As my mom got older, we slowly took over the village center. Mary and Gary Taylor ran the store for 5 years, and Debbie and I started Spanish Flat Storage.

**Q: Who Was Elsie Plunkett?**  
**A: A Truly Amazing Person**

Elsie Groner Plunkett passed away at her Lake Berryessa home on May 7, 2009 at the age of 87. Elsie grew up in Oslo, Norway, as the daughter of a prominent engineer with her 3 brothers. She lived through the Nazi occupation of Norway. Her family helped the resistance fighters, hiding them in the basement.

After the war, she attended college in Norway and became an architect. At the age of 25, she immigrated to America, working in New York and San Francisco, where she met her life-time friend Dorothy Schell and they enjoyed many adventures.

She also served on the St. Helena School Board, St. Helena Hospital advisory board, and helped establish the church at Spanish Flat. Wes and Elsie donated the land for the Berryessa Senior Center and she became a lifetime member.

In her retirement she traveled and enjoyed music, her grandchildren, her garden and feeding wild birds. She played the piano beautifully up until two weeks before her death, and never lost her optimism and sense of humor.

She was predeceased by her husband, Wesley B. Plunkett, and her brother, Christian Frederik Groner. She is survived by daughter Mary Anne Taylor; son Wesley F. Plunkett;



Chico in 1958. A devoted wife and mother, she raised her family side by side with her husband at their home in Spanish Flat. She enjoyed a large extended family of friends and neighbors.

At that time, the Berryessa Valley was just being filled with water due to the construction of the Monticello Dam.

Inspired by their love of nature and desire to share it with others, Wes and Elsie formed Spanish Flat Resort, Inc. on the west shore of the lake, and began the development of the Spanish Flat area to which she devoted the next 31 years of her life.



She was a fixture at the Napa County Planning Department and Board of Supervisors meetings in Napa, fighting to promote and develop Spanish Flat and Lake Berryessa.

She was very dedicated to her community as a founder, board member and president of Spanish Flat Water District and founding member of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce and the Ladies of the Lake.

She also served on the St. Helena School Board, St. Helena Hospital advisory board, and helped establish the church at Spanish Flat. Wes and Elsie donated the land for the Berryessa Senior Center and she became a lifetime member.

In her retirement she traveled and enjoyed music, her grandchildren, her garden and feeding wild birds. She played the piano beautifully up until two weeks before her death, and never lost her optimism and sense of humor.

She was predeceased by her husband, Wesley B. Plunkett, and her brother, Christian Frederik Groner. She is survived by daughter Mary Anne Taylor; son Wesley F. Plunkett;

granddaughters Andrea and Danielle Taylor; grandsons Ryan and Brandon Plunkett; her brothers in Norway, Robert and Thor, many nieces and nephews; and a host of wonderful friends.

Napa Valley in Elsie's memory. The family wishes to thank Dr. Srebro, Dr. Sweigert and Hospice of Napa Valley for their exceptional care.

**A celebration of Elsie's life will be held on Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm at the Lake Berryessa Senior Center. All are invited to attend, and everyone is encouraged to share memories and stories.**



## If It Ain't True, It Oughta Be.

By Bill White  
(From Berryessa: Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow - 1988)

I remember when there was a charcoal plant on Hwy. 128 just east of Moskowitz Corners. Charcoal for barbecue pits was made there.

I remember when a man (name unknown) was killed by a pet buck deer near Moskowitz Corners. The deer horned the man to death when he got into a corral with it to feed it.

I remember riding a school bus to St. Helena High School - 50 miles round trip each school day. You got up and left in the dark and got home in the dark during winter months. (This hasn't changed for our local students).

I remember I was sure glad when I finally got my drivers license.

I remember when Harvey Fryer (now retired Park Ranger) killed a nice buck one deer season and the deer was actually a doe (female) with legal horns.

I remember missing a ride home from St. Helena and having to walk all the way home. Not one of several people who passed offered a ride (they weren't locals).

I remember for a few weeks a police or sheriff car followed our school bus to and from school because of threats from the "Zodiac" killer (1969) that he would attack a bus full of children.



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## Berryessa Corners in Mourning!

NAPALACHIA by Bill Scholer



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### Mike Schildknecht: The Man Behind the Corners Has Left the House

In the short time that Mike Schildknecht was with us rebuilding Berryessa Corners and becoming part of our community, he made many friends.

Mike's sudden and unexpected death on June 9, 2009 left the whole Lake Berryessa community in shock.

Jim Keller, the owner of the property, has said that he wants to keep Berryessa Corners open as Mike would have wanted. We all wish him success in doing so. Below is a personal story by James Payne about how Mike came to be...

#### The Man Behind the Corners

Mike Schildknecht was an extraordinary man. As I sit here and write this with a Mike's BBQ pen, I remember back to early September when I met a man down on the docks of Steele Park Resort. I had taken my son out that day and we were walking up the docks and my son ran up to a sleek red and white boat and said "Daddy, this one's cool huh!"

I said "Yes, it is it's a really nice one" from a ways away - then I realized there was a man taking a nap on it and I told my son to get away from the boat. Too late, he had already aroused the slumbering occupant and he said "don't worry about it, I have to clean up and get out of here anyway in order to get back to the city to go to work."

I apologized for my son and the man began to ask me questions about the lake and what was going on with the re-development. I spoke with him for several minutes and somehow the topic of the Corners came up. I had stated that when the lake completely shuts down there won't be any places for

the community to get their provisions.

At that time he said he'd thought often about leasing the property in the eight years he'd been coming to Lake Berryessa. I told him I thought it would be a good business to start although it might be pretty slow at first while the stuff with the lake gets worked out.

He said he understood that, but it was the community that would make it or break it. At that point I gave him my card and my wife's card and told him she was involved with the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce.

Toward the end of October my wife and I were driving home from a business convention in Salt Lake City with several other people in the vehicle. There was a lot of conversation going on and Amber was frequently on the phone during the seven-hour car ride home.

After she had been on the phone for well over half an hour

she said, slightly bewildered, "That was the man named Mike you met at the docks. He said he was thinking of leasing the Corners and was asking me all kinds of questions about the community around the lake".

I said awesome I hope he does

- he's really nice.

Approximately

six weeks later he contacted

Amber and let her know that he

had signed a letter of intent to

lease the property pending the sale

Corners. I said I would and met with him shortly after that and began the process of getting the property up to par (code) so it would be able to open.

As I worked with Mike and he overcame hurdle after hurdle, I knew he was an incredible man. I watched him build relationships with every aspect of our community - from our children to our seniors, with our school to our local church.

He was and is truly a part of our community. His life impacted us in a profound way. He will always be loved, cherished, and remembered for the dream he had with us!

I miss you Mike,  
James Payne



Michael B. Schildknecht, 50, of Napa, formerly of Howell Township, N.J., passed away at his home on Tuesday, June 9, 2009. He was born in Howell, N.J., resided in San Francisco, Calif., and recently moved to Lake Berryessa where he was the proprietor of the Berryessa Corners.

He was predeceased by his brother, Bob, in 2001. He is survived by his daughter, Cassie, of College Station, Texas, and his parents, Robert and Alice Schildknecht, of Toms River, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the University of California, San Francisco Foundation, Box 45339, San Francisco, CA 94143.

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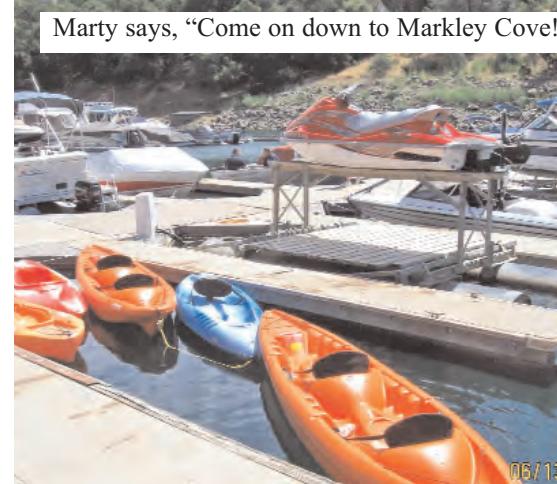
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Marty says, "Come on down to Markley Cove!"

05/13/07

## From the Editor

The Lake Berryessa community lost an old friend and a new friend during the last few weeks. We celebrated the life of Elsie Plunkett, a founder and architect of Spanish Flat and early Lake Berryessa, at the Berryessa Senior Center on Saturday, June 13th. Relatives from Norway and friends from around the county gathered to honor her. See photos in this issue.

Tragically, we also lost Mike Schildknecht on June 9. Mike was only 50 years young and had been working tirelessly to refurbish and re-open Berryessa Corners. The Corners Store and Mike's BBQ were in full swing and the Corners Bar was scheduled to open within a few days. Everyone involved wants to continue Mike's dream and plans are going forward to keep Berryessa Corners open.

On my 220 mile paper route every two weeks I get to meet a lot of people. The common theme, which has been expressed for years, if not decades, is that Napa County government does not really care that much about the needs of our east county rural residents. This is a wide-spread and deep-seated frustration that was brought home again when the Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to deny the Lake Luciana Golf Course project in Pope Valley - a project which met all reasonable requirements and that appeared to have the support of the majority of Pope Valley and Lake Berryessa region residents.

At Elsie's memorial her son, Wes, told a few stories. One that got a big response of laughs and knowingly-nodded heads, was his comment that his mom would come home and say that she had just come from a Bored meeting with the County Stupids.

I received a comment from Jana, a very good Native American friend of mine and one of the most cited Native American authors in the world. She has followed the situation at Lake Berryessa and in Napa County for many years and has often given me insightful comments from her perspective. She just sent me this, "I'm always struck by how similar your description of the Lake Berryessa region's relationship to Napa County's vision for it is to Native American reservations!"

Well, Napa County, the people out here have dreams for their families, for their schools, and for their futures that don't necessarily consist of only being part of your historical museum or private "agricultural" open space fantasy.



## Pope Valley School Graduation

Eighth Grade graduation at Pope Valley Elementary School on June 10th saw a good deal of excitement in the air as eight of our students graduated.



applicants graduating from high school who either live in Pope Valley or were graduated from Pope Valley Elementary School. This year six enthusiastic students were honored with a Scholarship. All of these praiseworthy young men and women came prepared to encourage our outgoing eighth graders with some practical advice for a successful high school experience.

Our Guest of Honor was Robert Malone who came to us as a Student Teacher this year. We all enjoyed Mr. Malone's wit, energy and lively teaching method.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank all of our students and their families who participated in honoring the graduates and their accomplishments. We are especially grateful to the many families who brought delicious food for us to enjoy.

All of our graduates will continue their education at St. Helena High School, where many of our Spanish-speaking students will be taking French as a third language. Quite a few have enrolled in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) where these students will receive help and guidance to continue their focus on education beyond high school.



Graduation night was also the occasion for awarding Pope Valley Scholarships to qualified



teachers and staff for their Pope Valley School experience. We are happy to see the students succeed and move forward, however all will be missed next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pope Valley School ended this school year with a fun swim party at Pacific Union College. Students and some staff alike let our hair down and made a big splash!



Last but not least, kudos to Mrs. Eakle who taught most of these children from Kindergarten, composed and performed a fun and heartwarming song which listed each student in the lyrics. A truly unforgettable performance!

We are proud of our eighth grade students, who each expressed their gratitude to their families,



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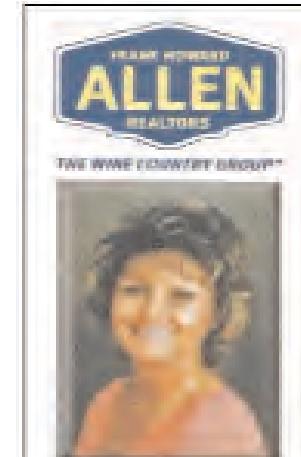
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### Can We Learn From Whangamomona?

Micronations — sometimes also referred to as model countries and new country projects — are entities that resemble independent nations or states but which are unrecognized by world governments or major international organisations.

Some micronations have managed to extend some of their operations into the physical world by issuing coins, flags, postage stamps, passports, medals, and other items. Such trappings of "real" sovereign states are created as a way of seeking to legitimize the micronations that produce them.

In New Zealand in 1989 regional council boundaries were redrawn, but these revised maps were disputed by Whangamomona Region residents. On November 1, 1989, they responded by declaring themselves the "Republic of Whangamomona" at the first Republic Day.

Though the move began as a pointed protest, the town continued to hold a celebratory Republic Day once a year, during which a vote for President was held. The day has become a local festival day, and attracts visitors from throughout the North Island. In 2001, the celebration became biannual, held in January to take advantage of the summer weather.

During Republic Day, volunteers and committee members welcome in the hordes of bewildered visitors and sell Whangamomona Republic pass-

ports for \$3, with the option of paying another 50c to have them 'officially' stamped.

"Passports ran out at one end of town around 1.30pm. After a mad dash up to the other, we managed to have enough," Tania says. "We had nearly 3,000 passports and then we had the train passengers, who had passports as well."

Combine this theatre with the traditional events such as Whanga's famous Gumboot throwing competitions, the Gut Buster hill climb, the Sheep races, and Republic Day went down just fine.

### Presidents

Ian Kjestrup (1989-1999)

After being put on the ballot without his knowledge, he became the first elected President. Served 10 years

Billy Gumboot the Goat (1999-2001)

First elected animal. He won election by eating the other challengers ballots. He died in office after serving for 18 months.

Tai the Poodle (2003-2004)

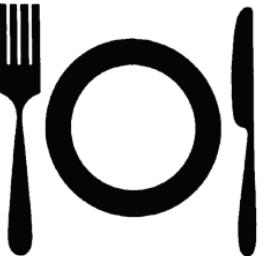
Tai retired after an assassination attempt left him a nervous wreck.

Murt "Murtle the Turtle" Kennard (2005-present)

The local garage owner fought off strong competition from former president Kjestrup and a cross-dresser called "Miriam" to become the 4th President. He was re-elected in 2009 by one vote.



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### IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,

— That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and

organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

— Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

### Elsie Plunkett's Celebration of Life, Berryessa Senior Center, June 13, 2009



### NAPALACHIA

by Bill Scholer



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I have six locks on my door all in a row. When I go out, I lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three.--Elayne Boosler

Relationships are hard. It's like a full-time job, and we should treat it like one. If your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to leave you, they should give you two weeks' notice. There should be severance pay, and before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp.--Bob Ettinger

A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study: Duh.--Conan O'Brien

Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives!--Sue Murphy

My grandfather's a little forgetful, but he likes to give me advice. One day, he took me aside and left me there.--Ron Richards

I worry that the person who thought up Muzak may be thinking up something else.--Lily Tomlin

USA Today has come out with a new survey: Apparently three out of four people make up 75 percent of the population.--David Letterman

I was a vegetarian until I started leaning towards sunlight.--Rita Rudner

I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific.--Lily Tomlin

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Marcia Ritz - Artist  
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4318 Knoxville Road in the Spanish Flat Village Center



The photo above is of the "Berryessa Hats", a singing duo that appears irregularly at the Markley Cove Resort Store. The two of them were there @ 4am to open the store and gate for the nice CIFFI fisherman (see story opposite page). Right after this photo was taken, Darlene burst into song, regaling Kathy with a rousing version of "Happy Birthday to You."

**Happy Birthday to Kathy Gray, June 21st.**

Davis Bike Club, Berryessa Corners, 6/13/09



### The Lake Berryessa News

[www.LakeBerryessaNews.com](http://www.LakeBerryessaNews.com)

Published the first and third Thursday of each month.

**Owner/Editor - Peter Kilkus**

415-307-6906 (Cell), Email: [PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net](mailto:PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net)

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**The Lake Berryessa News - Peter Kilkus**

1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558

**California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Markley Cove Resort**

On May 14, 2009 CIFFI volunteers met at the CIFFI Pen Project location at Markley Cove Resort at Lake Berryessa early in the morning. The event? To release the rainbow trout that spent several months growing in the pens.



Armed with nets and fish food, the volunteers and Department of Fish & Game (DFG) personnel began to systematically net fish for evaluation. Mike Harris and Phil Moeller of



DFG, measured and weighed samples, collecting data that will help them determine growth rates. They handled 46 fish, ranging in weight from 1-3/4 to 3-3/4 pounds, providing statistics that will assist in all future pen projects. The fish all looked very good, had no disfigurements and should provide great opportunities for anglers to enjoy catching trout at the lake.



Dallas Freeman, developer of the new-age pens at Berryessa, was on hand, making sure the doors opened correctly, which they did. The fish weren't very cooperative...when anything changes around their pens, they head for the safety of the bottom. Volunteers, Kevin Yost of Lucky Strike Fishing and Markley Cove

employees, had to "fish" deep with the nets to catch them. Sep and Marilyn Hendrickson and CIFFI member Ray Erck provided support.

The pens worked perfectly and volunteers will show up soon to power-wash them in preparation for the next delivery of fish, sometime in late Fall. This year's project is considered a total success. DFG is pleased with the amount of fish they were able to evaluate, Markley Cove is happy they are there to support the project, and CIFFI can be proud of their efforts.

On June 13, 2009, Project Kokanee - hosted its 7th annual Lake Berryessa Trout & Kokanee Derby sponsored by Jetcraft Boats, Gone Fishin' Marine and Sep's Pro Fishing – and hosted by Markley Cove Resort. Each year Lake Berryessa kicks out quality kokanee and this year is looking better than ever. This derby featured thousands of dollars in raffle prizes and a great BBQ lunch for the 167 registered anglers.

Photographer - Jim Thompson  
916-781-3883  
[www.jimthompsonphotography.com](http://www.jimthompsonphotography.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

A guy is 70 years old and loves to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, "Pick me up."

He looked around and couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, "Pick me up."

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog. The man said, "Are you talking to me?"

The frog said, "Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up then, kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!"

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front breast pocket.

Then the frog said, "What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride."

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, "Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

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**Hercules vs. the Falcon**  
A C-130 "Hercules" cargo plane, an Air Force workhorse since 1954, was flying over the Persian Gulf on a mission when a cocky pilot in an F-16 "Fighting Falcon" fighter flew up next to him. The F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jock got on the radio and told the C-130 pilot, "Watch this!"

and promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep climb. He then finished with a sonic boom as he broke the sound barrier. Puzzled, the F-16 pilot asked, "I didn't see anything. What the hell did you do?"

C-130 HerculesThe C-130 pilot chuckled, "I stood up, stretched my legs, went to the back, took a leak, then got a cup of coffee and a sweet roll."

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For information please contact Bob Lee  
Phone: 707-252-4488  
Email: [terribob@pacbell.net](mailto:terribob@pacbell.net)

## Bilgee, the Bilge Pad, Returns to Lake Berryessa



You'll be seeing more of Jasmine, Lauren, and Bilgee every weekend this summer. They take their duty seriously because although Lake Berryessa is the cleanest lake in northern California, we all want to keep it that way.

So take the survey, get your free goodies, and remember to use a bilge pad and dispose of it responsibly on the red cans at the launch ramps.

### PLEASE DISPOSE OF BILGE PADS RESPONSIBLY

Bilge pads are pillow-like pads composed of polyethylene adsorptive fibers designed to absorb fuel and oil while "repelling" water. A pad in the bilge of the boat will soak up any petroleum products from the water in your bilge, which is often contaminated with oil, diesel, and other hazardous substances. If you don't use a pad, these get pumped overboard when you run your bilge pump. A bilge pad captures all the contaminants and lets you pump out just the water. It's an easy way to help keep the lake clean!



Please don't put your used bilge pads in the trash! Throwing dirty bilge pads in the garbage only moves the pollution they've absorbed from the lake to the land. A dirty bilge pad

is toxic to the environment, and if the pad goes to the landfill, oil and other petroleum-based fluids can leach into the soil and pollute drinking water sources and wildlife habitat. The best way to dispose of used bilge pads is to put them into one of the specially marked red cans at Markley Cove, Pleasure Cove, Steele Park Resort, or Capell Cove.



### Blonde Mortician with Fashion Sense

A man who just died is delivered to a local mortuary wearing an expensive, expertly tailored black suit.

The female blonde mortician asks the deceased's wife how she would like the body dressed. She points out that the man does look good in the black suit he is already wearing.

The widow, however, says that she always thought her husband looked his best in blue, and that she wants him in a blue suit. She gives the blonde mortician a blank check and says, "I don't care what it costs, but please have my husband in a blue suit for the viewing."

The woman returns the next day for the wake. To her delight, she finds her husband dressed in a gorgeous blue suit with a subtle chalk stripe; the suit fits him perfectly.

She says to the mortician, "Whatever this cost, I'm very satisfied. You did an excellent job and I'm very grateful. How much did you spend?"

To her astonishment, the blonde mortician presents her with the blank check. "There's no charge," she says.

"No, really, I must compensate you for the cost of that exquisite blue suit!" she says.

"Honestly, ma'am," the blonde says, "it cost nothing. You see, a deceased gentleman of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday, and he was wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave wearing a black suit instead, and she said it made no difference as long as he looked nice."

"So I just switched the heads."

### A Stunning Senior Moment

A self-important college freshman walking along the beach took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen resting on a bench why it is impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one," the student said loudly enough for others to hear. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon. We have nuclear energy, cell phones, computers with light speed, Facebook, Twitter, and many more."

After a brief silence, the senior citizen responded, "You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young...so we invented them. Now you arrogant little sh\*t, what are you doing for the next generation?

The applause was amazing.

### Bilge Pad Disposal & Exchange Dates

Saturday, 6/27/2009, 5-7pm, Capell Cove Launch Ramp

Saturday, 7/4/2009, 5-7pm, Pleasure Cove Marina

Sunday, 7/12/2009, 5-7pm, Steele Park Resort

Sunday, 7/19/2009, 5-7pm, Markley Cove Resort

Saturday, 7/25/2009, 5-7pm, Capell Cove Launch Ramp

Saturday, 8/1/2009, 5-7pm, Pleasure Cove Marina

Sunday, 8/9/2009, 5-7pm, Steele Park Resort

Sunday, 8/16/2009, 5-7pm, Markley Cove Resort

### A blonde teenager...

wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handy-woman" and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighborhood. She went to the front door of the first house, and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.

"Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said, "How much will you charge me?" Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How

about \$50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything she would need was in the garage. The man's wife, hearing the conversation said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?"

He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?" The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by e-mail lately."

Later that day, the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" the startled husband asked.

"Yes, the blonde replied, and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

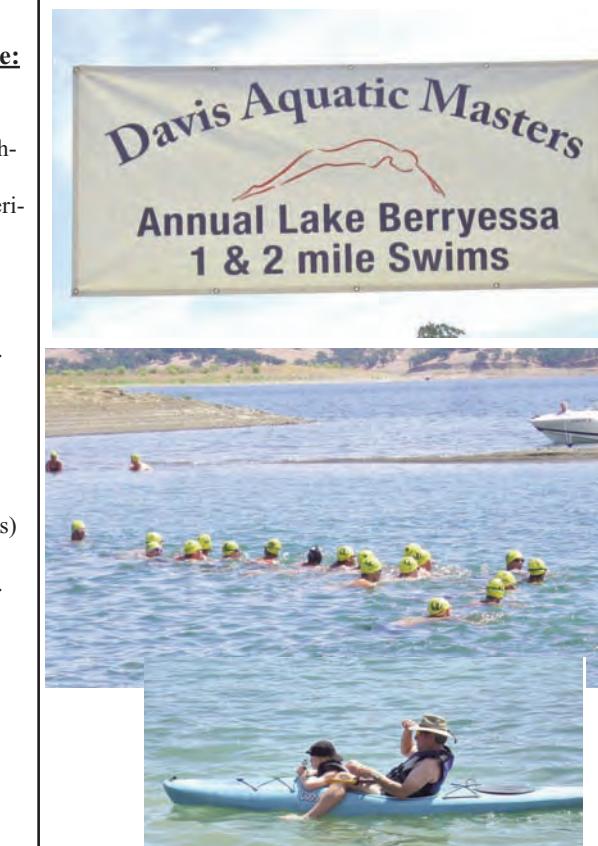
Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$50.00 and handed it to her along with a ten dollar tip.

"And by the way," the blonde added, "it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

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