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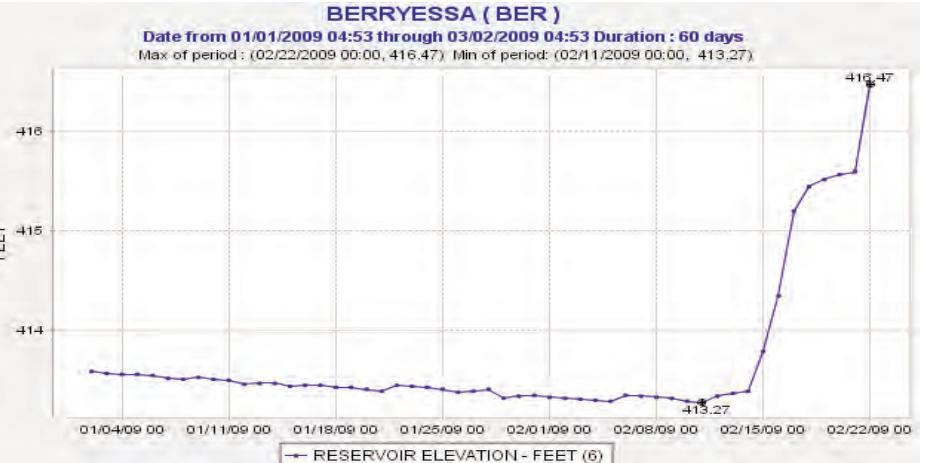
Large selection of groceries and cooking items to pick up on your way home.

Stop by and check it out TODAY!

Berryessa Corners at "The Y"
Intersection of Hwy 121, Hwy 128, and Steele Canyon Road



Berryessa Corners Store Coffee & Soda Bar



Dam Level Update					
The elevation of the spillway (Glory Hole) at Monticello Dam is 440feet.					
The water is now 21.65 feet below the top of the spillway					
Lake Berryessa has had 16.3 inches of rainfall since July 1, 2008					
Date	Elevation	Evaporation	High	Low	Precipitation
2/16/09	414.34	0.00	48	42	2.61
2/17/09	415.19	0.00	52	42	1.40
2/18/09	415.44	0.00	49	40	1.22
2/19/09	415.51	0.00	53	37	0
2/20/09	415.56	0.02	59	37	0
2/21/09	415.59	0.05	65	37	0
2/22/09	416.47	0.01	65	39	.87
2/23/09	417.33				1.88
2/24/09	417.76				.92
2/25/09	417.81				0
2/26/09	418.08				.16
2/27/09	418.13				.06
2/28/09	418.19				0
3/1/09	418.35				.14

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Feds Final Folly: The Destruction of Steele Park Resort

As the Bureau of Reclamation's Katrina-like process at Lake Berryessa lurches on to an unknown resolution, local residents and previous lake recreation users are fed up with the Feds. This was made clear to Supervisor Diane Dillon at the latest Berryessa Highlands community meeting. Both Supervisor Dillon and Congressman Mike Thompson are clearly frustrated by their apparent helplessness to do anything about Reclamation's lack of progress in signing the new contract for the five major west shore resorts. The Steele Park Resort contract is especially important since it has a major impact on the water and sewer rates for Berryessa Highlands residents which appear to be headed to a minimum 82% increase by August, 2009.

Four of the resorts have been closed since the middle of last summer. Steele Park is shutting down soon and will be demolished during the next nine months. The Pensus Group was chosen last May to manage these five resorts, but Reclamation has been unable to finalize a contract with them since that time. In several public statements, Reclamation claimed that there would be a smooth transition and recreation services would be only minimally affected as the resorts were upgraded and improved.

Tragically, this has not happened, although the Reclamation refrain has remained, "We are making good progress and expect the contract to be signed soon." The first such statement was made in May, 2008 and last publicly-stated deadline expired last week with no action.

Why did this happen? Follow the money. The table gives the annual revenue of each of the five Pensus-designated resorts as well as its appraised value. These figures are



Before

from public documents that were part of the bid process. Under normal circumstances in the transition of a business ownership, the new owner would pay the previous owner fair-market value for its permanent facilities as well as for other property and equipment.

Resort	Annual Revenue	Appraised Value	Mobiles Revenue	Mobiles %
Berryessa Marina	\$1.61M	\$3.3M	\$0.76M	47%
Putah Creek	\$1.03M	\$4.15M	\$0.38M	37%
Rancho Monticello	\$3.32M	\$11.22M	\$2.1M	63%
Spanish Flat	\$2.09M	\$4.06M	\$0.78M	37%
Steele Park	\$2.62M	\$9.59M	\$0.66M	25%
Total	\$12.61M	\$32.32	\$4.68M	37%

ment it might want to keep. This approach is actually codified in Public Law 96-375: "...if a new concessionaire assumes operation of the concession, require that new concessionaire to pay fair value for the per-

manent facilities to the existing concessionaire."

And all this for resorts that had only produced a previous GROSS annual revenue stream of about \$12M. At least \$4M of that revenue had been rental payments from the long-term mobile home owners - essentially



After

pure profit since the resorts provided almost no services to those tenants. Not only would any new owners be faced with a major capital investment program, but at the same time 37% of their pure profit was also eliminated. This is a tough financial nut to crack during a contract term set by Reclamation of only 30 years.

Reclamation's solution to this dilemma was to re-interpret Public Law 96-375 and, despite it's own appraisal, declare the present facilities of no value to the incoming concessionaire, and require the present resort owners to remove or demolish everything, including restaurants, motels, launch ramps, roads - back to bare ground. In a May 19, 2008 letter Reclamation stated: "Based upon evaluation of the successful proposal and subsequent confirmation with the successful offeror, The Pensus Group LLC, Reclamation has determined that all permanent facilities in your Resort concession area must be removed by the end of the concession contract." Of course, this was impossible to accomplish by the end of contracts, which expired for some resorts in only two months. At least one submitted plan gave a time-frame for completion of many years.

The fallout from this debacle has been very damaging to the local Lake Berryessa community. The resorts provided hundreds of jobs. When Steele Park essentially ceased most operations at the end of last year, Capell Valley Elementary School lost about 10 students, bringing its enrollment to less than 50 students. The Napa Valley Unified School District is preparing to close the local school and bus the children to the City of Napa every day. (See the Capell School article in this issue.)

(Continued on Page 3)

From the Editor
"Free Land" in the Berryessa Estates

As you see from the stories in this edition, the Lake Berryessa Region is experiencing a series of linked economic crises: potential school closings, dramatically increased water and sewer rates, people losing their homes and businesses. The solutions to these should be government priorities.

The two parcels were identified by BLM as surplus and thus available for either sale to a private entity or for transfer to a public agency or non-profit organization. This frightens the usual anti-development suspects even though the 480 acres could only legally be subdivided into three 160-acre family parcels which would be of significant economic value to the local community.

The Berryessa Estates is suffering from high water and sewer rates. Why not let the state transfer the land to Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District (LBRID), a local government agency, and let them sell it to the highest bidder to defray their extremely high rates?

The RPOSD already spends about \$500,000 of County money annually. This project alone has a proposed multi-year budget of almost \$75,000.

The Parks & Open Space District is holding a community meeting regarding the potential transfer of this Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "free" land to the Park District on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Pope Valley Farm Center.

The District freely uses assumptions rather than facts and measurable data to bolster its project choices. The most egregious example of this is the proposed "Trail Around the Lake" which would be better named by Alaskan analogy as the "Trail to Nowhere and Nowhen".

Now the District wants to take

The Lake Berryessa News

www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

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Capell Elementary May Close

The Capell Valley PTA board met with the Napa Valley Unified School District Superintendent and CFO along with an NVUSD Board member last week to talk about the future of Capell Valley Elementary. The future does not look hopeful. The District is preparing a budget for next year that does not include Capell Valley School - assuming it will be closed. Wooden Valley School is in the same predicament.

Currently Capell has about 40+ students. They lost 11 students due to the closure of Steele Park resort. (See Steele Park cover story in this issue.)

Another cause of the student enrollment decrease is due to the District allowing inter-district transfers. This means that a significant number of Berryessa Highlands parents and others are taking their children to school at Vichy Elementary in Napa instead of Capell. Also, children from Spanish Flat are bussed all the way to St. Helena although they are only a few miles from Capell Valley School.

If Capell Valley closes the District would either combine Capell students with Wooden Valley School or bus children to Vichy Elementary and close Wooden Valley School too. This would put a kindergartners on a two hour bus ride and have them attend all day kindergarten.

The Capell Valley PTA has done an excellent job working out various

alternatives to present to the District. These alternatives include eliminating the school bus and driving their children directly to school every day. They will be surveying Berryessa Highlands households during the next few weeks to determine how many children will be entering Kindergarten during the next two years. The PTA Board would like to show the District that enrollment will increase and to allow a one to two year commitment to stay open until that enrollment increase takes place.

More difficult will be to project how many new employee's children will be available when the Lake Berryessa resorts finally reopen. The District has also told the PTA that they need to significantly increase their fund-raising - adding at least \$25,000 annually.

PTA Board member Amber Payne tells the Lake Berryessa News that "Capell Valley parents are asking the community, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Pensus group, the churches, R-Ranch, Supervisor Dianne Dillon, and other businesses in the community to consider what this community would be like with no local school! Will we have families moving in to support our community or will Lake Berryessa become just a resort community because there is no school? The district is only looking at numbers and not the lives of our precious children and community."

NAPALACHIA

by BILL Scholer



Cucina Italiana's First Annual Open That Bottle Night

Scott Becker one first prize for best story. Sharyn said, "He can bring his bride, Anna, for dinner whenever they like." Scott chose a nice bottle of Crossroads field blend, (Sharyn's favorite wine this week) and dinner for two as his prize. When Scott built his winery he was at a loss to name it. Of course, Boo the Wonder Dog was his faithful companion throughout the ordeal of getting the winery off the ground so, voila, Boo-deaux Winery! See <http://boodeaux.blogspot.com> for more.

Sharyn also said that yours truly brought, hands down, the most distasteful wine in Spain, but also the coolest bottle. A 1981 vintage from Minnesota had the most interesting motto: "Where The Grapes Can Suffer!" Barry and Dawn brought a magnum of their own wine, Thistle Oak (named after the two most common plants on their property). The wine was quite good and the label, painted by Dawn, was beautiful. Per Sharyn, next year's OTBN will be even more spectacular and may be televised!



More Photos at [www.LakeBerryessaNews.com!](http://www.LakeBerryessaNews.com)

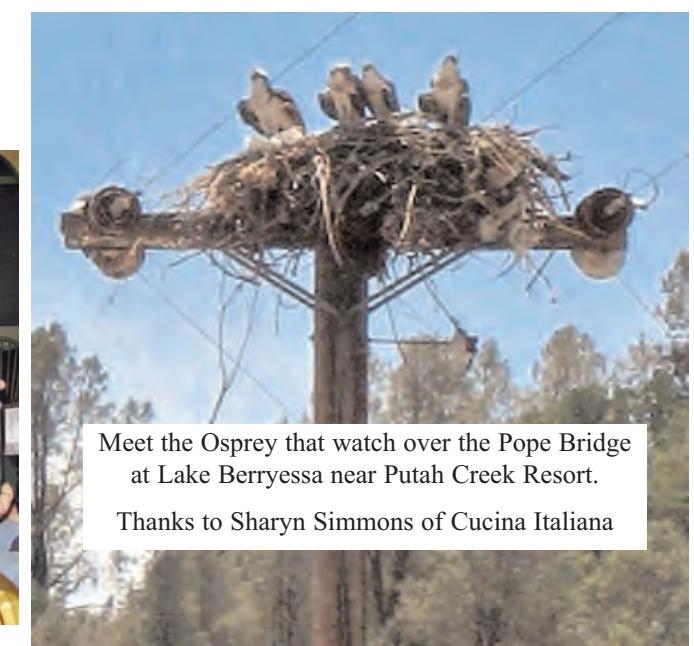
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Meet the Osprey that watch over the Pope Bridge at Lake Berryessa near Putah Creek Resort.

Thanks to Sharyn Simmons of Cucina Italiana

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The Pope Valley School Reporter

Editor's Note: On my twice monthly 200-mile paper route I usually stop by the Pope Valley School to drop off some papers and chat with the Superintendent and Principal Florence Eaton and her teachers. She just sent me a set of articles written by G.A.T.E students.

Pope Valley Elementary School

Pope Valley is a small rural K-8 school located between the Napa Valley and Lake Berryessa. Students receive an education in a family/community environment with an emphasis on individual attention. The older building was built in 1969; it houses the Superintendent/Principal's Office, Resource Teacher's Room, Library, and Computer Lab. The newer building was completed in 1982, and has a kindergarten/grade 1 and 2 classroom, a grade 5/6 classroom and the grades 7/8 middle school classroom, as well as the office, staff room, and first aid room.

It is the mission of the Pope Valley Union Elementary School District, a safe school in a beautiful natural environment, to develop and enrich the life of each child to his or her maximum potential, both intellectually and socially, through an academically excellent program that is taught by a caring, progressive staff in an atmosphere of warmth, mutual respect, and high expectations. More information can be found on its excellent web site:

www.popevalley.k12.napa.ca.us/

Student Letters and Articles

Little School, Big Attitude

Pope Valley School ring a bell? Well this school is small, but it is like any other school. We have a playground, a library, teachers and all that normal school stuff. What you may not know is that our school has a laptop for every student 5-8th grade and we play sports with private schools like P.U.C Foothills, and we also play Howell Mountain School, and we play various sports like soccer, flag football, basketball and we're hoping to play dodge ball next!

On Valentine's Day we take a whole school field trip to the Snoopy Ice

Rink and on the last day of school we go to the pool at P.U.C. Next time you hear the name "Pope Valley School", remember that we are a little school with a big attitude!

Adilene Figueroa Chavez , 7th grade

Using Internet at Pope Valley School

At Pope Valley, the Canadian Geese outnumber the students. Yeah, we're rural, though, it's not so rural that we are not high tech!

Here, students use high-speed internet, and are quite good at it, too. We each have a laptop that we can take home and work on it at home. We also have TeenBiz3000 accounts. These accounts allow us to email other students in our class and nearby schools.

What we do on this site is monitored by our teacher/principal, Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Billed. There are ways for us to get extra-credit, too. We can do a Comprehension of our choice. If we get 100% on a comprehension, 3 times in a row, we will be moved up to harder comprehensions.

ONLY PASS THIS ON IF YOU CAN READ IT!

Pope Valley School Beautification

What teachers have been dreaming of for years has finally happened! Teachers have been dreaming of making the school a bit more attractive to visitors. So the G.A.T.E. (Gifted And Talented Education) group started sending letters to different companies to see if they would donate anything to our school to reach our goal.

I am from Pope Valley School, and I am in the 8th grade. I really liked your article on "Can you read this"? (LBNews, January 22nd edition) It was funny and entertaining. When my classmates and I read it we all understood, and where it says at the bottom "IF YOU CAN READ THIS PASS IT ON" all of us passed our papers on around the class because we could all read it.

I also think that's a nice article to put in the newspaper because a lot of people may not know that you can read words when they are mixed up. I had no idea until now. Thank you for putting this article in the paper.

Marianna Maldonado, 13 years old

The article to which Maria is referring is reproduced below, and see if you can figure out the new word puzzle on Page 3!

Can you read this?

Don't even think about using spell check!!!!!!

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. Cna yuo raed tihs?

Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclty uesdnatrnd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaer in waht oerdr the ltters in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can stil raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azamig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpelng was ipmorant! if you can raed tihs psas it on.

I'm in the seventh grade at Pope Valley Elementary School. I'm also in an advanced program called G.A.T.E. It stands for Gifted And Talented Education. The class is doing a beautification project on the school campus. We researched different types of flowers for different temperature zones. From that information we picked different types of plants and trees. We picked spots for the different plants, we thought of making a design with the plants... but that didn't go so well. We ended up making it simple and just bordering the campus.

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We got tulips, trees, artichokes, rosemary's, and other cool plants. We planted tulips in the drive way on January and now they are sprouting up! We planted the rest of the plants around the school. Our group is so excited to see if our plants survive our crazy climate.

Paola Gutierrez

Barack Obama

There are only 67 students at Pope Valley School. Our school was very interested in what happens on

Inauguration Day. Our whole school watched the Inauguration. We were all so excited about Barack Obama being president and taking the oath. Our teachers and aides almost started crying. We were kind of yelling but in a happy way. I think we watched it twice.

Estefani Ramirez, 8th Grade

Dear Editor,

I'm in the seventh grade at Pope Valley Elementary School. I'm also in an advanced program called G.A.T.E. It stands for Gifted And Talented Education. The class is doing a beautification project on the school campus. We researched different types of flowers for different temperature zones. From that information we picked different types of plants and trees. We picked spots for the different plants, we thought of making a design with the plants... but that didn't go so well. We ended up making it simple and just bordering the campus.

The real tragedy is that none of this ever had to happen. During the controversial government process that led up to the present situation, several common-sense plans were proposed, LBVSPT A+ and the Resort Operators Plan, which would have accomplished the goals of improving all the resorts without destroying them first. At least one of the bidders for the new concessions, the Lago Group, a consortium of present concession owners and local business people, would have kept these five resorts open. But their bid was apparently disqualified on a

Steele Park Destruction, Continued from Page 1

But the closures also impacted many local and other Napa County businesses. Favorite restaurants have lost 40% of their business. Local service businesses have also lost 30%-40%, some up to 50%, of their revenue. Just one closed resort, Rancho Monticello, has eliminated approximately \$500,000 worth of purchases from local and regional suppliers annually. This doesn't include the loss to Reclamation of \$105,000 per year in franchise fees from the resort.



their heads in frustration and try to survive.

So far only the mobile homes at Steele Park are being demolished. But the owner has plans in place to demolish everything, including grinding up the roads and parking areas (appraised value - \$1,958,979) and jackhammering out the launch ramp (appraised at \$146,878).

If a contract is signed, common sense would say that the new owner should keep Steele Park open for its cash flow while it remodels the other resorts.



The real tragedy is that none of this ever had to happen. During the controversial government process that led up to the present situation, several common-sense plans were proposed, LBVSPT A+ and the Resort Operators Plan, which would have accomplished the goals of improving all the resorts without destroying them first. At least one of the bidders for the new concessions, the Lago Group, a consortium of present concession owners and local business people, would have kept these five resorts open. But their bid was apparently disqualified on a

\$5,000 to demolish them and the demolition continues at a swift pace. (Steele Park photos at LakeBerryessaNews.com.) The photo album also includes historical photos from the '70s

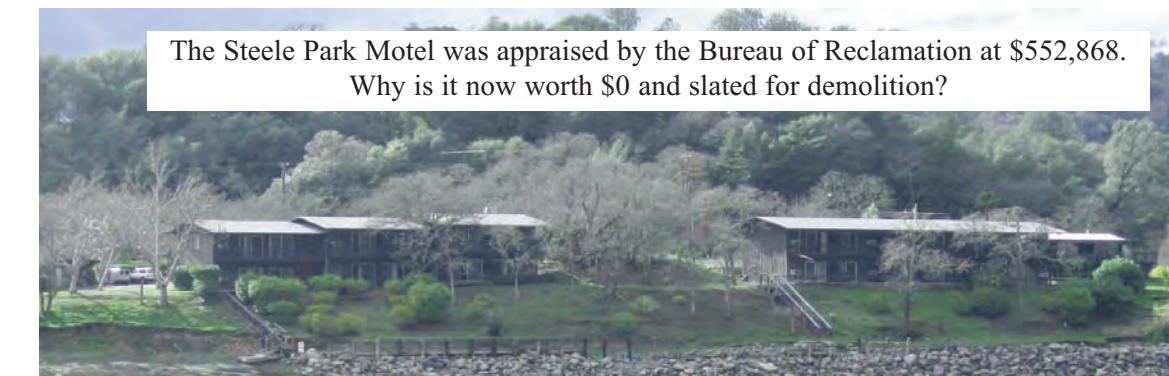
Steele Park

does look as if a hurricane hit it. This hurricane wasn't caused by nature but by the federal government itself. Once again real people's lives and livelihood have been seriously damaged - with no end in sight. With the very real possibility of Steele Park and the other four resorts being closed for the next two summers, local residents and business owners can only shake



But common sense has always been a low priority for the Bureau of Reclamation in this ongoing fiasco.

As one local wag put it, paraphrasing a recently unknown public figure, "Heckuva job, BORnie!"



The Steele Park Motel was appraised by the Bureau of Reclamation at \$552,868. Why is it now worth \$0 and slated for demolition?

Governor "Borrows" \$29 Million from Boating Fund

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed legislation transferring \$29 million from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund to the state's General Fund. The measure, SBX3 2, is one of a package of bills designed to close California's \$42 billion budget shortfall, signed Feb. 20. It transfers the money as a "loan" and stipulates that repayment shall be made "so as to ensure that the programs supported by the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund are not adversely affected by the loan, but no later than June 30, 2013."

Money in the fund, which is administered by the Department of Boating & Waterways, includes the department's share of the state tax on gasoline used in boats and vessel registration fees paid by boaters. It is used to provide loans and grants for the construction and maintenance of recreational boating facility projects throughout the state.

The \$29 million will be taken from funds remaining in the department's budget for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, a department spokeswoman said.

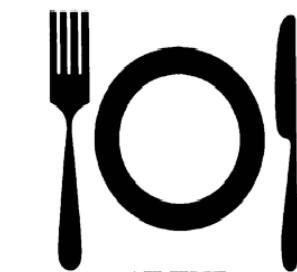
Mindtwister: What do the following two sentences really say? This is really tough!

I eee oai o ooa a e ooi eee o oe.

Ths sntnc cntns n vwls nd th prcdng sntnc n cnsnts.

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Berryessa Senior Center 25th Anniversary Party

The food was great and the company was interesting. The Center was founded in 1986 and the new building was finished in 1988 at a cost of \$305,000. The Center was built on land donated by Elsie Plunkett and dedicated to her late husband, Wesley Plunkett, Sr. You can see below that Elsie still has that country sense of fun. The majority of the money came from a federal grant of \$209,000, but the Seniors raised \$87,000 themselves. The center is available for private events at a very reasonable cost. Full photo album at www.LakeBerryessaNews.com.



The Gypsy Vanner Horse in Pope Valley

Although there are not too many Gypsies in Pope Valley, there is a Champion Gypsy Vanner Horse in residence. Mandy Mondiel and her Gypsy Vanner horse, Ocho, just returned from a triumphant trip to the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. Ocho won the Reserve Grand Champion Award. To celebrate and thank her supporters, Mandy threw a small party at the Spanish Flat Cantina. For more photos and information: www.GypsyStation.com.



The Gypsy Vanner Horse is a beautiful and rare new breed of horse envisioned by the European Gypsies. These horses have been selectively bred over the past 50 years to create a horse that was colorful enough to match their caravans. A perfect caravan horse is strong, intelligent, docile, athletic, and colorful with excellent endurance. These horses, bred by the Gypsies, are easily recognizable by their long, flowing manes and tails, and the profusion of feathers on their legs that make them look as if they fly when they run.

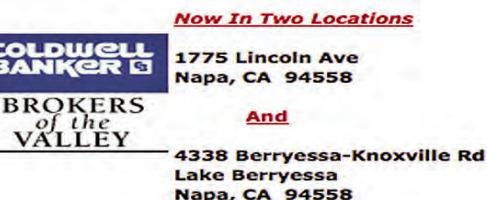


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Owner - Marcia Ritz
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FAX: 707-966-1602



Marcia Ritz - Artist
www.MarciaRitz.com

4318 Knoxville Road in the Spanish Flat Village Center

Here's the latest, terse report from Wills's Bait & Tackle in Bodega Bay:

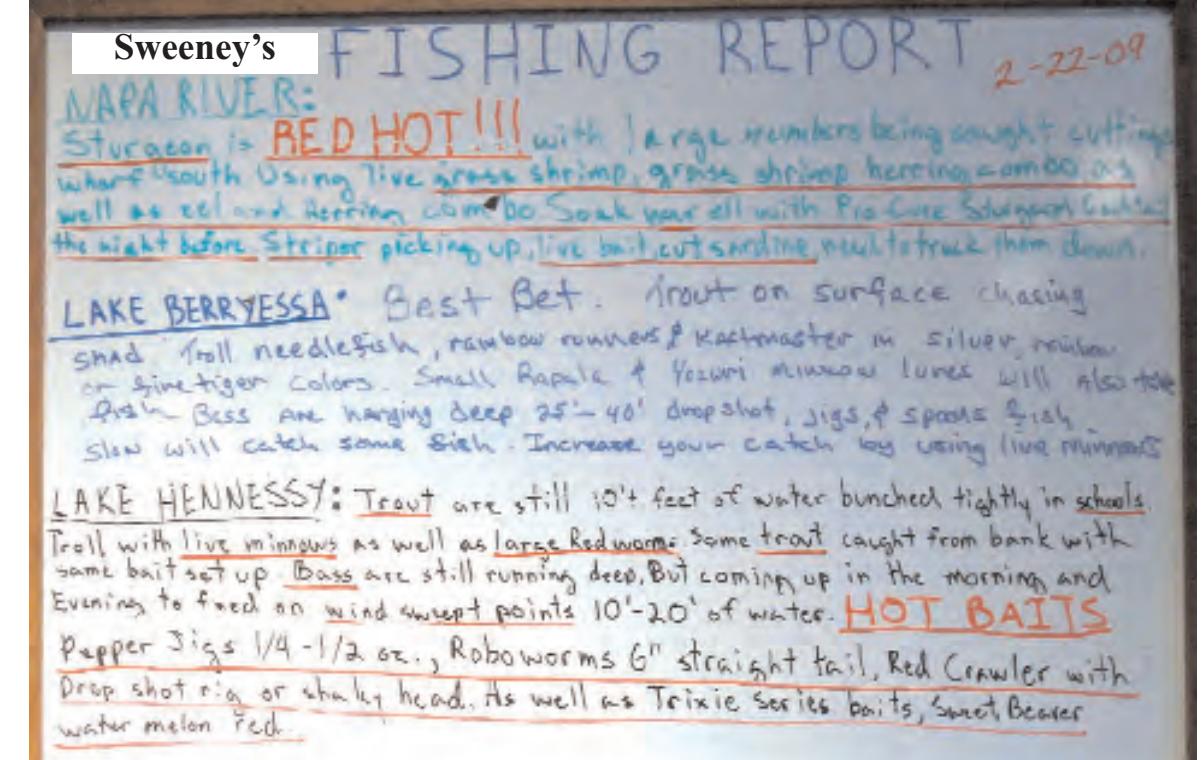
Not much to report from over here. The crab bite is very slow and with no squid it's very dead over here. We are doing some whale watching trips when the wind stops blowing.

We are counting down the days until April 1st when we will be bringing the Samantha Irene

down to Berkeley to fish Halibut.

We will be offering our Kokanee and King salmon trips on Lake Berryessa starting in May.

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2009 Lake Berryessa Calendar

Mar. 8: Daylight Savings Time begins - SPRING AHEAD
 Mar. 10: Park & Open Space District Meeting, 7-9 PM, Pope Valley Farm Center
 Mar. 14: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli
 Mar. 14: St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck, Berryessa Senior Center
 Mar. 18 & 19: Bass Tournament, NCACCD, Pleasure Cove Marina
 Mar. 21: Lions Club St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Turtle Rock
 Mar. 22: BBQ & Horseshoes, 12noon, Senior Center
 Mar. 29: Bass Tournamnet, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove
 Apr. 2: BOR School Program, Oak Shores Day Use Area- Coyote Beach
 Apr. 4: Capell Valley School Auction at R Ranch
 Apr. 4: Bass Tournament, El Dorado Bass Club, Markley Cove
 Apr. 9: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli
 Apr. 17-19: NCACCD Bass Tournament, Pleasure Cove Marina
 Apr. 23-24: School Program, Oak Shores Day Use Area- Coyote Beach
 Apr. 25: Earth Day
 May 2: Napa Vintage 1/2 Ironman, Lake Berryessa
 May 3: Napa Valley Sprint Triathlon, Lake Berryessa
 May 3: Bass Tournament, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove
 May 9: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli
 May 30: A NCSC Sidecar Event at will be held at Acorn Beach in Oak Shores Day Use Area. The two shade shelters and parking lot are reserved for this group.
 May 30: Bass Tournament, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove
 Jun. 13: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli
 Jun. 15: Quilt Festival, Downtown Winters, 530 795-2580
 Oct. 3: The Napa Tri, Girl, Tri (all women's triathlon), Lake Berryessa
 Oct. 17: Redwood Empire Bass Club Tournament, Capell Cove
 Nov. 21: Delta Bass Anglers Tournament, Markley Cove Resort
 Senior Center Bingo, 1 PM (Every Monday); Cards & Movie 7:30 PM (Every Fri.) 4380 Spanish Flat Loop Road, 966-0206
 To have your event listed, contact Peter Kilkus at PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net or call 415 307-6906.

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March, 2009	Foster Clark	25th	
	Andy Cole		
	Stephano Gusberti	8th	
	Marlene Lines	4th	
	Vick Rahe	3rd	
	Billie Wellington	21st	
Dolores Atkinson	22nd	Peter Uzeta	22nd
Jayne Caruso	12th		

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Puzzle No. 4 Solution

1	3	6	2	4	9	8	7	5
2	9	8	1	5	7	4	6	3
4	5	7	8	6	3	2	9	1
9	2	3	5	8	6	7	1	4
7	1	5	9	2	4	8	3	8
8	6	4	7	3	1	5	2	9
6	8	2	3	1	5	9	4	7
5	7	1	4	9	2	3	8	6
3	4	9	6	7	8	1	5	2

Addendum to the Safety Officer's Account

When the spanwire
Snapped like a line mooring Seaman Holt
To this world, the severing released a flood
Of paper from his body. I had to fill
Every sheet with words.

A month washed by -
I'd written the letter to his family,
The accident report, the memoranda
To the various departments that had fed
And clothed and paid him, my journal entry.
His face began to lose its puzzled look,
Dissolving in the darkness of my thoughts.

The Shore Patrol had fished him out of bars,
Disorderly and drunk; he'd been written up
For ragged dungarees, skipping watch
On the quarterdeck and unrep duties
On fueling details. His final day, though,
He was on that rig.

And then Personnel
Called for a Terminal Evaluation.
In every category on that form -
Skills, discipline, personal appearance -
I wrote a 4.0. The yeoman typed
From this a "smooth eval" which I proofread:
The comma at its end I whited out
To a period.

MICHAEL SPENCE

**Napa County News**
Supervisor Diane Dillon**Berryessa Highlands Firewise Program**

Berryessa Highlands has been identified as a high fire risk community by the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF). The NCFF is available to provide support and services to develop a fire safety plan for your community. NCFF is holding a homeowner's workshop, which will cover the fire history in Napa, information on how to create defensible space to protect lives and homes and a presentation on how other communities have approached this problem.

We are soon entering another fire season. I strongly encourage you to attend the workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Capell Valley Volunteer Firehouse. For more information please contact Stephen Gort, the Vice President of the NCFF at (707) 265-9624.

Firewise Chipping Program

The Firewise Chipping Program begins March 2nd. This is a free service for Napa County residents to help them financially sus-

tain their defensible space over time. All that is required to participate is the completion of an application form which can be found on the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation website at: www.napafirewise.org. Just click on "Chipping Program" and follow the instructions.

Legal Aid for Senior Citizens

Legal Aid of Napa Valley provides free bilingual legal advice and representation to senior citizens. In cooperation with the Napa City-County Library, Legal Aid of Napa Valley representatives will offer information and answer questions on relevant topics such as elder abuse, access to health care and public benefits, debt concerns, and housing matters in a free session on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, from 10am to noon, in the Community Meeting Room of the Napa City-County Library, 580 Coombs Street, in Napa.

There is no charge and no reservations are required. Seating and assisted listening devices will be available on a first come, first served basis. For further information please call 707-259-0579.

Effie's Packages for the Troops

Almost four years ago the Berryessa Seniors decided to do something for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since there's nothing like getting a package from home, they decided to set up a Packages for the Troops program. Effie Macholz volunteered to take the lead.



Since that time Effie has been sending nine to twelve packages out every three months. Effie gets her names from grandparents and children of military folks serving in our two war zones. The US Postal Service does give her free boxes, but won't give her a break on the cost of postage. That's one area where financial donations are very helpful.

Donations of all kinds are welcome at the Berryessa Senior Center, but Effie has learned what the troops really like to get so financial donations also help her buy those items.

Popular items are toiletries, pre-paid phone cards, disposable cameras, canned food of all sorts, hard candy but NO chocolate.

Effie says that when she buys something at Wal-Mart now she buys at least ten of each for her troop packages. When we talked she said her couch was covered with boxes for her next mailing which she estimated would cost \$150. If you'd like to help this program, drop by the Senior Center on Spanish Flat Loop Road with your items or a donation. This will make a difference to someone over there.

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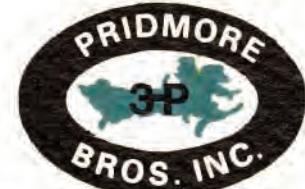
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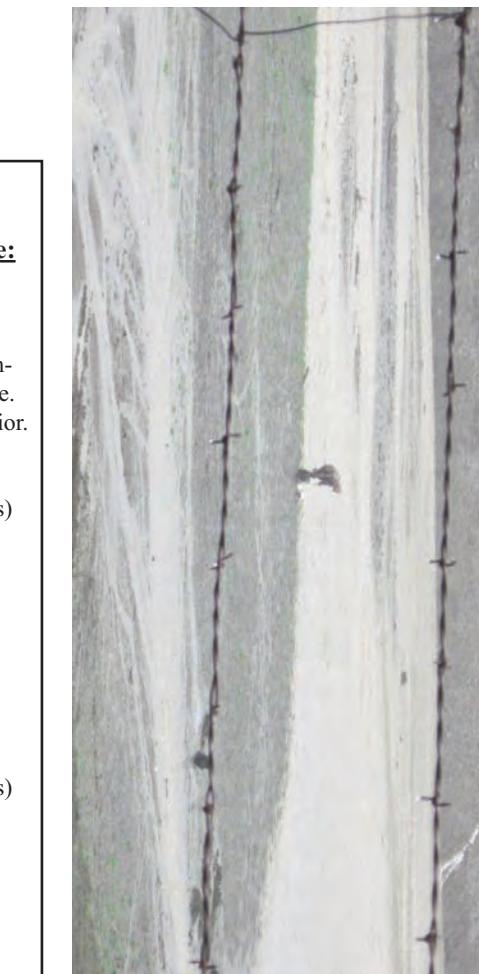
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March 3, 2009 Letter from Congressman Mike Thompson to John "Bill" McDonald, Acting Commissioner Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I am writing to you regarding the current status of new concession contracts for resorts at Lake Berryessa. For ten years I have supported the Bureau of Reclamation's efforts to revitalize Lake Berryessa and the 7 concession areas with the goal of opening the entire lake shore up for use by the general public.

I am deeply concerned with the amount of time it is taking Reclamation to negotiate new concession contracts with the Pensus Group and Markley Cove. These two prospective concessionaires were successful bidders chosen last spring. Why haven't the concession contracts been awarded? This delay has caused significant economic hardship to residents, local businesses and the County of Napa.

I respectfully request that you and your staff update me on the status of the contract negotiations with the Pensus Group and Markley Cove. Also, the same briefing should be made to Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon. Awarding of these new concession contracts is vital to resuming recreational services this coming season and most important, securing the future of Napa County's Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District which is under state order to make infrastructure updates to the sewer and water systems. This can-

not proceed due to financial requirements until a contract is finalized.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

From Supervisor Diane Dillon: Washington D.C. Lobbying Trip

I was in Washington D.C. last week and met with staff for the Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee, which has authorizing authority over the Bureau of Reclamation. I expressed my deep concern over how slowly things are moving with the BOR and how long it has taken to hear from them about the status of Berryessa concessions and Pensus negotiations. I told them that the BOR needs to be restructured to allow for more streamlined, efficient, and effective decision-making. I found the staff to be very receptive to my suggestions because the new administration wants more transparency in government.

I also met with Commissioner McDonald of the BOR and three deputies. I presented them with a Steel Park/NBRID timeline, maps

of the lake, and the Napa Register editorial from March 12th. I expressed my concerns about the impact of BOR's activities on the County and NBRID.

I explained that we need a deal with some contractor, which guarantees that it will ante up its share of the Steele Park assessment. I also suggested alternatives. One alternative is that the BOR put something in writing that we can take to the Regional Board to get the moratorium lifted and get an extension of time to upgrade the treatment facility. A second alternative is to give us a letter that we can take to LAFCO to get the district reduced in size and redesign the treatment facility to work just for Berryessa Highlands. The BOR seemed receptive to what I had to say and promised to take action.

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Rural Schools: Value NOT Cost! Community NOT Anonymity!

The value of a small rural school education has been a hot topic since the Russian's launched Sputnik in the late 1950's. At that time many believed we were losing the education race with the Soviets and started pushing for consolidation of schools, supposedly to prepare our students for the brain battle to come.

Since that time the evidence of many studies has shown that small rural schools can be as good, better in some respects, than large impersonal schools. The value of small schools to their communities is generally ignored by those who advocate consolidation and closure.

When a school in a large city closes, the event rarely concerns most of the city's residents. However, the closure of a rural school affects the whole community in many ways.

Napa school officials are expected to decide the fates of Wooden Valley and Capell Valley elementary schools soon, following weeks of meetings about the small, rural campuses in the Lake Berryessa Region.

Jon Soper, the former principal of both schools who now teaches at Capell, said there is "a lot of anxiety" at his school and in the surrounding community about whether the campus will be shut down.

"It would be a shame to close" both schools, he said. "We need to work something out with the district where they give us more support and we recruit more kids up here."



The District said that Capell ran a \$130,000 deficit last year with an enrollment of 38 students.

The Capell Valley PTA is considering, among many options, eliminating bus service and driving their children to school which could save \$42,000. They are also doing surveys to show how many students will be enrolling during the next two years.

If the District closes both schools, it would save between \$200,000 and \$250,000 annually. The school district has an annual general budget of about \$118 million. This savings would be only about 2% - is this actually worth the amount of community disruption it will cause?

At one time Capell's enrollment was 120 students with 4

teachers. This enrollment suffered with the closure of resorts in Lake Berryessa because the families working at the resorts aren't around to send their children to school. When the resorts re-open, new children should come into the Capell Valley boundary. (See Congressman Mike Thompson's letter and Supervisor Dillon's comments on Page 12.)

Also interdistrict transfers and school boundary changes have lowered the number of available families within Capell School's service area.

The role of the school in rural communities is larger than providing essential education. Small schools give students more opportunities for leadership. Research literature confirms that in terms of social and affective development, students excel in smaller schools.

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Small rural schools have close ties and involvement with local community groups and organizations that are not possible in the large urban school setting. If all the Capell Valley students were bussed to Napa, when would the parents be able to interact as a community?

Capell Valley families threw a bake sale this weekend to raise money for the school. But the big fundraiser is the upcoming Auction and Dance on April 4th. See Page 4 for details.

Donations for Capell Valley Elementary School may be sent c/o Capell Valley PTA to Umpqua Bank, 3626 Bel Aire Plaza, Napa, CA 94558.

For Wooden Valley Elementary School, write 1340 Wooden Valley Rd., Napa, CA 94558, attn: Wooden Valley PTA



From the Editor

In a surprising, but not completely unexpected move, the Bureau of Reclamation cancelled contract talks with the Pensus Group. In carefully worded bureaucratese, they tried to minimize the clearly disastrous impact of this decision. The only "bright" spot is that they imply they will consider "opportunities for uninterrupted operations" at Steele Park.

Contract Talks With Pensus Cancelled - The Lake Berryessa Disaster Expands!

Released by BOR:3/16/09 - Transition in Visitor Services at Lake Berryessa Will Extend Through the 2009 Season

The transition in visitor services at Lake Berryessa will continue through the 2009 recreation season as the Bureau of Reclamation continues to implement the Visitor Services Plan Record of Decision (VSP ROD). The VSP ROD requires renovation of seven concession areas to provide a broader, more diverse range of short-term recreation opportunities for enjoyment by the general public. Implementation of the VSP ROD coincides with expiration of 50-year concession contracts and award of new long-term contracts to develop, operate, and maintain expanded visitor facilities.

Award of new long-term con-



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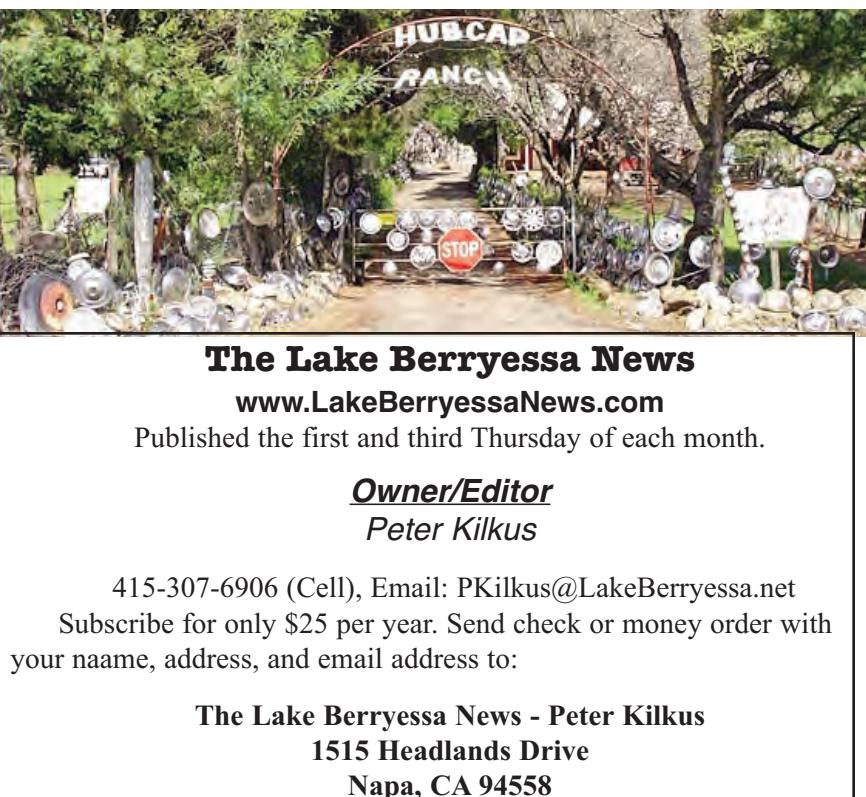
tracts remains in progress. In March 2009, Reclamation determined that the original contract solicitation did not fully conform to legal requirements governing reimbursement for capital improvements. On that basis, the negotiations for new contracts have been cancelled. Reclamation expects to initiate a revised solicitation within the next 120 days and award new long-term contracts prior to the 2010 recreation season.

In the interim, visitor services at all Government-operated recreation areas will be fully operational, including a free two-lane boat-launch ramp at Capell Cove; hand-launch ramps at Eticuera and Oak Shores; areas for picnicking, fishing, and swimming at Smittle Creek and Oak Shores Day-Use Areas; and a visitor center and water education center at Reclamation's Headquarters.

Reclamation further anticipates expanded recreational opportunities at Oak Shores Day-Use Area and Camp Berryessa (the former Boy Scout Camp) to include RV and tent camping. In addition to Government-operated facilities, Reclamation will continue to pursue opportunities for uninterrupted operations at Pleasure Cove Marina, Steele Park, and Markley Cove concession areas.

I intend to regularly re-print some of their stories from 20 years ago so we can all get some perspective on the history of Lake Berryessa. The first page of their first issue is reproduced on pg 10. I also included a story about Pridmore Construction, the Business of the Week, from February 27, 1988.

Bill retired in 2007 after 34 years



NAPALACHIA

Berryessa Marina, Putah Creek, and Spanish Flat concession areas so that development and operation of new recreation facilities can begin as soon as possible in 2010. Services at those concession areas will remain closed in 2009 to ensure cleanup is completed prior to contract award.

Cantina Takes a Break

Christine Roussopoulos announced this week that Spanish Flat Cantina will go on a short hiatus on April 1 as she seeks to restructure the management of the restaurant. Her partner, Kathy Riggins, has decided to retire from the restaurant business.

Due to the financial and scheduling complexity of running a small local restaurant as a single individual, Christine will take some time to explore her various options. She thanks her loyal customers for their support and hopes to reopen in some fashion as soon as possible.

She is interested in any suggestions Cantina supporters may have as to how she should proceed, whether to find a new partner and reopen as a full service restaurant or simplify the operation in some way. Christine wants to remain involved in the local community and the Spanish Flat Village Center. Please contact her if you have any ideas.

Bill retired in 2007 after 34 years

In keeping with our theme of the importance of rural schools to the local community, here's a nice activity sent in by Berryessa Highlands resident Karla Holland-Scholer.

I have been an art teacher for more than twenty years. Currently, I teach an Art and Children class at the community colleges for parents, day-care workers, teachers and students who want to become teachers.

My goal is to help educators find ways to integrate art into the curriculum. Art can help bridge the connections between science, language arts, math, and social studies so that students see the world not as separate 40-minute modules but as an organic whole, where all things are interconnected and related.

Here is a fun educational art/science activity for kids to do with their parents after a rainy day when there are lots of animal tracks in the mud.

"Casting Tracks"

Materials: 2 inch wide strip of poster board or cardboard, Stapler, Plaster of Paris (from the hardware store not an art store because art plaster can take a very long time to dry), Ziplock bag, Jar of water (with lid), Stick.

First make a mold (or moat) by stapling the 2-inch-wide strip of poster board together to make a ring. (Another option is to cut out a 2 inch strip from the middle of a cardboard milk carton.)

Next measure out 2 cups of dry plaster of Paris into the ziplock bag. Pack up your mold, the ziplock bag, and the jar filled with water and go out hunting for animal tracks. If it hasn't rained recently your best bet for finding fresh tracks is down by the lake.

Once you find a clean track with sharp outlines, carefully brush away any debris. Set the mold or moat you made around the track like a collar and press the edges of the strip about a 1/2 inch into the ground. Add water to the plaster of Paris until it is the consistency of pourable mud. Use your stick to stir the plaster.

Quickly pour the plaster into the cardboard collar to a depth of about 1/2 inch. Let the plaster harden for around 30 minutes. While you are waiting for the plaster to harden you can have kids draw a picture of what kind of animal might have made the track, and record where you found it and what kind of animal you think made the track.

When you pick up the track, try not to grab the edges as these sometimes break off. It's best to lift the track from underneath. Use your stick or knife to get under the track and lift. Scrape off any dirt from your cast, and now you have an animal track.

If you aren't sure what animal made the track you can look it up in a guide book or here is a fun Web site for kids where you can look up lots of different animal tracks, and find more nature activities: <http://www.bear-tracker.com/>.



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BERRYESSA

PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

Saturday November 28, 1987 Volume 1 No. 1



The owner of this fine bird, is Brad Kirkpatrick of Pope Valley.

Fire Chief reports Turkey Shoot big success

POPE VALLEY - As many of you may know, the Pope Valley Turkey Shoot was held on Sunday, November 8th. Fire Chief Brad Kirkpatrick reports that this annual event was, by far, the most successful fund raiser yet. The Pope Valley Fire Department grossed \$12,000 during the event and also received another generous donation of \$9,500 from a private citizen.

When asked what the funds are to be used for, Kirkpatrick stated that the fire department is planning on the purchase of a new rescue unit. The need for a smaller, quicker response vehicle has prompted the fire department to consider a water unit.

The residents of Pope Valley are to be congratulated for their hard work on making this event such a success. We understand that congratulations are also in order for local "pioneer" Chad Kelly. This young man is the winner of the Martin 77 gopher given away during the day's festivities.

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Premiere Issue

Greetings to all our neighbors in Northern Napa County! We hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday and we also hope you will enjoy our new weekly publication, **BERRYESSA**, past, present and future.

Those of you who know me may wonder why I chose to start a newspaper. I'll tell you, what with raising three young children, taking care of my husband and home, volunteering my time at school and my Church activities, I just didn't have enough to do, so, here I am. Crazy as usual!

The honest answer to that question is that I have always enjoyed writing. I've often thought that when my children grew up and left home (well, at least grew up), I would go back to college and pursue a writing career. I've had it in mind to write children's books, but that may change as my children grow (I won't be speaking and thinking like a three year old by then, I hope!).

Any way, after much encouragement from friends and my husband (who decided I needed a part-time job), I decided to try my hand at a weekly newspaper.

The prisoners were reported to have been driving a faded turquoise 1976 Nissan pick-up truck, license plate number 199378.

The Napa County Sheriff's Department encourages anyone with information to report it. Phone (707) 257-4457.

Wild Hogs sighted on Lakeshore

LAKE BERRYESSA Wild hogs have been seen along the Lake Berryessa shoreline in the area known as the narrows. That is the confluence between the dam and the main body of the lake.

Sightings have been reported on the south side of the narrows at the shoreline where these dark colored swine have been rooting and wallowing.

Possibly these heavy animals have immigrated north from the Wooden Valley - Clifton Valley area, where wild hogs are present in surprising numbers.

Prison Escapee's move through Berryessa area

SMITIE CREEK - Prisoners, believed by Sheriff's Authorities to belong to two escaped prisoners from Santa Cruz County, were discovered in a garbage can at the Smitie Creek public day use area recently. The two prisoners were identified as Merle Herman Craig and Timothy Lope Martinez. Both escaped from the Santa Cruz facility on Monday, November 1.

Burglaries at four residences in the Berryessa area are believed to be connected to these two men. Items taken from residences included warm clothing and shoes.

The prisoners were reported to have been driving a faded turquoise 1976 Nissan pick-up truck, license plate number 199378. The Napa County Sheriff's Department encourages anyone with information to report it. Phone (707) 257-4457.

Any way, after much encouragement from friends and my husband (who decided I needed a part-time job), I decided to try my hand at a weekly newspaper.

I hope everyone will enjoy reading our little newspaper as much as we've enjoyed putting it together. I have no go now, it's time for Sesame Street. See you next week.

Sherri Hamilton White
Editor/Publisher

In 1843 William or Julian Pope was granted land parcels by the Government of Spain. His ranch was to become RANCHO YACOALLOMI and later named PUMA VALLEY as we know it today.

DO YOU KNOW?

How Pope Valley got its name?

In 1843 William or Julian Pope was granted land parcels by the Government of Spain. His ranch was to become RANCHO YACOALLOMI and later named PUMA VALLEY as we know it today.

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Important Wildfire Workshop For Berryessa Highlands on March 28

Bureau of Reclamation
Budget: Lake Berryessa - FY2008
(Oct. 1, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009)
\$3,985,000 Total

You are invited to attend a wildfire awareness workshop on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00PM to 3:30PM at the Capell Valley Volunteer Firehouse, 1178 Capell Valley Rd., Napa. Titled, "Home Ignition Zone Workshop," the two and a half hour meeting will provide you with essential information you need to prepare your home and family for a major wildfire in your community.

Land Management and Development

- Continues concession oversight and recreation management activities at Lake Berryessa, compliance to hazardous materials handling and cleanup laws, realty actions, unauthorized use of land activities, land management and planning and structures inventory. **\$1,291,000**

Fish and Wildlife Management and Development

- Continues the management, protection, and habitat enhancement for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species and provides protective measures for special status species. **\$106,000**

Facility Operations - Continues ongoing infrastructure support, renewal of service contracts; routine operation and maintenance of the Lake Berryessa recreation facilities; and management oversight of Monticello Dam, Putah Diversion Dam, Putah South Canal, and Terminal Dam and Reservoir. **\$1,811,000**

Role of defensible space landscaping and vegetation management in home defense and neighborhood fire protection planning (30 minutes)

Break: (10 minutes)

Steps to take in fire hardening your home, including building material choices and construction techniques (decks, vents, siding, windows, etc.) (30 minutes)

Taking action - A case history example of how a community can prepare (30 minutes)

Questions (30 minutes)

The workshop is sponsored by the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation (NCFF) and is free to Napa County residents. Seating is limited. Please RSVP on or before March 23 to Kaaren Stasko at kaaren.stasko@fire.ca.gov or call Karen at 707-967-1419. Be sure to indicate the number of people attending and the name of the workshop (Berryessa Highlands). Refreshments will be served.

Deferred Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation - Continues repair and rehabilitation projects which are necessary for the continued maintenance of Lake Berryessa recreation facil-

ties. Continues replacement of Oak Shores and the Administrative compound's nine sewage lift stations and rehabilitation of Oak Shores restrooms. A shift in accessibility corrective maintenance activities accounts for the decrease. **\$222,000**

Cucina is Famous with the Motorcycle Crowd!

We all know how many motorcycles travel our roads. Some are dangerous speed freaks, but most are people like you and me out to enjoy the lake. The following reviews are from a touring motorcycle chat group named Pashnit. See their photos at www.pashnit.com/forum/showthread.php?t=20313:

Cucina Italiana is a must-stop for anyone of pleasant, responsible temperament who finds himself or herself riding Lake Berryessa's western shoreline. Not to overly stereotype, but if your idea of a good eat-stop includes lots of EtOH, rowdy behavior, and burnout sessions in the parking lot, then find your way over to one of those places with dozens of sport-bikes or non-metrics lined up outside.

If, however, you enjoy a pleasant atmosphere in an informal yet tastefully-appointed setting, an interesting, technically and artistically proficient host (Chef / owner Stefano Gusberti) whose CV includes training in Parma and experience at Masa's in SF, and if you hunger for some really excellent, authentic, reasonably-priced Italian eats, this is where you need to go.

I personally recommend any of the several types of ravioli; on our last

stop in late November of '08, Tanstafl and I both had the ravioli of the day, which on that afternoon was chicken. Best ravioli I have ever had, period. Check out the menu--there's a lot to choose from, including various pasta, pesce, carne, and pollo dishes.

Stop by on your next ride; as a bonus, it's less than 3 miles from the Zodiac site featured in my most recent ride report, Chasing the Zodiac.

Every time Wire and I ride to Berryessa we stop here for lunch. The food at Cucina Italiana is first rate. My wife is half Italian and half German. I have been eating great Italian food since I met her, so I know what I am talking about.

The food at Cucina Italiana is simple, unpretentious, delicious and reasonably priced. Do yourself a favor and make it a stop on your ride next time you are in the area. We need to keep small, independent businesses like this around.

GPS coordinates
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Support & Save Capell Valley School

Dear Community Member,
Will you help us in keeping our local school and community together?

We are sending you this letter as a fellow member of the Lake Berryessa Community. We are sure that you value living in such a close-knit and peaceful neighborhood as we do. Capell Valley Elementary which has served our community since 1898 is facing closure.

In order to save Capell Elementary we must take action. That is what this letter is all about - taking action - community action.

Due to the State of California budget crisis the Napa Valley Unified School District has to make extreme cuts. Not only do they have to lay off our local teachers, but they are looking to close the only school which serves the Lake Berryessa community, Capell Valley Elementary.

Our main financial goal is to keep Capell Valley Elementary open for both the present and future children of our community.

We hope that you will be able to offer your support by becoming a Sponsor with a tax-deductible contribution to our school.

This will be given to the district to supplement our budget. Sponsorship of any amount would be greatly appreciated.

The students, faculty, and parents of Capell Valley Elementary School wish to thank you in advance for your generous support of our school.

Sincerely,
Capell Valley PTA
Tax ID# 91-1875067

Dine, Dance and Donate

Join us for Capell Valley School's 6th Annual Auction Dinner Dance!

Saturday, April 4th
Doors open at 5:30
Tickets \$25.00
Includes Dinner, Dance, and Fun
(alcohol not included)

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

The Corners Store
Berryessa Garbage Service
Pridmore Brothers Construction
Cucina Italiana

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

Contact: Capell Valley Students or 966-9160



No Host Beer and Wine Served by:
Capell Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Adults 21 and over

Dear Capell Valley Supporter,

We are proud to announce the 6th Annual Capell Valley Silent Auction benefit, which will be held at the R-Ranch in Napa, California, on April 4, 2009.

Proceeds from this event will benefit our school in many ways. We are a small rural school, with just over 30 children, in need of finances to maintain, support, and enrich our two room multi-grade educational program.

Our main financial goal this year is to provide a permanent teacher's aide for our K-2 classroom.

We are hoping that you will be able to offer your support by becoming an Auction Donor, with a tax-deductible donation of an auction item, or by becoming an Auction Sponsor, with a tax-deductible cash contribution.

Auction sponsors who donate a gift of \$150 thru \$300 will receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the benefit and will appear in our event advertisements. Please let us know how you'd like your name/company to appear.

The Live Auction Sponsor will receive four (4) complimentary tickets to the benefit, public acknowledgement, and full page ad on the back of the program.

The students, faculty, and parents of Capell Valley Elementary School wish to thank you in advance for your generous support of our school.

If you would like to be a sponsor or have any questions regarding this community event, please contact LeeAnn Small at (707) 966-9379



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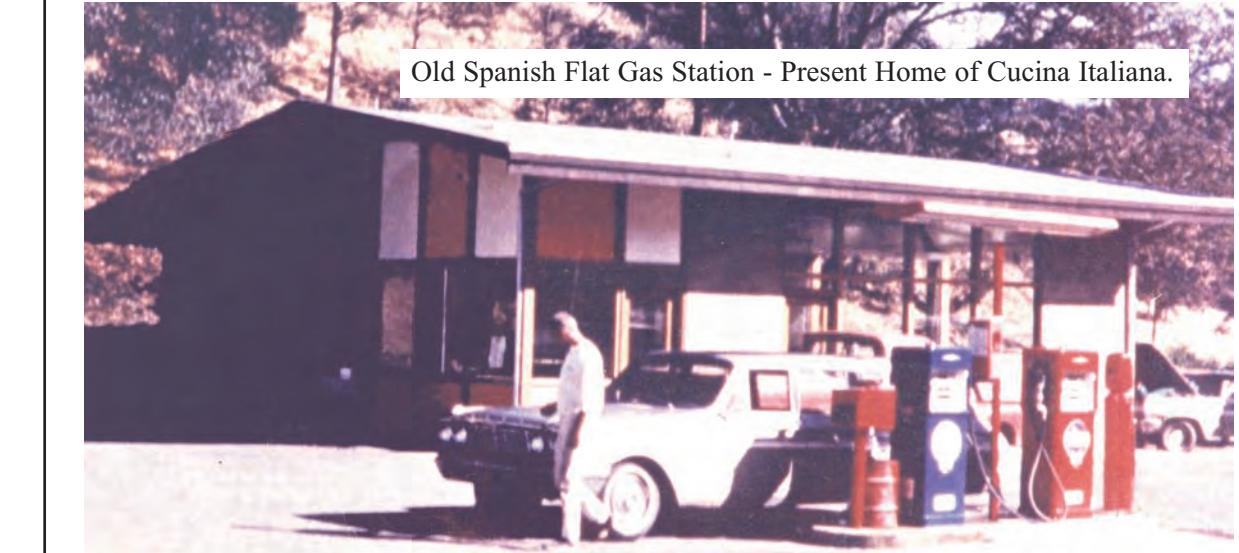
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2009 Lake Berryessa Calendar

Mar. 21: Lions Club St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Turtle Rock. See details in ad on Page 7.

Mar. 22: BBQ & Horseshoes, 12noon, Senior Center

Mar. 29: Bass Tournamnet, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove

Apr. 2: BOR School Program, Oak Shores Day Use Area- Coyote Beach

Apr. 4: Capell Valley School Auction at R Ranch. Doors open at 5:30, Tickets \$25.00. Includes Dinner, Dance, and Fun (alcohol not included) See detailed ad on Page 4. Contact: Capell Valley Students or 966-9160

Apr. 4: Fairfield Suisun Bass Reapers 28th Annual Team Bass Tournament, Pleasure Cove Marina, Info at: www.bassreapers.com

Apr. 4: Bass Tournament, El Dorado Bass Club, Markley Cove

Apr. 9: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli

Apr. 17-19: NCACCD Bass Tournament, Pleasure Cove Marina

Apr. 23-24: School Program, Oak Shores Day Use Area- Coyote Beach

Apr. 25: Earth Day

May 2: Napa Vintage 1/2 Ironman, Lake Berryessa

May 3: Napa Valley Sprint Triathlon, Lake Berryessa

May 3: Bass Tournament, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove

May 9: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli

May 30: A NCSC Sidecar Event will be held at Acorn Beach in Oak Shores Day Use Area. The two shade shelters and parking lot are reserved for this group.

May 30: Bass Tournament, Angler's Choice, Markley Cove

Jun. 13: Trout Derby, Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli

Jun. 15: Quilt Festival, Downtown Winters, 530 795-2580

Oct. 3: The Napa Tri, Girl, Tri (all women's triathlon), Lake Berryessa

Oct. 17: Redwood Empire Bass Club Tournament, Capell Cove

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

To have your event listed, contact Peter Kilkus at PKilkus@LakeBerryessa.net or call 415 307-6906.

Wise old Indian reflects on Daylight Savings Time

"Only white man would believe you could cut off top of blanket, sew it to bottom of blanket, and have longer blanket."

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LAKE BERRYESSA

Located at 6008 Monticello Road
(Moskowitz Corners).

For more information please

Contact Bob Lee at 707-252-4488
or e-mail at terribob@pacbell.net

News from Pope Valley

You'll recall the story and photos from last issue about Mandy and her Gypsie horse, Ocho. The latest from Mandy is:

"I would love to go into detail in the future about the Gypsy Internship Program I am about to launch. And some of the other programs Ocho is involved in.

He won the overall high point award this past Sunday at a show in Stockton. Clair Amador, Jan Switzer's daughter, rode her mustang/Arabian cross at the show also. It was great because, in the very 1st class Ocho won over 10 other horses of other breeds and Clair took 2nd. Then in the next class Clair won and Ocho and I took 2nd. It's great when she beats me, it tells me I am doing a great job."

Berryessa Highlands



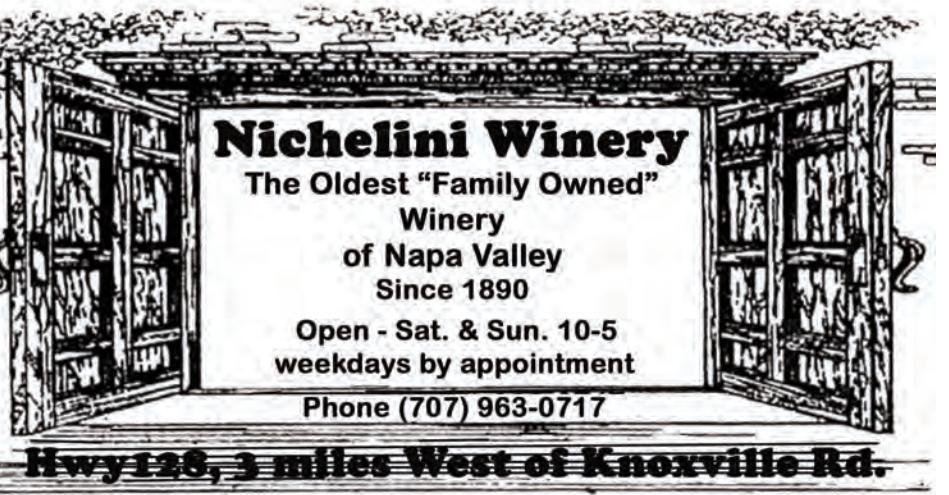
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"Small Enough to Listen, Big Enough to Help"

Dufer Point Returned to "Official" Name

Local residents and recent visitors may have noticed that the big blue "Dufer Point" sign has been removed from Knoxville Road at the Bureau of Reclamation's Visitor Center less than a year after it had been erected. In a closed private ceremony last year with family and friends, the Visitor Center apparently was renamed Dufer Point as a memorial to honor Cleve Dufer, long-time BOR Concessions Manager. Cleve died in a tragic accident when he fell from a ladder at his home.

Although Mr. Dufer was generally well-liked as a person, many local residents and resort mobile homeowners considered him instrumental in the deterioration of the lake resorts which led to the present disaster at Lake Berryessa.

Several people questioned the appropriateness of renaming the Visitor Center, a federal facility, without formal public notification or public comments. Don Lombardi, Chairman

of Berryessa for All, raised the issue to the highest levels of the Department of the Interior.

Research into how a name is attached to a federal facility shows that there are no strict rules but that it is usually done by an act of Congress. Typically there is a sponsor, but Congress has few rules and less restraint. It helps to be important in the Federal Government, having made major non-financial contributions to the goals of an agency, and to have died lately.

Despite months of requests, the Bureau of Reclamation would not answer Mr. Lombardi's questions in any detail. There seemed to be a disconnect within various levels of Reclamation's bureaucracy, with one manager stating that the sign was only a "memorial".

Finally, in a terse comment last week, Pete Lucero, Public Affairs Officer for Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region, responded with the following statement:

A Bit of Berryessa History from Berryessa: Past~Present~Future Business of the Week Profile

Pridmore Construction: February 27, 1988

The Pridmore name is one very familiar to most of the Lake Berryessa residents. You see the big trucks moving up and down the mountain roads all during the week with the Pridmore logo on the side. The business itself sits on Capell Valley Road, west of Moskowitz Corners by less than a mile.

The Pridmore brothers, Don and Clint, run the family business, which employs eleven workers, seven full-time employees with the last name of Pridmore. When they began the full-time construction business back in 1965, they had only one dump truck and one backhoe.

Nowadays, Don and crew are working extensively on several subdivisions in the Vallejo area, while Clint handles the jobs here at the lake. They now

have 6 backhoes and 4 bulldozers. The building has recently been added to, and the office given a facelift.

This branch of the Pridmore family has grown to number 35 (now on the 5th. generation of Pridmores living in Capell Valley) and they plan on staying right here in the area. They have been working on the 1600 acre ranch that they use for recreation.

They have added ponds and are refurbishing the land that they love so much. They have quite a collection of horses for riding, nearly as many as the R-Ranch. But then, they have a great number of riders in the upbringing. This is a family that pulls together in working as well as playing.

(With thanks to Bill White and Sherri Hamilton White)

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"The Lake Berryessa Visitor Center signs will be replaced with signs that state the OFFICIAL name of the visitor center as the "Lake Berryessa Visitor Center".

Pete Lucero was once the Lake Berryessa Park Manager and in October of 2006 was promoted to the newly created post of Recreation Division Chief, a position fetching a salary between \$77,000 and \$100,000. In his new job, Lucero continued implementing Berryessa's visitors service plan, specifically the bid proposal process, selection of new concessionaires, and completion of new contracts. He would also "bring new recreational opportunities to the Central Valley oases of New Melones Lake and Folsom Lake", according to Bureau of Reclamation's then-Public Affairs Officer, Jeff McCracken.

Now two and a half years later, with the results of his efforts plainly visible at the lake, Lucero has apparently replaced McCracken as Public Affairs Officer for the Mid-Pacific Region.

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