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Lake Level 11/29/17
Lake Berryessa rose slightly last week but now remains stable at 430.4 feet - 9.6 feet below Glory Hole. It hit a low of 430.26 feet (9.74 feet below Glory Hole) on 11/7/17. Last year on this date the level was 399.6 feet - 40.4 feet below Glory Hole. Season total rainfall at Monticello Dam stands at 3.38 inches.

Interesting question now that the rains are here: If last year the lake went up 44 feet from its 40 foot low level during only a few months on 35 inches of rain (44 inches for the season), what would happen if we received the same rainfall pattern this year when the lake is only 10 feet down?

That would technically put the lake level many feet over the dam! Remember the lake rose 60 feet in one season in 1995, 40 feet in the early 90s, and 38 feet in 1978. Can a flood happen this year? What are there safety mechanisms and operational procedures in place to prevent that? Story to follow...

Five Years Ago In The Lake Berryessa News (Never Forget!)
Goodbye 2011: Another Year of Process Without Progress at Lake Berryessa!
Will 2012 Be Any Better? Maybe 2015?

Although I'd like to put on my happy face for 2012, unfortunately 2011 has not been kind to the Lake Berryessa community. It felt like an instant replay of the preceding several years. The most visible change was the appearance of tacky plywood signs in front of some of the Pensus resorts. More professional blue and white signs finally replaced those and are now at the entrances of all the Pensus resorts. But a new sign does not a recreation destination make.

Bureau of Reclamation Process Stumbles

It has now been more than eleven years since the Bureau of Reclamation initiated the process that destroyed a recreational culture at Lake Berryessa with the collateral effect of severely damaging the local business and residential community. After many years of determined democratic citizen opposition that failed in the face of monolithic bureaucracy, the real tragicomedy of errors began in April 2007 when Reclamation initiated its abortive first Concession Prospectus to bidders.

On April 2, 2008, Mike (Mr. Seamless Transition) Finnegan stated, "Reclamation intends for recreation at Lake Berryessa to continue essentially uninterrupted, other than occasional temporary closures in various locations for developmental activities." Several substantial proposals were submitted and the Bid for five of the resorts was awarded to the Pensus Group. Unfortunately, a silly legal opinion by a functionary within the Department of the Interior bureaucracy led to the original decision process being rescinded and the contracts rebid.

In January 2010, the Pensus Group won the second round, picking up Markley Cove Resort which had actually won its own bid the first time. This gave Pensus control of six of the seven resorts at the lake. In April of 2010, the Pensus Group signed an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Then the real "fun" began.

Pensus Group Planning Process Stymied

Almost a year ago, I wrote an article titled, "They're Off Like a Herd of Turtles". Recent history shows that I was actually being unrealistically optimistic. Local businesses and property owners who had been severely hurt by the Bureau of Reclamation's destruction of five resorts had hoped that the redevelopment of those resorts would be fast-tracked by government agencies so the desperately-needed recovery could begin. Again we were all being unrealistically optimistic. Rather, Pensus has been faced with a series of planning stumbling blocks created by Reclamation itself, even though Pensus is simply replacing the old facilities with new environmentally-friendly construction. But when Reclamation requires Pensus to dig a grid of holes to look for non-existent Native Amerian artifacts before putting in a new PG&E power pole in previously bulldozed dirt, something is amiss!

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The Lake Berryessa News

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December 2017

2017: The Year In Review Through Lake Berryessa News Headlines

January, 2017: Will 2017 Be Lake Berryessa's Lucky Year?

Napa County and the Bureau of Reclamation may move forward with negotiating a Managing Partner Agreement and creating a formal Request for Proposal process to select a concessionaires. Napa County will become the managing entity.

February, 2017: Napa County Cares about Lake Berryessa - Finally!

The County is considering whether to take over managing the Bureau of Reclamation's stalled effort to redevelop five Lake Berryessa resorts. Ragatz Sedgwick Realty will assist the County in identifying interested concession partners by marketing the opportunity to the resort community and performing a feasibility analysis.

March, 2017: Lake Berryessa Takes A Full Breath of Fresh Water: Glory Hole Goes Viral!

On February 21, 2017, Lake Berryessa OFFICIALLY HIT THE TOP of the Glory Hole Spillway, 440.0 feet, at 1 A.M! On February 21, 2017 Lake Berryessa finally took another big deep breath and reached its second highest lake level in history - 443.6 feet msl - a 45 foot rise - the second fastest rise in its 58 year history.

April 1, 2017: Special April 1st Holiday Edition!

Glory Hole Declared a National Infrastructure Treasure: Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole Spillway rose to international prominence in early 2017 due to detailed reporting and drone videos by the Lake Berryessa News. Glory Hole to be Lowered to Attract More Tourists!

May, 2017: The Cleanest Lake In Northern Caliornia Is FULL And OPEN For Summer Fun!

Now that the "cleanest lake in Northern California" is full again, recreation spirits are rising fast. Boaters are flocking to the lake in greater numbers than ever. It just feels good to play on a full Lake Berryessa!

June 2017: 1967 - 2017: 50 Years Since The Summer of Love. This Year Is The Love of Summer at Lake Berryessa!

Winter rains brought Lake Berryessa to its maximum water storage capacity for the first time since 2006. With the rise in water level, and people's spirits, it is expected to be a busy summer at the lake.

July 2017: Milestone Achieved! A Positive Report on the Potential Future Rebirth of Lake Berryessa!

More than a year since the Lake Berryessa News began the campaign to give Lake Berryessa management back to Napa County, a major milestone in that campaign has arrived. A 434-page Lake Berryessa marketing report done by Ragatz Realty was just presented to the County and to the Bureau of Reclamation.

August 2017: The Future of Lake Berryessa Looks Brighter, But The Sun Also Rises A Bit Slowly

It began almost 18 months ago with the Lake Berryessa News headline: A Modest Proposal: Radical Restructuring - Ownership and Management of Lake Berryessa Should Be Transferred to Napa County. On August 1, 2017, Ragatz Sedgwick Realty released their report, Lake Berryessa: An Untapped Resort Development Opportunity.

September 2017: Hurricanes, Heat Waves, Fires and Smoke! Summer 2017 Goes Out With A Bang (or Sizzle)!

Now that the Napa County supervisors have approved potentially taking over management of the Lake Berryessa resorts, a feeling of cautious optimism is in the air. County staff are meeting regularly with the BOR. A Request For Information and Interest (RFII) will solicit large recreation companies to invest in Lake Berryessa.

October 2017: Fire and Water: Positive Progress at Lake Berryessa Continues - Napa County Releases Lake Berryessa RFII

Another important milestone in the potential rebirth of Lake Berryessa has been achieved. Napa County has issued a Request for Information and Interest (RFII) to solicit potential concessionaires for five sites at the lake. Berryessa Estates and Berryessa Highlands Fire Stations Dedicated

November 2017: The Great Lake Berryessa (Atlas) Fire of 2017!

The official name was the Atlas Fire and it never reached the shores of Lake Berryessa, but its immediate threat dramatically pulled the Lake Berryessa community together. Lake Berryessa News editor, Evan Kilkus, using his cellphone and Facebook Live, broadcast the Lake Berryessa wildfire battles from the Berryessa Highlands.

December 2017: Lake Berryessa Revitalization Pocess Delayed Several Months By Napa County Wildfire Disaster

RFII planning schedule has been revised. Concessionaire selection to be completed and contract negotiations begun by Summer/Fall 2018.

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped, "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



Christmas Calls To Action
For The Human Race

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

The Eightfold Path of Buddhism

Right understanding: Understanding that the
Four Noble Truths: Suffering exists. Suffering
arises from attachment to desires. Suffering
ceases when attachment to desire ceases.

Right thought: Determining and resolving to
practice the principles of mindfulness so we
behave ethically in this life.

Right speech: Avoiding slander, gossip, lying,
and all forms of untrue and abusive speech.

Right conduct: Adhering to the idea of
nonviolence (ahimsa), as well as refraining from
any form of stealing or sexual impropriety.

Right means of making a living: Not
slaughtering animals or working at jobs that
force you to violate others.

Right mental attitude or effort: Avoiding
negative thoughts and emotions, such as anger
and jealousy.

Right mindfulness: Having a clear sense of one's
mental state and bodily health and feelings.

Right concentration: Using meditation to reach
the highest level of enlightenment.

The Golden Rule

The most familiar version of the Golden Rule says,
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto
you." The concept occurs in some form in nearly
every religion and ethical tradition. It can also be

explained from the perspectives of psychology,
philosophy, sociology, human evolution, and
economics.

One ethical tradition (outside of a formal religion)
which supports the Golden Rule is Humanism.

Humanists try to embrace the moral principle of
the Golden Rule, also known as the ethic of
reciprocity, which means that people should aim to
treat each other as they would like to be treated
themselves - with tolerance, consideration and
compassion.

Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by
science, inspired by art, and motivated by
compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human
being, it supports the maximization of individual
liberty and opportunity consonant with social and
planetary responsibility. It advocates the extension
of participatory democracy and the expansion of
the open society, standing for human rights and
social justice.

Free of supernaturalism, it recognizes human
beings as a part of nature and holds that values - be
they religious, ethical, social, or political - have
their source in human experience and culture.

Humanism thus derives the goals of life from
human need and interest rather than from
theological or ideological abstractions, and asserts
that humanity must take responsibility for its own
destiny.

"...being a Humanist means trying to behave
decently without expectation of rewards or
punishment after you are dead." Kurt Vonnegut



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Revised RFII Schedule	
September 26, 2017	RFII released.
October 2, 2017	Questions, Round 1, (Cancelled)
October 5, 2017	Responses to Questions, (Cancelled)
October 6, 2017	Registration for Site Visit 1 (Cancelled)
October 11, 2017	Site Visit/Field Day 1 (Cancelled)
October 13, 2017 (Rescheduled)	Registration for Site Visit 2
October 18, 2017	Site Visit/Field Day 2 (Rescheduled)
October 24, 2017	Questions, Round 2 (Rescheduled)
November 1, 2017	Responses, Round 2 (Rescheduled)
November 20, 2017	RFII Submittals Due (Rescheduled)
December 8, 2017	Registration for Site Visit/Field Day
December 13, 2017	Site Visit/Field Day
December 20, 2017	Questions Due by 5:00 pm pst
January 10, 2018	Responses to Questions will be published
January 31, 2018	RFII Submittals Due by 2:00 pm pst
<hr/>	
Tentative dates:	MPA development and RFP process.
April, 2018	MPA Authorization
May, 2018	RFP Release
June, 2018	RFP Due
Summer/Fall 2018	Concessionaire Selection & Negotiations

Christmas Tip (A Bit Harsh)
Wrap empty boxes in Christmas wrapping paper. When your child
misbehaves, toss one into the fire.

Lisa Loves Her Christmas Gift From Grandpa
"Thank you Grandpa for the violin you gave me last year for
Christmas. I've never got such a brilliant gift!"

"Really?" asks the surprised Grandpa.

Lisa says, "Oh yeah - every time I start playing, mom gives me 2
dollars so I would stop!"

The History of Christmas Cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in
England in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, who had helped set-up
the new Post Office and wondered how it could be used
more by ordinary people.

Sir Henry had the idea of Christmas Cards with his friend
John Horsley, who was an artist. They designed the first
card and sold them for 1 shilling each, about 8 cents today!

The card had three panels. The outer two panels showed
people caring for the poor and in the center panel was a
family having a large Christmas dinner! Some people didn't
like the card because it showed a child being given a glass
of wine! About 1,000 or fewer were printed and sold. They
are now very rare and cost thousands of dollars to buy!

Before 1840 only very rich people could afford to send
anything in the mail. As printing methods improved,
Christmas cards became much more popular and were
produced in large numbers from about 1860. In 1870 the
cost of sending Christmas cards, dropped to half a penny in
England. This meant even more people were able to send
cards.

Christmas Cards appeared in the United States of America
in the late 1840s, but were very expensive and most people
couldn't afford them. In 1875, Louis Prang, a printer who
was originally from Germany, but who had also worked on
early cards in England, started mass producing cards so
more people could afford to buy them.

Mr. Prang's first cards featured flowers, plants, and
children. In 1915, John C. Hall and two of his brothers
created Hallmark Cards, Which is still one of the biggest
card makers today!



How Jesus Got His Name (Non-traditional version)

When the three kings came to visit newborn Jesus, one of
them slipped on the straw and twisted his ankle.

"Jesus Christ!" he yelled in pain.

Mary looked questioningly at Joseph and said,

"That actually sounds a lot better than Chester, doesn't it?"

Onion Headlines

Man Worried Any Crazy Person Could Get
Hands On Congressional Seat

Man Embarrassed Thinking About Every
Opinion He's Ever Articulated

Siblings Quietly Relieved Oldest Brother
Setting Bar So Low

Study: Employees Happiest When Pretending
To Work From Home

Study: 90% Of All Meowing Comes From
Owners Trying To Get Cats To Meow Back

Exhausted Florida Resident Returns Home
After Weathering Harrowing Week With
Family Out Of State

Parent Now Just Typing 4-Year-Old Child's
Every Word Verbatim Throughout Day As
Facebook Post

Family Hesitant About Sinking Another 40
Grand Into Repairs Of Dilapidated Old
Grandma

Kindergartener's Account Of Day At School
Passionate, Incomprehensible

Child's Favorite Restaurant Also Dad's
Favorite Bar

Styrofoam To Spend Next 500 Years
Reflecting On How Well It Protected Blender
In Transport

Geologists Say Continents May Have Drifted
Apart After Emotional Falling-Out

Nation Curious After Discovering
Mysterious, Eccentric Benefactor Paid Off
Country's Debt In Full

Man In Kitchen Can't Remember What He
Got Married, Bought House, Had 3 Kids,
And Came In Here For

Study: Majority Of Humans Happiest When
Rest Of Family Still Asleep

After I Adopted Two Black Babies, I
Realized My Church Was Full Of Racists

Iceberg Sighs Contentedly As It Slowly
Lowers Itself Into Warm Arctic Water

Child Protective Services Take 80 Million
Children Into Custody After Discovering No
One In Country Fit To Be Parent

Self-Conscious Panda Swears It Overheard
Zookeeper Refer To It As 'Giant'

Excitement Shifts To Concern After
Coworker Brings Baked Goods Into Office
For Fourth Consecutive Day

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Santa Has Twelve Reindeer!

Did you know that according to the song, "Rudolph the Red-
Nosed Reindeer", Santa has twelve reindeer?

Sure, in the introduction it goes "There's **Dasher** and **Dancer**
and **Prancer** and **Vixen**, **Comet** and **Cupid** and **Donner** and
Blitzen..." That makes eight reindeer. Then there's
Rudolph, of course, so that makes nine. Then there's **Olive**.
You know, "**Olive** the other reindeer used to laugh..." That
makes ten. The eleventh is **Howe**. You know, "Then **Howe**
the reindeer loved him..." Eleven reindeer. Oh, and number
12? That's **Andy**! "**Andy** shouted out with glee."

The proof is in the song!

TOP 10 USES FOR HOLIDAY FRUITCAKES

10. Use slices to balance that wobbly kitchen table.
9. Use instead of sand bags during El Nino.
8. Send to U.S. Air Force, let troops drop them.
7. Use as railroad ties.
6. Use as speed bumps to foil the local drag racers.
5. Collect ten and use them as bowling pins.
4. Use instead of cement shoes.
3. Save for next summer's garage sale.
2. Use slices in next skeet-shooting competition.
1. Two words: pin cushion.

The Lake Berryessa News

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**Understand The Difference Between Second Cousins
And Cousins Once Removed**

Save this for your next family reunion.

Remembering the difference between a “second cousin” and a “cousin once removed” is one of those facts that I have filed away in my brain as non-essential. I think I know the difference, but then I get fuzzy on the details. Luckily, due to this handy chart you'll never forget again.

You'll find it useful, too, especially if you've been invited to a family reunion. This chart was designed by Alice J. Ramsey in 1987, but her advice still stands today.

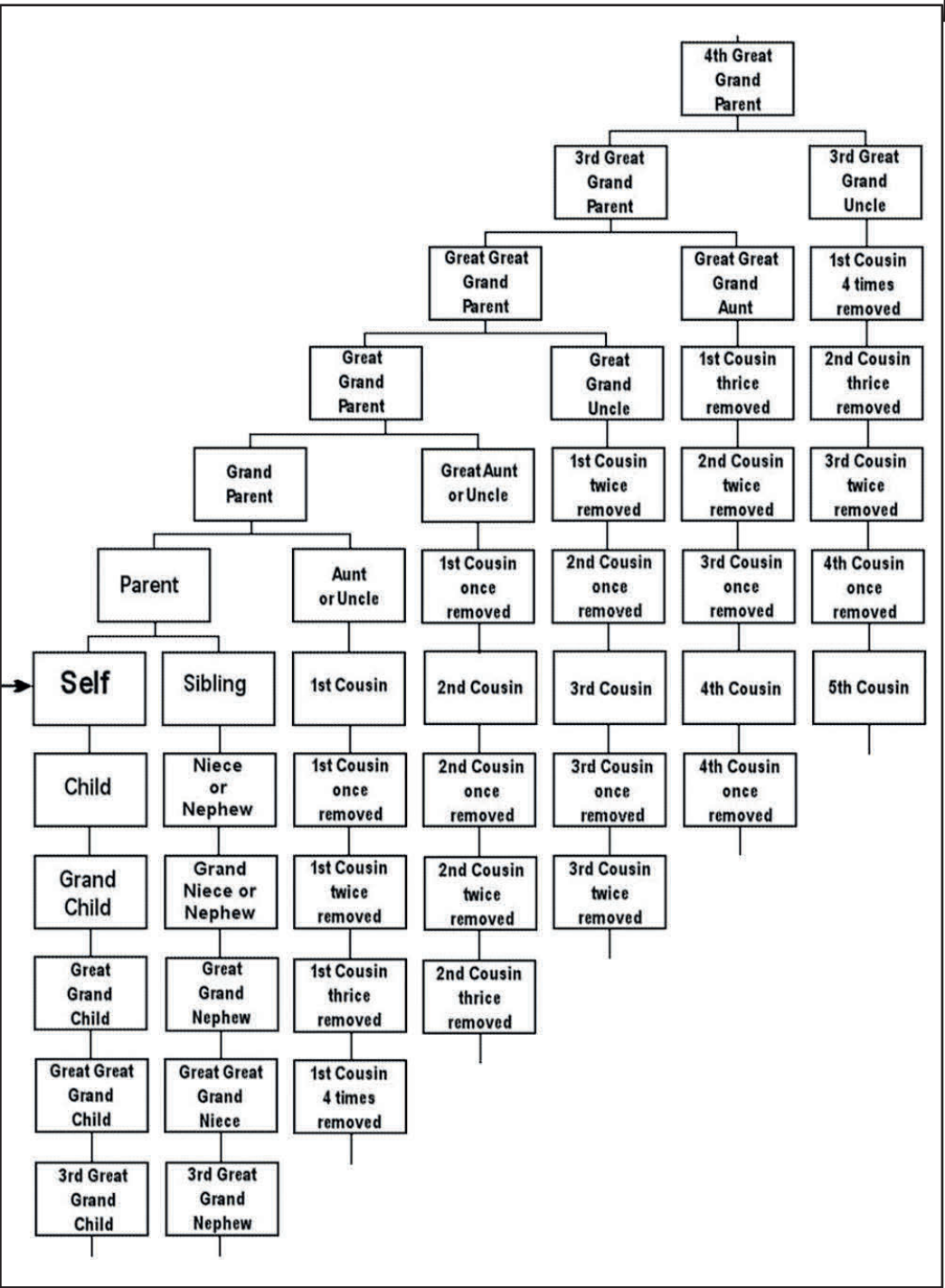
Here's how to use the chart: Start from the “Self” box, and then trace your way to the relationship you are trying to name. Remembering what your mom's cousin's children are in relation to you is always a tricky one. Using this chart, you can see that they are your second cousins. And their kids? Your second cousins once removed. Their kids? Second cousins twice removed.

Once Removed - What Does It Mean?

This chart gives us a visual depiction of what “once removed” really means. It's easy to see that you and all of your cousins—even those second and third cousins—are in the same generation. But when you get into different generations, that's when it comes “once” or “twice” removed - what that really means is one generation removed, according to the chart.

For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents - according to an article on Genealogy. This one-generation difference equals ‘once removed.’ Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.”

Once you get your brain to stop spinning, just look at the chart. It will help you



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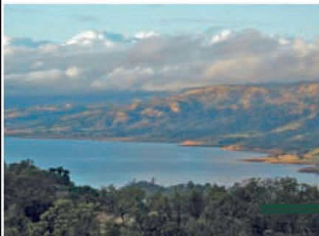
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Name That Christmas Carol

1. Bleached Yule
2. Castaneous-colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration
3. Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors
4. Righteous Darkness
5. Arrival Time 2400 hrs - Weather Cloudless
6. Loyal Followers Advance
7. Far Off in a Feeder
8. Array the Corridor
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Monarchial Triad
11. Nocturnal Noiselessness
12. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
13. Red Man En Route to Borough
14. Frozen Precipitation Commence
15. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
16. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
17. Query Regarding Identity of Descendant
18. Delight for this Planet
19. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
20. The Dozen Festive 24 Hour Intervals

Answers: 1. White Christmass, 2. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire , 3. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth, 4. O Holy Night, 5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, 6. O Come, All Ye Faithful, 7. Away in a Manger, 8. Deck the Hall 9. Little Drummer Boy, 10. We Three Kings, 11. Silent Night, 12. God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen, 13. Santa Claus is Coming to Town, 14. Let it Snow ,15. Go, Tell It on the Mountain, 16. Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer, 17. What Child is This?, 18. Joy to the World, 19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, 20. The Twelve Days of Christmas

December Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Faith is the evidence of things not seen, which any well-rounded human being must admit is better than only trusting good hard provable evidence.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): This would be a good time to beware of those who would make major changes to your dearly-held belief systems.

Aries (3/21-4/19): You've always believed that everything happens for a reason, so there's probably a perfectly reasonable explanation for what the less philosophical would call your senseless death next week.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): You've always thought your life would be better if you could go back in time and tell yourself a few things, so it'll be pretty depressing this week when you find out you've tried that already.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): 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.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Your future has yet to be determined due to a malevolent online community's massive denial-of-service attack on the relevant zodiacal elements.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Learn to trust your heart. No one ever grew spiritually as a person by doing what the numbers and the science clearly indicate they should do.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Outside influences will attempt to bedazzle you with strange mathematics and exotic rhetoric about a strange new sign in the sky, preventing you from meeting a dark-haired stranger.

Libra (9/23-10/22): 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.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Remember: The patient raindrops can eventually wear away even the hardest stone. Don't let them get too close if you value your life.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Saturn rising in your sign will subject you to the powerful force of Fate, which everybody knows is stronger by far than electromagnetism, gravity, or the nuclear strong and weak forces.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): While there's no shame in admitting you don't know everything, there's actually quite a lot of shame in admitting you can't figure out how to eat chips and salsa.



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Remember the Atlas Fire!

October 8, 2017

This old tree on the side of Monticello Road near Moskowite Corners, previously surrounded only by high grass, shows the intensity of the fire and height of the flames.

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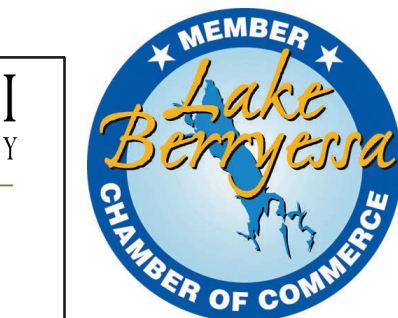
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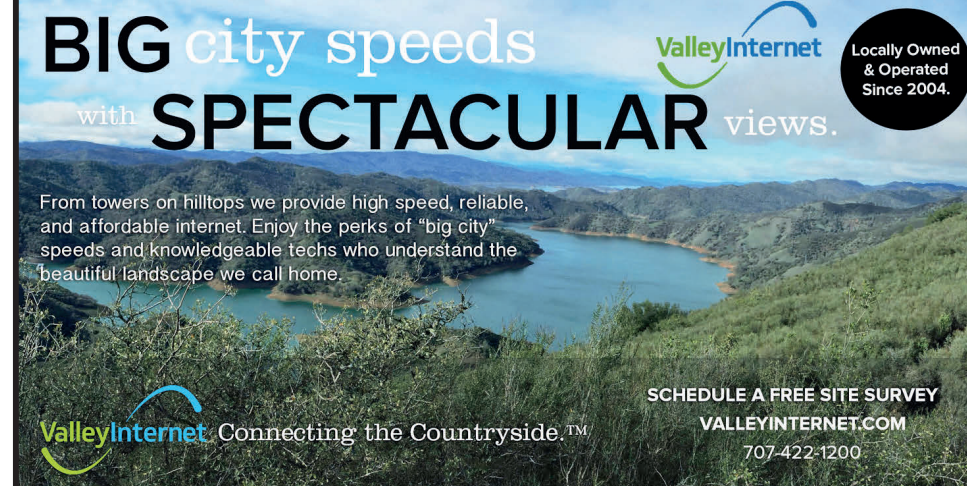


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