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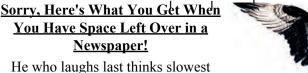












Newspaper!

wake me when it's over

is syncing."

dvslexic

what you deserve

intense tense in tents

"Be positive!"

A Mississippi

woke up

What do you get when you mix

alcohol and literature?

Tequila mockingbird

My ex-wife still misses me. But her

aim is starting to improve

What washes up on tiny beaches?

Microwaves

FUN FACT: cats are made of iron

lithium, and neon. FeLiNe

What do you call a super articulate

dinosaur? A Thesaurus

Police were called to a daycare center

where a three-year-old was resisting a

every minute of it

The Lake Berryessa News

Without THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS there would be no Lake Berryessa news!

September 2020

Opportunity, Irony, Tragedy, Recovery - The Lake Berryessa Business Cycle?

Opportunity

On August 4, 2020 the North Bay Business Journal published a story titled, "Napa County's hidden destination: Will Lake Berryessa's future shine again?" by Garv Ouackenbush. It was a very positive review of the potential revitalization of the Lake concessions at Lake Berryessa."

Berryessa recreational community under the new Managing Partner Agreement between Napa County and the Bureau of Reclamation scheduled to take effect on November 1

The story was filled with optimistic interviews various business owners at the lake. Marcia Ritz, proprietor of the Spanish Flat General Store. said that people tired of sheltering in place have been coming to the lake in great numbers since March. She said it has been her best year so far in over a decade.

Many of us remember the lake's better times. Motels, cabins

several restaurants, marinas with boat slips and other amenities dotted the 28-mile long.

"Now that the agreement is final, we are moving forward with the county process, said Molly Rattigan, deputy Napa executive officer who has been managing Napa County-bureau agreement negotiations for several years. "We plan to send out bidding Heartbreaking stories filled the news media. were often simply allowed to burn. packages by September.

"It has been too long since we experienced a thriving Lake Berryessa," said Supervisor

with the community to restore economic all of my friend's original art that I had, and Roads in and out of the region were vitality to the region surrounding one of everything I owned," Ritz said. Now, Ritz closed for a week after that to allow Napa County's most important recreational thinks she'll have to close her business. Napa County, PG&E, AT&T, and areas. We thank the Bureau of Reclamation "There is no customer base. There are maybe others to clear the roads of downed for working with us and for providing the two houses remaining on the hill," she said, trees and debris. PG&E crews county the opportunity to bring back vibrant waving her hand to gesture down Berryessa swarmed the area installing hundreds

Knoxville Road. <u>Tragedy</u>

> up Steele Canyon Road restored to the region by September 20. and burned down about 100 of the 300 homes in the Highlands. Berrvessa Everyone interviewed for the original Business Journal upbeat article was now being interviewed in news stories about the tragedy that had struck Breathtakingly sad stories

of loss filled the news media.

three-mile wide lake in Napa County. We all Exactly two weeks later, on August 18, an The biggest tragedy this time compared to hope the new County-Reclamation unprecedented lightning storm caused fires the last two times the lake was threatened by partnership will result in positive change and to break out all over the tinder dry region. wildfire, was the lack of fire suppression Rainfall in the 2019-2020 season was the support from the air. The huge numbers of lowest it had been in more than 22 years. fires started at the same time by thousands of Within one day the fire raged up and over the lightning strikes simply overwhelmed the hills around Lake Berryessa and destroyed available capacity to fight them. Although large parts of the community. Positivity was fire fighters with trucks and bulldozers on the ground did what they could, the fires

Recovery - Short Term

A week after they began the wildfires were extinguished or contained. The region had no electricity due to hundreds of wooden power poles being burned and wires melted.

of new power poles in less than a week.

Power was finally restored to the Flat Berryessa Highland residential area on residential community had September 2, about two weeks after it become an inferno of was lost in the original lightning storm, burning rubble. The fire but other areas may yet take weeks to soon raced around the be restored. The official PG&E lower part of the lake, sped estimate is that all power should be

Continued on Page 2.

BOAT & RENTALS









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no match for reality.

Most of the Spanish Flat neighborhood burned to the dirt. Although Marcia Ritz's Spanish Flat Country Store survived, the Spanish Flat Mobile Villa next door was destroyed - including Marcia's home.

"I'm an artist. I lost all of my artwork. I lost

Diane Dillon, chair of the Napa County I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy Board of Supervisors. "We want to work

Continued from Page 1 Napa County stepped up to provide mmediate support with Local Assistance Centers in the Berryessa Highlands and at the County's Health & Human Services campus. The state was declared a federal at 1.5% are available to fire victims. As with the last fires here in Napa County.

helping their clients as quickly as possible. For rational business people who redevelop and operate the And as last time, people are finding out understand the future recreational value of resorts. How quickly the county that many insurance companies are not the lake as described in detail in the Ragatz seeks bids is up to the Board of

Unfortunately, some companies first give folks a paperwork runaround and then dispute a claim looking for any technicality to deny paying their rightful amount. This is an unconscionable business practice.

Recovery - Long Term

In the aftermath of this disaster there a several business questions to be addressed. For example, will private insurance companies be able to continue to offer fire insurance coverage. Even after the fires two years ago most companies either cancelled homeowner's insurance coverage or more than doubled their homeowner policy premiums in the Lake Berryessa

In response Napa county built two local fire stations in the Berryessa Highlands and Berryessa Estates. Companies then lowered their premiums. But with the extent of the present California

happened many years ago with Lake Berryessa. They apparently earthquake insurance. The state had to step still are. with the California Earthquake On Aug. 18, (ironically, the day Authority. Will a similar agency be the fires began) the Board of created for fire coverage? disaster area and FEMA is on site to A more important question to many of us Lake Berryessa concessions provide emergency resources and long- who have worked long and hard on the manager position to oversee the term financial aid. Thirty year fixed loans revitalization of Lake Berryessa is resort sites.

whether the fire will have any impact on The next steps were to be filling Napa County's willingness to continue that position and inviting the big issue will be the response of with the signed Managing Partner insurance companies to the challenges of Agreement and get the bids out soon.

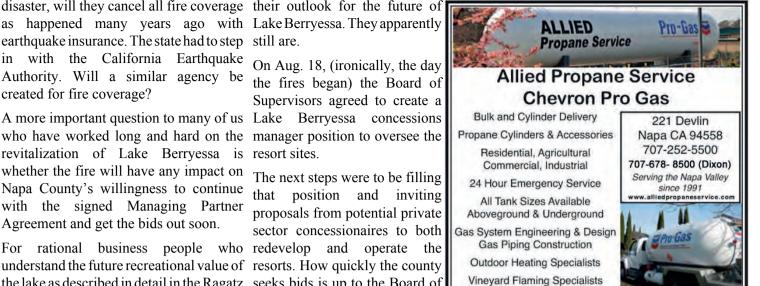
particularly responsive. As most North report: Lake Berryessa: An Untapped Supervisors. Bay Business Journal readers are aware, Resort Development Opportunity the County Board of Supervisors Chair Diane Dillon said that optimally, renovation one of the largest segments of the results of the fire should not make an American economy is, ironically again, impact on their decision. The resorts will FIRE - Finance, Insurance, Real Estate. be built on the lakeshore and made as fire Since the present economic system, is safe as modern technology and the latest predatory capitalism, FIRE is in the safety codes can make them - virtually business of making money - not helping bulletproof to wildfires. This view was validated recently by the

Some of my neighbors are receiving Napa County supervisors. The supervisors excellent customer service from reputable interviewed for the original North Bay insurance companies - but some are not. Business Journal article were positive in

Sugar Loaf Drive

Spanish Flat

8/18/20



Dillon in a recent interview said that she doesn't think the Hennessey Fire will keep spring. There wouldn't have been any the county from reaching this goal. "I think there are still more positives than

otherwise in terms of why people would Opportunity, Irony, Tragedy, Recovery: come to Lake Berryessa," she said. "That landscape does look different," Dillon said. "But when you look at other places phase - hopefully a long-lived one. where fire has occurred, in 2017, 2018 or even 2019, it springs back pretty readily.'

Opportunity: a situation or condition favorable for attainment of a goal.

work at the resorts could still begin next

construction this year even without the

The Lake Berryessa business cycle

appears to be returning to the opportunity

Irony: the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite. typically for humorous or emphatic effect.

Situational irony striking involves a reversal of what is expected or intended.

Tragedy: an event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress. such serious accident, crime, natural catastrophe

Recovery: regaining of or possibility of regaining something lost or taken

September 2020 Horoscopes Aguarius (1/20-2/18): You'll suffer from a

continuing inability to enjoy anything but the company of friends and family, the satisfaction of a iob well done, and the knowledge that you have lived a life of dignity and irony. Pisces (2/19-3/20): Love means different things to different people, but you'll have a hard time finding someone to whom it means "a profound degree of

Aries (3/21-4/19): You'll be taken aback by the news that your life story has been changed from a lightweight romantic comedy to a lengthy and detailed police procedural Taurus (4/20 - 5/20): You have evidently failed to

learn the lessons of history, as you begin next week

by attempting to find the Northwest Passage, unite

affection.'

Britain and Ireland, and get your family to stop exchanging Christmas gifts. Gemini (5/21 - 6/21): You'll be bitten by a vampire and become one of the Immortal Sanguinary Children Of The Night just when the whole fad is about to

Cancer (6/22-7/22): The parandrus, an antlered hairy, cloven-hoofed beast the size of an ox and notable for its ill temper and foul breath, was thought to be mythical until people got a load of you Leo (7/23-8/22): Your future has yet to be determined due to a malevolent online community's

massive denial-of-service attack on the relevant

blow over.

zodiacal elements. Virgo (8/23-9/22): Pluto rising in your sign indicates trouble in your romantic life, which is problematic because, well, for astronomical reasons, Pluto's going to be rising in your sign for the next 87 years.

Libra (9/23-10/22): You'll resolve not to fall for the same old tricks just as your shoelace goes untied, a menacing figure looms up right behind you, and you finally find true love.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): The rescue workers won't need to knock down an entire wall of your house to get you out, but they want to make you feel extra fat. Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): You never thought you'd get tired of the endless parade of deep-fried food that is your life, and sure enough, it hasn't happened yet.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Only one major thing will happen to you this week. After that, however, it won't really be possible for anything to ever happen to you again.



long-time friend. Rosemarie Wilson passed away at 84 on July 30, 2020.

Born in San Francisco she raised her family in Pacifica

then moved to the Berryessa Pines. She was a Real Estate Broker and very involved in the Lake Berryessa Senior Center with her husband. She had 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren

whom she adored. She moved to American Canyon and helped form their Senior Center and was involved greatly in the community. She was loved and will be missed. We Spread Covid After Discovering Virus Particles will miss our mom greatly. Cori Badertscher







Onion Headlines Man Just Wants To Watch Basketball In Peace

Humanity In Any Way CDC Announces Gronavirus That Causes Eve-Rolling and Tsk'ing

And After The 100-Foot-Tall Spiders Destroy

Screams Terrified Giuliani In RNC Speech Iowa Leaves Big Saran-Wrapped Bowl Of Potato Salad At Illinois Border After Making

Residue Of Forgotten Origin Now Just Accepted As Part Of Frying Pan Surface

I Was, Uh, Getting Groceries,' Lies Girlfriend Covering Up Fourth Craft Store Visit In Week

Too Much

Real Estate Experts Confirm Having George

Clooney Living In Attic Greatly Increases

Property Value Scientists Confirm Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

With Matching Tattoos Protest March Passing Outside Apartment

Close Enough For Man To Say He Participated ExxonMobil To Simplify Oil Extraction By

Cutting Earth In Half

Doritos Introduces New 'Miscellaneous' Flavor U.S. Unemployment Continues To Skyrocket As More Americans Pursue Dream Of

Becoming A Dancer Pete Buttigieg Hoping To Leverage Rising Star

Status Into Becoming Mayor Of Evans, Indiana

Gamers Will Love This: Sometimes It's Just Fun To Relax With A Nice Jigsaw Puzzle

Years Of Therapy Give Girlfriend Unfair Advantage In Fight

Dog Hopes He Doesn't Get Stuck With Chatty

Groomer Again End Of An Ear: Autocorrect Begins Treating

Our Tweet's Likely If Knowing Whatever Were Going To Say, Dies It Completely Wronged

13-Year-Old Mourns Loss Of Youth Upon

Realizing He No Longer Feels Anything About Monster Trucks

Steam in hot water.

Deja Vu All Over Again Three Years Later

Some cliches are just too true. In 2017 Evan Kilkus, Fast forward three years later, the stories in the 2017 Associate Editor of the Lake Berryessa News, made the approaching Lake Berryessa and the Berryessa Highlands.

As the Los Angeles Times wrote, "He wouldn't evacuate. the Atlas Peak fire swept through, Kilkus, 34, refused to leave. Instead, he turned into a one-man news team for his neighbors."

Using Facebook Live, he streamed real-time video of the flames from atop a ridgeline accessible from his father's property. For seven days, he narrated and posted videos, providing context and updates to residents on edge about the fate of their homes. While newspapers and TV stations documented the unfolding disaster across operation.

Kilkus and his father, Peter Kilkus, run the Lake Tragically, unlike the miraculous result from 2017 when I installed 16 sprayers around the Lake Berryessa news!" is the news outlet's mantra.

For Kilkus, it's a simple but vital mission: "At the Lake After saving the Lake Berryessa News headquarters (the Berryessa News, this is what we do. We get all the

something to talk about

Corcoran has arrived in Wine Countr

GLOBAL LIVING

corcoran

EXCITING NEWS!!!

Partners signs you've become accustomed to in the neighborhood will so partnered with Corcoran Global Living. We will have a new name and sign but the heart of the company is still the same. Our leadership, agents



Amber Payne

CalDRE#01302244 m: 707.235.1124 amber.payne@corcorangl.com Thinking of BUYING or SELLING?

important information and we provide it," he said.

news media could simply be copied and pasted into national news for his real time reporting on the fire stories for 2020. The stories were the same, only the outcomes changed. He wouldn't evacuate, then used Facebook Live to

broadcast firestorm in his hometown. While many then used Facebook Live to broadcast firestorm in his heeded the evacuation order as the Hennessey fire swept hometown. While many heeded the evacuation order as through, Kilkus, now 37, refused to leave. Instead, he again turned into a one-man news team for his neighbors. Staying put despite an evacuation order, Kilkus,

associate editor of the Lake Berryessa News, turned his smartphone into a source of live pictures, videos and updates for residents to keep in touch with the lakeside communities they had been forced to leave behind. For two weeks this time, the Lake Berryessa News' Facebook page was again almost the only source of images and reports from around Lake Berryessa, starting Napa and Sonoma counties, the 34-year-old resident of with dramatic nighttime footage of flames along a Berryessa Highlands became a one-man breaking-news ridgeline and later documenting the closing-off - and eventual reopening - of roads and neighborhoods.

Berryessa News, which describes itself as the only news the lake communities and the Berryessa Highlands were house plus 4 around the perimeter. source covering the tiny communities along the lake. saved due to the massive air support of supertankers and The system includes two 5,000 "Without **The Lake Berryessa News** there would be no a slew of water-dropping helicopters, 2020 brought gallon water tanks, two 4" draft unmitigated disaster.

Kilkus home) above the Berryessa Highlands with his

My condolences to the entire

Lake Berryessa community!

I sell HOMES for a living. I help

people's homeownership goals come

true. I've been a resident of the

community, own property in the area

and have friends, family and dear

Our homes are supposed to be a safe

to live with our families, pets and

enjoy with friends. For many that

eality has changed. My wish for the

and make the community a place

where you can enjoy HOME again.

It's too soon to tell how this will

change the real estate landscape of

Lake Berryessa, but I know this

community is resilient and the

visitors due to COVID

alongside you to bring back the

community stronger than ever!

mmunity is to build new memories

amazingly-engineered wildfire fire sprinkler system, he reported live several times each day.

the good news of all ients that are part of the community! houses saved as last time, Kilkus had to broadcast aven and our comfort zones. A place the bad news of massive destruction. Watching some of your best friends' houses being burned to the ground would take an emotional toll on anyone, even someone nicknamed 'Mr. Positivity".

Kilkus worked with the narket will come back robust as eve firefighters every day and This is still a destination location and was able to save the house as become an attraction to locals and of a Rimrock friend - one 'bright" spot in the look forward to continuing to work gloom. Now that the recovery phase of this

disaster is moving forward, the Lake Berryessa News will continue to bring you the latest information.



Exterior Wildfire Sprinklers by Evan Kilkus

hydrants, three pressurized 1.5 hydrants, a pump and lots of It works amazingly well, and the

firefighters I have shown it to wish every home had something similar. Our home has new concrete siding, ember resistant But rather than reporting vents. and fantastic defensible

space, so the next logical thing was add water!



Frontline Fire Protection, LLC is a commercial company that does similar fire protection installations. https://frontlinefireprotectionllc.com/ Systems start at about \$15,000 with more thorough

coverage to \$35,000.

"2020 Can Go to Hell"

In the sprawling destruction of California's wildfires, one photo became an instant icon for 2020's miseries: On a hillside roaring with flames stood a sign that asked visitors to a senior center to wear masks, wash their hands and be safe. "Come Join Us," it beckoned creepily. The virus. Lost jobs. A world aflame.

Yep, said Judi Vollmer, whose trailer home down the road from the iconic sign that pretty much sums up life right now. Ms. Vollmer, 65, was succinct: "2020 can go to hell. This has been the worst year of my life."

Somehow, that welcome sign outside the Lake Berryessa senior center was still standing on Tuesday as residents trickled back through police barricades and road closures to check out what little had survived. Much of the lakefront community of retirees and young families who commute to landscaping, winery and service jobs in wealthier corners of Napa County had been reduced to a thicket of tangled steel and ash.

"We've lost so many people who won't be back," said Jerry Rehmke, 80, who runs the country store with his wife, Marcia Ritz, 77. Her trailer home, with all of the drawings and paintings she had made, burned in the Spanish Flat Villa mobile home park, along with Ms. Vollmer's trailer and about 50 others.

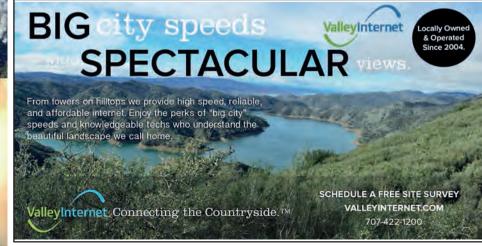
Ms. Ritz moved to Lake Berryessa 13 years ago and took over running the country store (which survived, as did some marinas and campgrounds). Their store actually boomed during the pandemic as stir-crazy boaters and anglers flooded the area and snapped up orders of chicken sandwiches and meatloaf. That is over now, and faced with years of rebuilding and a bleak economic future, Ms. Ritz said she was ready to quit altogether. "Our customers have gone," Ms. Ritz said on Tuesday morning, a few minutes after she woke up from another night sleeping outside on an air mattress beside the country store.

For the past four years, people around the lake said they watched fires march toward their homes, only to be beaten back. The fire, like the pandemic, has hit California's poorest residents hardest. Homeowners able to keep up with the complications and rising costs of insuring property in a fire zone had a safety net. But Ms. Vollmer said her carrier dropped her after a wildfire a few years ago. The trailer was her life's investment and her retirement plan, and it burned alongside the \$3,000 in cash she had tucked away inside.

Excerpted from "2020 Can Go to Hell": The Story Behind the Viral Fire Photo That Said It All, By Jack Healy, New York Times, Published Aug. 26, 2020







Turtle Rock Bar and Cafe Spanish Flat Country Store Survives Survives Another Wildfire Store Owner, Marcia Ritz, Loses Home

rural hangout was in the cross-hairs of the fire which rode out the fire with nine other people aboard a pontoon eventually surrounded Lake Berryessa and destroyed boat as flames surrounded Lake Berryessa. much of nearby Spanish Flat.

smoke was coming right at the bar/cafe. was worried that his bar would be next.

He had one big advantage: his own 2,600-gallon water tank, pump and fire hoses. The equipment was installed after the 2017 wildfires hit the area. Friends and neighbors jumped in to help. Then, a fire strike crew arrived and they started hammering away at the fire. Their job was likely made easier because Leung had also cleared more defensible space around his property, located at 2000 Capell Valley Road

"It works," Leung said about the fire prevention strategy of clearing brush and trees from around buildings and structures. "And it saved us. The flames blew over us"

"We made it through," he said. "We were very fortunate." In the moment of the firefight, there's a lot of anxiety and adrenaline, he said. There's no time to think. "We've been though it before — three years ago," he

prone to wildfires, Leung didn't hesitate. His family has Berryessa Knoxville Road. lived in the area for 40 years. His home — also safe — Ironically, Ritz was interviewed by the North Bay Business is just minutes away.

"The cafe is my livelihood.. And if that goes then my it has been her best year so far in over a decade. livelihood is gone," he said. "I don't think the county said. "If that goes, Turtle Rock is gone forever."



As flames spread around the intersection of Highway Marcia Ritz is lucky. Or at least half lucky. The Hennesey 128 at Knoxville Road, it didn't look good for the Turtle Fire, part of the LNU Lightning Complex Fire, tore through Rock Bar and Cafe. By around 2:30 p.m., the longtime the area on Aug. 18. Ritz and her husband Jerry Rehmke, 80,

Her general store, Spanish Flat Country Store & Deli in the There were no fire crews or helicopters on site yet, and Lake Berryessa community of Spanish Flat, was left the winds were blowing about 40 mph. "The wind and standing after the Hennessey Fire swept through her neighborhood on the western shore of Lake Berryessa. But The Turtle Rock motel (across the street) looked like it almost everything else in the neighborhood - including the was catching on fire. If that went up in flames, Leung mobile home park where Ritz lived - was destroyed. Also badly damaged were the small hillside communities off Berryessa Knoxville Road.



original art that I had, and everything I owned," Ritz said. I was in the middle of said. "You just do what you gotta do and hope for the Now, Ritz thinks she'll have to close her business. "There is no customer base. There are maybe two houses remaining When asked about remaining in an area that seems to be on the hill," she said, waving her hand to gesture down

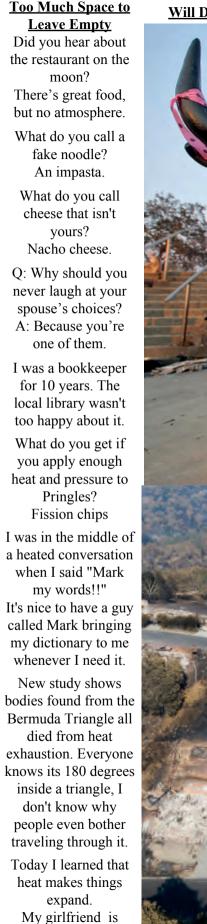
Journal only weeks ago and said at the time that since March

Still, Ritz is glad to have her life, and the lives of her friends, would let me replace that building" where it is now, he after a close call with the fire that had her fleeing - in a group of about 10 people - in a pontoon boat to the middle of the lake the evening of Aug. 18. As the fire surrounded them, they got into the boat and set off, watching the hills around hem burn. They stayed on the water — staring in awe and error — for four or five hours. "We drove out and you could see the devastation," she said. "Trees were smoldering."

Don't cheat and open up a dictionary.

Did you know...Nothing starts with the letter "N" and ends with the letter "G".

Not even a niggling doubt about this?



REALLY hot.

