

Lake Level as of 8/2/18

The lake level is at 427.6 feet - 12.4 feet below Glory Hole. The lake continues to drop at about 6 inches per week including evaporation. Evaporation due to the hot weather this week averaged .31 inches per day, 2.2 inches for the week, or 30% of the total drop.

Water temperature is 82 degrees at the surface to 5 feet deep. Total season rainfall was 14.9 inches - below average. Rainfall for the last 5 years was 47.55 in. last year; 24.57 in. - 2016; 19.56 in. - 2015; 13.69 in. - 2014; 20.65 in. - 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*

Job interviewer: "And where would you see yourself in five years' time Mr. Jeffries?" Me: "Personally I believe my biggest weakness is in listening."

Father: "Son, you were adopted."

Son: "What?! I knew it! I want to meet my biological parents!"

Father: "We are your biological parents. Now pack up, the new ones will pick you up in 20 minutes."

Even if you know you're doing everything wrong, you still know you can at least serve as a bad example.

Tomato is a fruit, right? Does that make ketchup a smoothie?

Little Eddy and his mom were digging for fishing bait in the garden.

Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mom. "No, honey, it won't do for bait," she said. "It's not an earthworm." "It's not?" Eddy asked, his eyes wide. "What planet is it from?"



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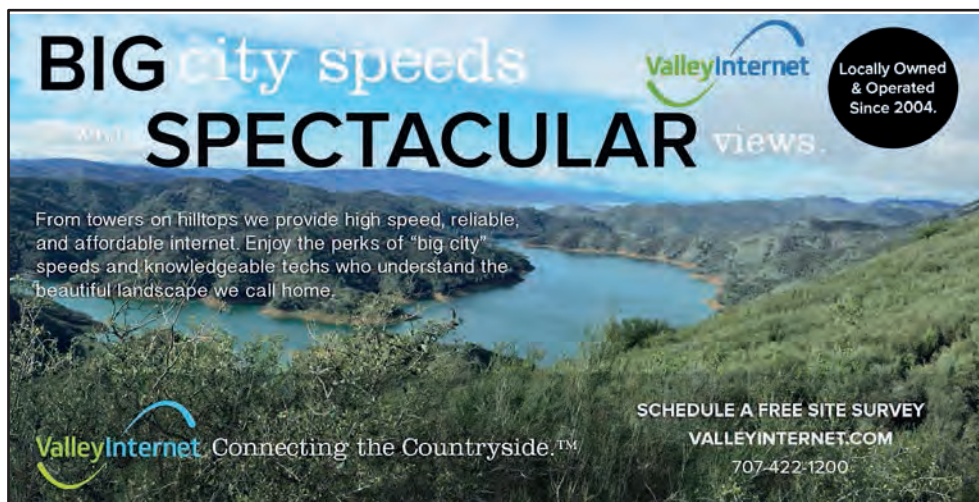
A Little Volunteer Fire Department Humor in the Face of Our Local Tragedy

A fire started on some grasslands near a farm. The county fire department was called to put out the fire. The fire was more than the county fire department could handle. Someone suggested that a nearby volunteer bunch be called. Despite some doubt that the volunteer outfit would be of any assistance, the call was made.

The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped! The firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire, breaking the blaze into two easily-controlled parts.

Watching all this, the farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire department's work and was so grateful that his farm had been spared, that right there on the spot he presented the volunteers with a check for \$1,000. A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department planned to do with the funds.

"That ought to be obvious," he responded, wiping ashes off his coat. "The first thing we're gonna do is get the brakes fixed on our fire truck!"



# The Lake Berryessa News

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

**August, 2018**



## Beating A Dead Horse With A Stick OR Beating A Horse With A Dead Stick? BOR Betrays Berryessa AGAIN!

by Peter Kilkus

It's been a long time since the original promise by the Bureau of Reclamation of a "seamless transition" at Lake Berryessa followed by many years of total chaos leading to the destruction of a local community and economy you see here now.

After the Pensus fiasco of 2010, Reclamation officials appeared to finally understand the serious damage they had done to our community. They scrambled from August, 2013 to January, 2014 to prepare various detailed plans for five concession areas. In July, 2015 Reclamation released its latest Concession Bid Prospectus. In February, 2016 Reclamation announced that no acceptable bids were received - a major disaster for the Lake Berryessa community.

There was a period after that last failed bid process during which Reclamation appeared to feel enough "guilt" to agree to work towards a Managing Partner Agreement with Napa County to allow the County to take over management of the resorts and create its own bid package and subsequent concession contracts.

Original Schedule

November 2017: RFII Submittals Due

January, 2018: MPA Authorization

February, 2018: RFP Release

April, 2018: RFP Due

Spring/Summer 2018: Concessionaire Selection and Negotiations

Modified Schedule (February, 2018)

April, 2018: MPA Authorization

May, 2018: RFP Release

Modified Schedule (July, 2018)

None

Modified Schedule (August, 2018)

None

Napa County kept its word! It funded a detailed study showing that Lake Berryessa is a recreational gem that should provide significant financial incentive for resort companies to bid on running the lake resorts. At a December 13, 2017 meeting both Lake Berryessa supervisors, Alfredo Pedroza and Diane Dillon, spoke positively about the potential outcomes. Supervisor Pedroza said, "We've made great progress in working with the Bureau of Reclamation that will renew the vibrancy and allow sensible development at the lake."

In January 2018, Reclamation also said that it is dedicated to coming to a Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) with the County that allows the County to manage the concessions. An MPA would allow Napa County to manage concession contracts with terms that were previously not available through Reclamation, leading to the revitalization of the whole region.

But then something happened. As I reported in last month's issue of the Lake Berryessa News, "Both Napa County and Reclamation professed to be continuing the process with the positive intent to have Napa County take over management of all or some of the recreation areas. One hang-up seems to be the typical bureaucratic "off like a herd of turtles" syndrome. The other is the federal government approving 50 year terms for new concession contracts rather than the 30 year terms proposed by the Department of the Interior."

Napa County is well managed with a dedicated professional staff. They have done their due diligence and all indications are that various departments are prepared to move forward with the bid process and concession management plans.

But where is the Bureau of Reclamation? Well, it appears - NOWHERE. We've lost another month due to bureaucratic bungling on the part of the Bureau of Reclamation. Apparently no one in that bureaucracy is willing to stand up and make a decision about the 50 year contract term. This is a betrayal of magnificent proportions!

Is the Bureau of Reclamation a dead horse no longer functioning, or is the influence of Napa County just a dead stick when encountering bureaucratic inertia? Maybe it's time to go with an "old school" stick - a passionate letter-writing campaign. We need to let government officials know that we really, really care. It's time to speak up again, as we have in the past. Sample below:

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear ----

I am very concerned that the Bureau of Reclamation is once again ignoring the needs of the Lake Berryessa community. They were supposed to complete a Managing Partner Agreement with Napa County several months ago to allow the county to take over management of the lake's recreation areas, including a new bid prospectus and concession contracts.

Why has Reclamation unilaterally delayed this important process? Why has Reclamation not followed through with the critically important approval of fifty years contract terms - which all research has shown to be necessary to attract competent recreation companies to invest in new facilities?

Please require that the Bureau of Reclamation follow through on this important issue.

Sincerely,

(Addresses listed on Page2.)

## Major Disaster in the Berryessa Highlands!!!!

The Steele Fire destroyed homes and dreams after flames broke out suddenly around 4:30 p.m., Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Please donate to the fire relief fund at:

[www.gofundme.com/steele-fire-wildfire-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/steele-fire-wildfire-relief-fund)

Thousands of dollars will be needed to help the folks who lost everything.

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**Steele Fire - 8/1/18 Situation Update from the Berryessa**

**Highlands Fire Safe Council**  
by Evan Kilkus, Volunteer Project Coordinator  
  
Greetings neighbors. I spoke with CAL FIRE and several neighbors yesterday and would like describe the general situation so we can all continue to move forward and support those that need it. Seven homes at the top of Headlands Drive burned, and one on Woodhaven Court. Total acreage burned is at 135. Crews have a large dozer and/or hand line around the entire perimeter, and are continuing to monitor for and extinguish any hot spots that remain.

There is no longer any active burning fire. Several engine crews will be patrolling for at least another couple days, then at least one truck will remain for several more days as a spotter. For several more days CAL FIRE Spanish Flat will send a crew out daily in the mid-afternoon to check for any activity. I spoke with several people and our neighbors, Ross, Jack, Mike, Cody, Darla, Oscar, Jen, Roy, and a few others who absolutely saved homes on Arroyo Grande, Woodhaven, and beyond - and helped save lives by getting residents' attention for evacuation.

They held off the flames and saved houses in the first minutes of the fire. Additionally Capell Valley Volunteer Firefighters Sandy, Matt, Bob, and the rest of the Volunteer FD gang no doubt saved a half dozen houses on Woodhaven Ct. And the first on scene CAL FIRE Engine out of Spanish Flat was right there with them, as close to the fire as they could get, deflecting the fire away from Woodhaven. They, plus all the other resources on land and in the air, are the reasons so much of our neighborhood is still here. Can't thank them enough.

Please do not ask me "how did it start". CAL FIRE is investigating and will release a cause when it is fully determined. In the meantime, we do know it started near the end of Arroyo Grande, near a house, and let's leave it at that for now (and bottle up any frustration/anger).

Please respect the owners of the burned properties and do not walk on or around their burned homes. Besides the fact that it's not safe, it's still their place. Also, while I understand the curiosity, try to avoid being a "fire tourist", and please don't all drive around in these impacted areas if you don't have to.

For the next week, month, and for that matter until rainy season, all neighbors should be very alert for smoke or fire in this burn

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area. Especially on hot and windy days. If you see anything more than a tiny tiny puff of smoke, feel free to calmly call 911 to let them know something is burning in the fire area.

We may need to call them back out in future weeks if we see any tree stumps or similar re-ignition. CAL FIRE would rather come out here to hose down a hot tree trunk than fight a reignited wildfire. There are several more things to talk about, including lessons learned, and things we can all do in the future, but let's leave this as a simple update. Thanks to every one of you for helping with people's pets, evacuating respectfully, donating, offering support, or just for being great neighbors!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**A Sense of Community**  
Hi neighbors,

I moved to the Berryessa Highlands about 1 1/2 years ago to help my Mom, and vice versa (we helped each other). She has lived in this community for more than 20 years. Since moving up here, this community has seen two major fires and personal losses because of them.

In all my years I have never experienced such a overwhelming sense of community and neighborly love than I have seen and felt since living here. This community is full of such great loving people it literally brings tears to my eyes.

From road condition reports or spotting smoke, you guys are always there for one another. It took my mother's passing (see below) for me to realize why she loved it here so very much. She didn't want to be anywhere else.

So thank you neighbors from the bottom of my heart for, well just being you. I am so glad, and feel so very lucky to be a part of this wonderful community.

Love you all, Julie Spencer

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Another Tragedy in the Berryessa Highlands**

Virginia "Gini" Rose (Borcherding) Savage died unexpectedly on Saturday morning, July 21, 2018. She was 73 years old. In 1988, she moved to Lake Berryessa, which Gini affectionately referred to as 'God's Country'. Gini retired in 2017 and enjoyed spending time with friends and her Berryessa Highlands neighbors.



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**What can YOU do to help PROTECT Lake Berryessa?**  
by Asha Pluton

We are approaching the middle of the 2018 summer season and our clean boating and recreating programs are in full stride. We have educated 1,600 boaters and recreators about clean water habits. We are excited to report that over 100 bilge pillows have been installed to help protect the lake from motor oil. We have also conducted over 400 surveys giving out 2018 boater kits to all participants.

There are many ways that we can all work to protect the lake. Lake visitors can do their part by using recycling and trash receptacles, picking up debris found on the land, refraining from using our lake as a restroom, and using environmentally friendly sunscreens. Join us for Coastal Cleanup Day which is slated for Sept 15 at 9am at three different cleanup locations around the lake.

Boaters can help keep the lake clean by installing oil absorbents on the spot. While our survey provides boaters with helpful information on clean and safe boating, the bilge pillow is the central part of the program. Boaters are less likely to install bilge pillows once they leave our interns at the docks or marinas, and these boats may contribute to oil being leaked into the lake.

We want to encourage all boaters to take a few moments to install an oil absorbent and keep the lake oil-free. Interns will be giving out shirts, flags, and canteens to motivate boaters. If you would like to get your prize today, please look for interns on the weekends through Labor Day.



One day a college professor of Psychology was greeting his new college class. He stood up in front of the class and said, "Would everyone who thinks he or she is stupid please stand up?"

After a minute or so of silence, a young man stood up.  
"Well, good morning. So, you actually think you're a moron?" the professor asked.

The kid replied, "No sir, I just didn't want to see you standing there all by yourself."

**Onion Headlines**

Man Feeling Pressure To Give Mom Grandchildren While She Still Around To Raise Them

NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL Team Owners Vote To Unionize

'Who Sent You Here,' Whispers Woman To Big Tray Of Cheese Danishes Confronting Her In Break Room

Nation Figured Everything Would Run On Some Kind Of Cubes Of Blue Energy By Now

Embittered Raisin Won't Shut Up About How It Could Have Been Wine

CNN Anchors Speechless After Guest Goes On Long, Coherent Thought

Black Man At Walgreens Impressed By How Attentively Employees Tailing Him End Of An Era: Kellogg's Is Shutting Down Eggo After Its CEO Had A Freaky Dream About Waffles

Report: Therapist Just Saying That To Make You Feel Better

Half Of Morning Run Spent Trying To Change Song On Phone

Gerber: Feeding Formula To Baby Helps Infant Bond With Parent Corporation

Woodpecker Having Difficulty Remembering Tree Where He Got The Really Good Bugs That One Time

Experts Warn Transitioning Too Quickly From Work To Vacation Could Cause Decompression Sickness

Picky Refugee Just Expects To Be Reunited With Exact Same Family As Before

New Report Finds Fastest-Rising Cause Of Death In U.S. Is Losing Chess Match To Grim Reaper

ASPCA Report Warns That Many Americans Are Not Giving Their Dogs Correct Name

Archaeologists Unearth Ancient Clay Pot Shards From Dwelling Of Earliest Known Klutz

Bee Wishes It Could Hang Around Open Soda Can Without Everybody Freaking Out



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Emergency medical helicopter services now available at a reasonable price. REACH Air opened a new base in Napa last month and will be servicing our county to better assist with emergency services. There is a REACH Membership discounted plan for Berryessa Highlands and its neighboring communities. This will save you \$20!! \$65 Discounted rate. Use Coupon Code: 7841-CA-BUS at <https://reachair.com/membership/>

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### Hot water and antimicrobial soaps don't get your hands any cleaner

It doesn't matter what temperature water you use to wash your hands: all that matters is that you wash them, according to a study in the Journal of Food Protection. Understanding what gets our hands the cleanest matters, because not washing our hands is one way that germs—from those that cause colds to those that cause life threatening infections—spread.

To figure out how water temperature affects hand sanitation, the researchers contaminated participants' hands with harmless bacteria and then made them wash at 100, 80, and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The researchers thought that 60 degrees was the coolest temperature that would be comfortable. The FDA, according to the study's authors, requires that food service preparers (like restaurants) provide access to a sink capable of providing water that reaches at least 100 degrees. And historical surveys have found that most people are told to wash their hands in the warmest water they can tolerate. In general, people associate warmer water temperatures with cleaner hands. The study, however, didn't find this to be true. Water temperature had no effect.

The authors also found that anti-bacterial soaps didn't really work either. Hands washed with regular soap were about as clean as those scrubbed down with the antimicrobial stuff, a finding that isn't novel. In fact, last year the FDA banned 19 additives that are put into soap to make them antimicrobial. Consumers may think antibacterial washes are more effective at preventing the spread of germs, but we have no scientific evidence that they are any better than plain soap and water. In fact, some data suggests that antibacterial ingredients may do more harm than good over the long-term.

Studies have suggested that consumer antimicrobial agents like triclosan, which was originally designed for use in hospital surgical wards, not only fails to get our hands cleaner, but can also hasten the progress of antibacterial resistance, kill marine life, and cause human health problems. It's worth noting that Gojo's products tend to be free of anti-microbial ingredients, and while the FDA ban doesn't address hand sanitizers, Purell (which is essentially gelled alcohol) doesn't use any of the chemicals implicated in the ban.

So what actually makes your hands cleaner? It's all about time commitment. Each of the 20 subjects were actually tested four times—each using a different duration of soap lathering (5, 10, 20, and 40 seconds). "That was just the time people were lathering with the soap—it doesn't include rinse time—and we saw a statistically significant difference between 5 seconds and 20 seconds," says study author Donald Schaffner, a food risk analysis researcher at Rutgers University. "We did not see a difference between 10 and 20 seconds and 20 and 40 seconds.

In other words, five seconds of lathering up the soap isn't long enough to get your hands clean. Ten seconds is the magic number. The Centers for Disease Control recommends hand washing for about 20 seconds, roughly as long as it takes to sing the lyrics to "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star". But since that time is supposed to include both lathering and rinsing, it easily gets us into the range that Schaffner found in his study.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Your chances are better...

An enormously wealthy 65-year-old man falls in love with a young woman in her twenties and is contemplating proposing. "Do you think she'd marry me if I tell her I'm 45?" he asked a friend. "Your chances are better," said the friend, "if you tell her you're 90."

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### It's the Dog Days of Summer! Tips to keep your pets safe.

by Lieutenant Eric Swift, Napa County Sheriff's Office

Neighbors, Many of you are likely enjoying these long summer days outside with your pets. Although this can be a fun time of the year for your furry friends, it's also important to remember that higher temperatures mean higher risks for pets.

To keep your pets safe, follow these precautions from experts at the ASPCA:

1. Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors.
2. Know the symptoms of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse.
3. Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle.
4. Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool—not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats.
5. Open unscreened windows pose a real danger to pets, who often fall out of them. Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed, and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured.
6. Feel free to trim longer hair on your dog, but never shave your dog. The layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat.
7. When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pet's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.
8. Remember that food and drink commonly found at barbeques can be poisonous to pets. Hope your pets are having a furry good summer!

### Visible House Numbers Are Important

When you have lived at the same address for a number of years, you rarely pay any attention to your house numbers (address). For Deputies, Police Officers, EMS, and Fire that may be responding to your house in the event of an emergency, your house numbers are what they are looking for.

Make it a point, to LOOK at your numbers to see if: 1. All of the numbers are still there; 2. They are Large enough to be seen easily from the street; 3. Any landscape vegetation has grown over them limiting their visibility

If you can see them, So can we...Thank YOU!

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Attending one or all of the meetings to provide Public Comment is not the only way to participate in this process. In fact, if you have more to share (beyond three minutes) you can participate in the extensive community outreach efforts in the coming months (August – September). One can provide their input by becoming a Community Contributor.

See [https://www.countyofnapa.org/2416/Get-Involved-in-Strategic-Planning#Get\\_Involved](https://www.countyofnapa.org/2416/Get-Involved-in-Strategic-Planning#Get_Involved)

The Public can also provide their comments via email by sending them to [CEO@CountyofNapa.org](mailto:CEO@CountyofNapa.org).



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Aquarius (1/20-2/18): All celestial signs point to you suddenly coming into possession of a great deal of twisted aircraft-grade aluminum, charred wiring, and burning jet fuel, but it's not what you think.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): You, your couch, and your TV will be whisked away to a remote island by a wealthy sportsman who has waited all his life to hunt the Least Dangerous Game.

Aries (3/21-4/19): Once again, you'll be saved from boredom by the fact that matches are often given away for free in establishments that sell alcohol.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Truth be told, you haven't been a very good father, but it's not your fault that the mothers of your children haven't informed you of their existence.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): You'll receive a recorded message from your future self in which you appear extremely insistent that an unspecified person be thanked for a waffle recipe.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): A journey of self-improvement ends almost before it starts when you find out there's a kind of waffle stuffed with cheese and booze.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Your coworkers seem to be hinting that they wouldn't mind if you got rid of that beard, but you've been married to her for almost 10 years now.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Pluto rising in your sign this week indicates vast trouble ahead, as you really shouldn't be able to see it with the naked eye like that.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Turns out that while dogs can't actually smell fear, they're really good at smelling who likes to carry bacon around in their pockets.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): The FBI will have to ask you some tough questions next week, such as whether true love really exists and what happens after we die.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): They say you can never step into the same river twice, but thanks to crocodiles and your refusal to learn how to swim, once is all you'll need.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You're not the kind of person who lets social conventions dictate how you live your life, but it would be nice if you could pull that off without being such a jerk.





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Please bring family, friends and co-workers. The event is free! Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Sponsored by Suscol Intertribal Council, Yountville Veterans Home Picnic Grounds, 100 California Drive, Yountville, CA 94599, 11 am – 6 pm both days

Suscol Intertribal Council invites the community to come celebrate the lives and complexity of the regions First people! Tribes from this area as well as drums and dancers from many different tribes of North American will share tradition and culture.

Everyone is welcome to the beautiful grounds at Yountville Veterans' Home to watch or participate in songs, drum and dance, and to enjoy the incredible beauty and joy of Native American culture. This 25th annual Pow-wow celebrates traditional Native Americans. This is a family friendly event. Come for a few hours or throughout the weekend!

Pow-Wows, Gatherings sometimes referred to as Big Times traditionally were set up as seasonal celebrations, harvest gatherings to visit amongst families, to trade and for young folks to meet marriageable partners from other tribal clans. Initially in post-colonial period it was a time to come together to see who had survived the "Indian Campaigns" or in distant past the winters. Currently it is much the same.

It is a time to share with all people the beauty and richness of Native American culture! There will be food and Native American crafts for sale. The master of ceremonies will offer explanations of celebration throughout the weekend. For information please contact 707-256-3561, e-mail: [suscol@suscol.net](mailto:suscol@suscol.net)



Lake Level as of 8/2/18

The lake level is at 427.6 feet - 12.4 feet below Glory Hole. The lake continues to drop at about 6 inches per week including evaporation. Evaporation due to the hot weather this week averaged .31 inches per day, 2.2 inches for the week, or 30% of the total drop.

Water temperature is 82 degrees at the surface to 5 feet deep. Total season rainfall was 14.9 inches - below average. Rainfall for the last 5 years was 47.55 in. last year; 24.57 in. - 2016; 19.56 in. - 2015; 13.69 in. - 2014; 20.65 in. - 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*

Job interviewer: "And where would you see yourself in five years' time Mr. Jeffries?" Me: "Personally I believe my biggest weakness is in listening."

Father: "Son, you were adopted."

Son: "What?! I knew it! I want to meet my biological parents!"

Father: "We are your biological parents. Now pack up, the new ones will pick you up in 20 minutes."

Even if you know you're doing everything wrong, you still know you can at least serve as a bad example.

Tomato is a fruit, right? Does that make ketchup a smoothie?

Little Eddy and his mom were digging for fishing bait in the garden.

Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mom. "No, honey, it won't do for bait," she said. "It's not an earthworm." "It's not?" Eddy asked, his eyes wide. "What planet is it from?"



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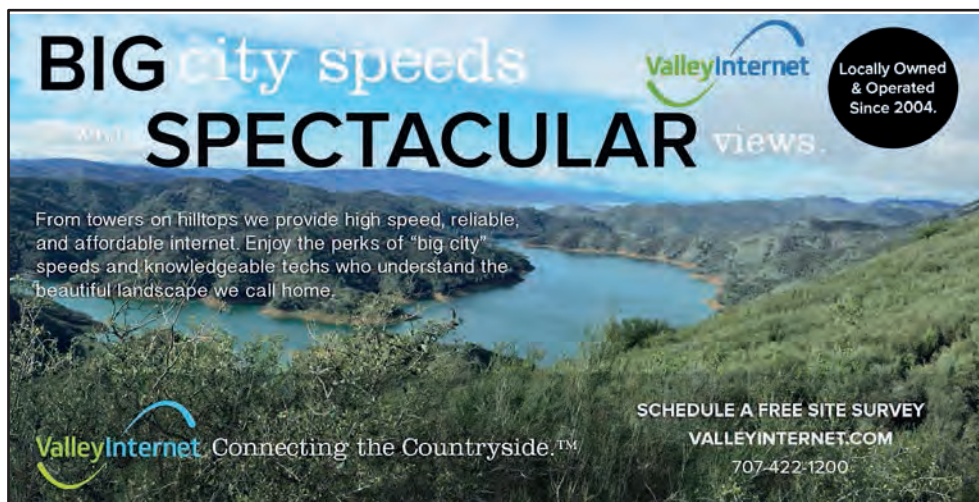
A Little Volunteer Fire Department Humor in the Face of Our Local Tragedy

A fire started on some grasslands near a farm. The county fire department was called to put out the fire. The fire was more than the county fire department could handle. Someone suggested that a nearby volunteer bunch be called. Despite some doubt that the volunteer outfit would be of any assistance, the call was made.

The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped! The firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire, breaking the blaze into two easily-controlled parts.

Watching all this, the farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire department's work and was so grateful that his farm had been spared, that right there on the spot he presented the volunteers with a check for \$1,000. A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department planned to do with the funds.

"That ought to be obvious," he responded, wiping ashes off his coat. "The first thing we're gonna do is get the brakes fixed on our fire truck!"



# The Lake Berryessa News

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

August, 2018



## Beating A Dead Horse With A Stick OR Beating A Horse With A Dead Stick? BOR Betrays Berryessa AGAIN!

by Peter Kilkus

It's been a long time since the original promise by the Bureau of Reclamation of a "seamless transition" at Lake Berryessa followed by many years of total chaos leading to the destruction of a local community and economy you see here now.

After the Pensus fiasco of 2010, Reclamation officials appeared to finally understand the serious damage they had done to our community. They scrambled from August, 2013 to January, 2014 to prepare various detailed plans for five concession areas. In July, 2015 Reclamation released its latest Concession Bid Prospectus. In February, 2016 Reclamation announced that no acceptable bids were received - a major disaster for the Lake Berryessa community.

There was a period after that last failed bid process during which Reclamation appeared to feel enough "guilt" to agree to work towards a Managing Partner Agreement with Napa County to allow the County to take over management of the resorts and create its own bid package and subsequent concession contracts.

Original Schedule

November 2017: RFII Submittals Due

January, 2018: MPA Authorization

February, 2018: RFP Release

April, 2018: RFP Due

Spring/Summer 2018: Concessionaire Selection and Negotiations

Modified Schedule (February, 2018)

April, 2018: MPA Authorization

May, 2018: RFP Release

Modified Schedule (July, 2018)

None

Modified Schedule (August, 2018)

None

Napa County kept its word! It funded a detailed study showing that Lake Berryessa is a recreational gem that should provide significant financial incentive for resort companies to bid on running the lake resorts. At a December 13, 2017 meeting both Lake Berryessa supervisors, Alfredo Pedroza and Diane Dillon, spoke positively about the potential outcomes. Supervisor Pedroza said, "We've made great progress in working with the Bureau of Reclamation that will renew the vibrancy and allow sensible development at the lake."

In January 2018, Reclamation also said that it is dedicated to coming to a Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) with the County that allows the County to manage the concessions. An MPA would allow Napa County to manage concession contracts with terms that were previously not available through Reclamation, leading to the revitalization of the whole region.

But then something happened. As I reported in last month's issue of the Lake Berryessa News, "Both Napa County and Reclamation professed to be continuing the process with the positive intent to have Napa County take over management of all or some of the recreation areas. One hang-up seems to be the typical bureaucratic "off like a herd of turtles" syndrome. The other is the federal government approving 50 year terms for new concession contracts rather than the 30 year terms proposed by the Department of the Interior."

Napa County is well managed with a dedicated professional staff. They have done their due diligence and all indications are that various departments are prepared to move forward with the bid process and concession management plans.

But where is the Bureau of Reclamation? Well, it appears - NOWHERE. We've lost another month due to bureaucratic bungling on the part of the Bureau of Reclamation. Apparently no one in that bureaucracy is willing to stand up and make a decision about the 50 year contract term. This is a betrayal of magnificent proportions!

Is the Bureau of Reclamation a dead horse no longer functioning, or is the influence of Napa County just a dead stick when encountering bureaucratic inertia? Maybe it's time to go with an "old school" stick - a passionate letter-writing campaign. We need to let government officials know that we really, really care. It's time to speak up again, as we have in the past. Sample below:

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear ----

I am very concerned that the Bureau of Reclamation is once again ignoring the needs of the Lake Berryessa community. They were supposed to complete a Managing Partner Agreement with Napa County several months ago to allow the county to take over management of the lake's recreation areas, including a new bid prospectus and concession contracts.

Why has Reclamation unilaterally delayed this important process? Why has Reclamation not followed through with the critically important approval of fifty years contract terms - which all research has shown to be necessary to attract competent recreation companies to invest in new facilities?

Please require that the Bureau of Reclamation follow through on this important issue.

Sincerely,

(Addresses listed on Page2.)

## Major Disaster in the Berryessa Highlands!!!!

The Steele Fire destroyed homes and dreams after flames broke out suddenly around 4:30 p.m., Saturday, July 28, 2018.

Please donate to the fire relief fund at:

www.gofundme.com/  
steele-fire-wildfire-relief-fund

Thousands of dollars will be needed to help the folks who lost everything.

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