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Lot 328 Arroyo Grande	\$35,000
Lot 118 Cape Cod Court	\$45,000
Lot 43 Berryessa Dr.	\$49,000
Lot 234 Arroyo Grande	\$55,000
Lot 161 Westridge	\$57,000
Lot 6 Steele Canyon	\$70,000
Lot 24 Steele Canyon	\$75,000
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So I got my concealed gun permit yesterday and went over to my local gun shop to get a small 9mm pistol for home protection.

When I was ready to pay for the gun and bullets, the cashier said,  
"Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about the gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to seniors a little clearer.

I still don't think I looked that bad.



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# The Lake Berryessa News

Your Information Gateway to Lake Berryessa and our Napa Back Roads!

**September 1, 2016**

**Summer's Almost Over - What's Happening Behind The Scenes At Lake Berryessa?**

by Peter Kilkus



25¢  
Donation

Behind the scenes there are enough signals now be memories, there is “Life After Labor Day” at Lake Berryessa.

The latest unconfirmed information from a local source is that Pleasure Cove Marina is being acquired by Suntex Marinas: www.suntex.com. This is plausible.

The Bureau of Reclamation must approve any ownership transfer. Per the present Pleasure Cove contract, concession contractors must submit all sale and transfer information as required by Reclamation before any consideration will be given to the approval of a sale or transfer of all or any portion of a concession operation.

A proposed sale is subject to the same evaluation process that is performed for a new concession contract.

The terms and conditions of this concession contract are subject to reasonable changes that are consistent with the purpose and objectives of this concession contract and current Reclamation policy, at the discretion of Reclamation.

A fundamental question is whether, in the new contract negotiations with the Markley bid winner or a possible Pleasure Cove Marina buyer, Reclamation may modify some of the more onerous contract terms identified as stumbling blocks to future recreation area development.

These impediments have been identified as the short thirty-year term of the contract, the requirement for the concessioner to give all of the infrastructure improvements to the government at no cost, and the prohibition of the use of subcontractors. Napa County analysts should be watching these negotiations carefully.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Life After Labor Day**

Summer is winding down with our last big holiday of the season. Most people will be out on their boats or PWC. But although the good times of summer at the lake will

Many of you already know that Fall, Winter, and Spring are some of the nicest, most beautiful times to be up here at the Lake. And there's a lot to do with our local wineries, beautiful roads for bicycle and auto touring, restaurants, a large shorefront public picnic area, quiet coves for kayakers with fewer motor boats, miles of hiking trails without the 100 degree heat, and uncrowded recreation areas.

You can see our natural history at the Bureau of Reclamation's Visitor Center. Visit some local Other Napa Valley wineries: Pope Valley Winery, Rustridge Ranch & Winery, Nichelini, Moss Creek, and more.

Try nature hikes to see our osprey and bald eagles as they catch "the one that got away" from the angler in the boat. Bass and other kinds of fishing continue through the winter, contact our local fishing guides

The Lake Berryessa region, as many auto, bicycle and biker clubs know, has very scenic, winding roads, many that have just been repaved, that are fun to run. With so much to see and enjoy, nothing is really that far away. There are many day trips that you can plan. Check out The Map on page 5 for ideas.

On the way out from the Napa Valley cities and towns, Fairfield, Winters, or other parts of the Bay Area, you can stop at the Turtle Rock for a drink and a “World Famous Eggroll” before driving down Knoxville Road to Lake Berryessa.

Just past the Spanish Flat Recreation Area, if you don't stop in, you'll soon come to the Spanish Flat Village Center where your dinner choice is fine Italian food at Cucina Italiana. Right next door is the Spanish Flat Country Store and Deli for your deli or other snack needs.

The Spanish Flat Village Center is also home the Berryessa Valley Exhibit. Delve into the fascinating past of the Town of

**Lake Berryessa Map - Page 5**



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## 2 New Fire Station Construction To Start This Month

The Berryessa Highlands and Berryessa Estates are scheduled to get assistance in fire protection that could lead to cuts in soaring homeowner insurance bills. Napa County recently awarded a contract to build identical satellite volunteer fire stations in the two communities for a total \$1 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in September and finish in March.

Both stations will be used by the existing Capell Valley and Pope Valley volunteer fire departments. Volunteer firefighters living in the two communities will be able to go to the satellite stations during emergencies to get equipment. Berryessa Highlands and Berryessa Estates are rated as "unprotected" for fire services by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) because no fire station is located within five miles. Napa County is trying to change this situation to lower insurance rates there.

Residents have seen their insurance costs rise by as much as 300 percent, if they can even find insurance.

County plans call for each station to be a 1,152-square-foot building of pre-engineered steel with a truck bay, a restroom, and a storage area.

Berryessa Estates has about 180 homes. The new station will be located at 2386 Stagecoach Canyon Road at the site a vacant store. It will be used by Pope Valley volunteer firefighters.

Berryessa Highlands has about 350 homes. The new station will be located at 1251 Steele Canyon Road. It will be used by Capell Valley volunteer firefighters.

The existing Capell Valley station is

about 5.5 miles from Berryessa Highlands, just outside of the five-mile range used by ISO. That means residents get no credit for it on their insurance bills. \*\*\*\*\*

## Lake Berryessa Recreation. What Do You Want? What Will You Get?

With the potential for a major revitalization of Lake Berryessa if Napa County does enter into a Managing Partner Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to run the resort areas, what could that mean for future recreation opportunities for visitors?

Although the primary market will always be people interested in motorized water-based activities, there is room for expansion into the potential market of nature-based recreation which includes non-motorized land and water activities. However, demographics have changed so significantly during the last few decades that simple family camping, fishing, and water-skiing experiences are no longer sufficiently attractive to guarantee a large number of visitors.

The primary goal for the new resorts will be to provide memorable, environmentally-sustainable yet fun, experiences for their guests. Lake Berryessa could become the premier family-friendly adventure destination within minutes of the Legendary Napa Valley. Visit Napa Valley and "Add-A-Day" at Lake Berryessa. Promote lake-based lodging as an affordable alternative to Napa Valley lodging with affordable week-long rates for families. Link with Visit Napa Valley resort and winery events to extend their reach to Lake Berryessa.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of possible future Lake Berryessa activities. It is in simple alphabetical order with no specific priority. Let us know what you would like to see on this list. \*\*\*\*\*

Adventure jet boat rides per Lake Tahoe model  
Amphitheater  
Arcade  
Bass tournaments  
Children's entertainment room with video, Wi-Fi, and board games.  
Climbing walls  
Corporate meeting events  
Dog Parks - on beach, supervised



Dog Parks - on land, enclosed  
Exercise bikes in locations with beautiful views  
Fireworks  
Floating freshwater swimming pools  
Floating toys: trampolines, swim platforms  
Fresh water pool – kid's Splash Zone  
Frisbee golf  
Golf driving range  
Good universal Wi-Fi and cell phone service  
Hand ball courts  
Hiking trails  
Ice cream parlor  
Indoor activity center  
Interpretive center facilities, activities  
Jet ski races

Jet ski safety training course with by jet ski race course based on go kart model  
Kayak adventures at upper Putah Creek - kayak down Putah Creek with stop for lunch on beach

Kayak Big Island lagoon with lunch

Kayak to Berryessa Vista – hike to top with lunch at top with view

Leisurely patio boat trip to the dam

Luxury patio boat nature cruises with food and wine

Luxury houseboat trips with wine tasting & dinner per Wine Train model  
Luxury patio boat wine tasting tour to dam with stop on a beach for lunch  
Mobile food trucks

Moderately-priced patio boat nature cruises with food and wine  
Music theater, concerts, indoor/outdoor movie theaters

Outdoor outfitters ferry guests from Napa for bicycle, hiking, kayak trips

Paddle boats (for exercise)  
Par course on trail  
Parasail trips on lake near Big Island  
Playground with wading pool  
Pools with swim-up bars  
Portable stores  
Ropes courses  
Shuttle service – local rides and food delivery  
Slalom course  
Small gyms  
Spa facilities  
Teen sports area  
Tennis courts  
Triathlons, Davis swimmers, and other events  
Wakeboard competition  
Wakeboard school  
Water park/water slide  
Water ski center  
Water ski school  
Winery shuttles and limos  
Zip lines

## Lake Berryessa Park Rangers Connect with 817 Youth and Adults in July 2016

In July 2016, Lake Berryessa Park Rangers led 439 visitors in Ranger-guided activities around Lake Berryessa and met with 378 attendees at the California State Fair and the Solano County Fair for a total of 817 individual contacts!

Joining Park Rangers at the Monticello Dam for the Saturday afternoon "Meet a Park Ranger" program continues to be a popular activity in spite of July's hot temperatures. During the get-togethers, participants learned about the history of the Berryessa Valley and how Lake Berryessa's water is used today. Many took the opportunity to obtain the Rangers' assistance in planning future visits to the lake.

Rangers Erica Calvo and Victoria Payan developed a popular Water Safety Program as part of the Sunday afternoon Ranger programs at the Oak Shores Day Use Area. In July, Park Rangers instructed 39 participants in recognizing distressed swimmers and practiced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills.

In addition to the Park Rangers' regular programs, they had numerous opportunities to engage the public at the California State Fair in Sacramento and the Solano County Fair in Vallejo, California. The Rangers interacted with more than 350 fairgoers, educating them about outdoor recreation opportunities, sharing ideas for water conservation, and challenging families to estimate the amount of water needed to grow their favorite foods.

Lake Berryessa Park Rangers will continue to present programs at Monticello Dam and Oak Shores Day Use Area on weekends throughout the summer. Upcoming topics at Oak Shores will include introductions to bats and birds as well as Water Safety and CPR.

## Coastal Clean Up Day

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Putah Creek Bridge, Steele Canyon Recreation Area, and the Markley Turnouts.

Join Reclamation, Solano Resource Conservation District and partners for this annual lake and shoreline cleanup event. Volunteers will clean the shoreline of Lake Berryessa as part of the state-wide event. Free lunch and beverages will be provided to volunteers.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own work gloves, as there may be limited availability. In order to limit the environmental footprint of this event, please also plan to bring a reusable bag, bucket, and water bottle if possible.

To volunteer, contact Park Ranger John Ellis at 707-966-2111 ext. 113 or [orjellis@usbr.gov](mailto:orjellis@usbr.gov). You can also search for our volunteer announcement under Lake Berryessa at [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

"Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff," -- Mariah Carey

"We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?" -- Lee Iacocca

## September 1 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Keep in mind this week that anger is fear in disguise, although why you'd be afraid of the soda machine eating your dollar is for you alone to answer.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Your radical new look will cause heads to turn, as complete strangers hurry to avoid eye contact with you.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): As you'll soon learn, there are scandals and then there are Scandals, depending on whether the word starts a sentence.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Years of backbreaking work will finally pay off when your sales manager, walking hurriedly down the hallway, nods faintly in your general direction this week.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Like a moth to a flame, you too will be strongly attracted to a giant flame today.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): The fifth coming of Jesus Christ this week will reveal that you haven't been paying as much attention as you'd thought.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Your body will soon go through a series of new and exciting changes, thanks in large part to the amazing reconstructive work of Dr. Howard Rosenthal.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You'll have a hard time controlling yourself this week, but then that's what the serene-looking men in lab coats are here for.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): While teaching the lowland gorilla how to communicate is entirely possible, getting the self-obsessed primate to shut the hell up is a whole other story.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Despite several of face-to-face meetings, and a series of concessions on your parts, the ants still will refuse to recognize your truce.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): After years of keeping the secret to yourself, you will finally break your silence this week on that one thing nobody really cares about.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): You establish a destructive pattern of behavior this week when you discover how much fun it is to destroy things.



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www.LakeBerryessaNews.com

Peter Kilkus  
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### The Lake Berryessa Bowl

The Lake Berryessa Bowl was an outdoor music venue just below Turtle Rock. During the summer months in 1968 and later many local and national groups appeared there. The Grand Opening was on May 30, 1968. First 50 girls got in free! Hit records given away! Price \$2.50. Hours 9 PM-1 AM.

The few neighbors must have loved it. May have been good for Turtle Rock too. Sly and the Family Stone, Sons of Champlin, Roger Collins, and Fever Tree. Alice Cooper and Santana were also there in 1968.



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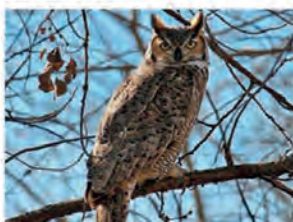
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#### **1015 Rimrock Drive**

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Kitchen w/granite counters  
Hardwood floors  
Living room opens onto spacious deck.  
Large deck off master suite  
New foundation, siding, windows  
Two-car attached garage

Approx. 1,288 sq. ft., circa 1981

**\$349,000**

### Lake Berryessa Custom Lake View Home!

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#### **1040 Blueridge Drive**

Enjoy this home year round! A scenic 45 minutes from Napa, this spacious home has amazing views! Rear yard feature expansive deck with above ground pool & hot tub. Room for gardens, RV, & boat.

**1995 Custom Built**  
3 bedrooms, 2 Full baths, 2,652 sq. ft.

Upstairs living room with knotty pine vaulted ceilings & wood stove

Upstairs master suite w/deck access

Two guest rooms  
Family room

Formal dining room w/deck access

Extra large kitchen

**\$484,000**

### Lake Berryessa Lake View Home!

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#### **514 Neptune Court**

Enjoy the natural beauty of Lake Berryessa in this two story home with lake views! Boat, swim, ski, kayak, fish on the lake, then come home to relax on one of five VIEW decks! Panoramic views in living room and master suite too!

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Special two story home nestled in the eastern hills of Napa County! Enjoy outdoor living on the rear deck with breathtaking views. Just minutes away from all the FUN that Lake Berryessa has to offer!

Living room with pellet stove  
Deck with amazing views!

Master suite with deck, jetted tub, double vanities

Spacious updated kitchen

Attached two car garage

Room to spare PLUS boat/RV parking.

**\$379,000**

### Berryessa Highlands Facing Expensive

### Water and Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades - Again!

by Evan Kilkus

Napa County staff invited residents of the Berryessa Highlands to a community meeting last week to discuss their 50 year old fresh water and sewer system - and its need for \$5 million in infrastructure improvements plus several million more to replace miles of leaking water mains. This is being discussed just after the neighborhood completed a state mandated \$8 million waste water treatment and pond upgrade, costing every parcel owner just under \$20,000.

“Our mission isn’t really over”, stated Chris Silke, Engineering Manager for Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID). The needed capital improvements “should be looked at in the next 3-10 years.” Projects discussed include replacing broken and leaking pipes under the roads, upgrades to the water supply intake in Lake Berryessa, water storage tank, sewer lift stations, and other parts to the system.

Berryessa Highlands home and parcel owners are the owners of the NBRID, so all operating and infrastructure costs fall on them. However, grants and low interest loans are available under certain circumstances. According to Kim Strong with the Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC), the amount of funding help available “varies depending on the programs...Berryessa Estates, for example, will have accumulated \$10.3 million in grant money” to help with their recent system upgrades. In order for the Highlands neighborhood to qualify, RCAC needs to collect Household Income Surveys from 57% of the households. As of last week, they had 70, and need 100 more. Residents can find the survey on <http://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>

The Berryessa Highlands neighborhood, located at the southern end of the lake near Steele Canyon Recreation Area, includes just under 350 homes on 586 total parcels. Currently the minimum water/sewer bill for residents is \$150/month, making talk of higher rates and more assessments a sour subject for residents. “They can only make us pay so much,” stated one resident. “After the last \$20,000 assessment we just can’t accept more.”

Being proposed as a partial solution is a potential rate increase of approximately \$20 per month, bringing the monthly bill to \$170. When, or at this point if, Steele Canyon Recreation Area ever turns into a small resort with cabin rentals and a restaurant, they would be required to become a customer, contributing substantial new revenue to help cover the NBRID operating expenses.

Napa County Supervisors Dianne Dillon and Keith Caldwell were in attendance to commit to doing everything the County can to get financial help. They agreed that this is an unfortunate expense. They also informed residents that water rates are going up across Napa County and California, some worse than the Highlands.

There was no real positive outcome at the end of the meeting, just a consensus of accepted frustration. Future rate increases will go through the Napa County Board of Supervisors, so any further public discussion will take place there.

### Seven Blunders of the World That Lead To Violence

Wealth without work  
Pleasure without conscience  
Knowledge without character  
Commerce without morality  
Science without humanity  
Worship without sacrifice  
Politics without principle

Mahatma Ghandi

### Onion Headlines

Report: More American Fifth-Graders Taking Gap Year To Unwind Before Middle School

Media Intern Looking Forward To Moving Up At Company That Won't Exist In 8 Months

Johnson & Johnson Introduces 'Nothing But Tears' Shampoo To Toughen Up Newborns

Word 'Millennials' Forced Into Headline To Boost Pageviews

Friend Who Sent Link To 8-Minute YouTube Video Must Be Delusional

We Raise All Our Beef Humanely On Open Pasture And Then We Hang Them Upside Down And Slash Their Throats

Pop Culture Expert Surprisingly Not Ashamed of Self

Santorum Nostalgic For Time When His Beliefs Were Outlandish Enough To Make Headlines

Kitten Thinks Of Nothing But Murder All Day

CIA Realizes It's Been Using Black Highlighters All These Years

Archaeological Dig Uncovers Ancient Race Of Skeleton People

wants you to know that

### Beautiful Lake Berryessa is OPEN!

All recreation areas - Markley Cove, Pleasure Cove, Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Putah Canyon - are open for launching and will remain open all summer and beyond. The Capell Public Launch Ramp is closed.

Oak Shores Day Use Area is great for picnics and viewing the lake and wildlife. After touring around the lake and stopping at local wineries like Rustridge and Nichelini, a wide variety of food and drink is available at Cucina Italiana, Spanish Flat Country Store & Deli, and Turtle Rock.

Delve into the fascinating past of the Town of Monticello, now at the bottom of the lake, by visiting the Berryessa Valley History Exhibit at the Spanish Flat Village Center. Please use this web site to contact our members to make use of their services:

[www.lakeberryessanews.com/chamber-of-commerce/](http://www.lakeberryessanews.com/chamber-of-commerce/)



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**The Capell Community Center Conundrum**

The long-term value of the common good for a community or the short-term value of quickly-spent money for the school district

The definition of conundrum is a situation where there is no clear right answer; a paradoxical or difficult problem; a dilemma. It’s not easy to solve a conundrum or it wouldn’t be called a conundrum. Similarly, summarizing the issues is not a simple task. Here are the basics.

The District’s (NVUSD) objectives are stated as follows in the Request for Proposal for the sale of the property:

1. Sell or lease the Property in order to generate funds that can be used within legal parameters to improve Napa Valley Unified School District schools and for the benefit of its students;

2. Determine that the contemplated use for the property is supportive of the District’s goal of enhancing its long-term fiscal sustainability and relationship with community members;

3. Obtain assurance that the buyer or tenant of the site has the financial capacity and proven experience to bring the proposed project (as defined in the buyer’s proposal response) to consummation as efficiently and as prudently possible, and finally;

4. Confirm that the buyer or tenant of the site is supportive of the District’s intent to mitigate impacts on surrounding neighbors, and has a demonstrated history of working collaboratively with neighborhood leaders, community members, local jurisdictions and school district staff in which they have consummated projects in the past.

This Request for Proposals (“RFP”) encourages proposals that will achieve the above noted objectives of the Seller while also maintaining community support for the project.

For purposes of developing this RFP, it is contemplated that agricultural or commercial use may be the primary use proposed for the site in order to meet the objectives as defined herein.

Should you elect to submit an “offer”, please review the District’s key objectives and provide additional information that is of particular interest to the District and thus should be specifically addressed, which are the following:

The fiduciary responsibility of the Board is to utilize District resources to best support the mission of education in Napa Valley. As such, the Board is interested in offers which reflect the highest market value for the property.

The Board encourages proposals that will achieve the previously stated objectives of the Seller while also maintaining community support for the project.

**The Board’s Dilemma**

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility, a legal obligation, to the Napa County voters to spend its funds wisely for the good of the students of the district under circumstances which require total trust, good faith and honesty. But the District, not being a for-profit business, also has a social responsibility to its constituents to support the larger social goals of the Napa County community.

The District closed the Capell Valley and Wooden Valley Schools several years ago because, in their financial estimation, there were not enough local students to support the District’s costs in maintaining the schools. At that time the Capell School enrollment had declined to only about 50 students. This decline was partially due to the closing of Steele Park Resort by the Bureau of Reclamation and Reclamation’s subsequent disastrous attempt to find a competent recreation companies to manage the resorts.

For decades Lake Berryessa region residents have felt ignored by County government. This is more likely due to lack of influence and visibility than any willful conspiracy. There are simply not enough votes out here to make a difference in any County-wide election. But in this particular case, the situation should favor our community.

The School Board has been very receptive to the Capell Community Project proposal. The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District supports it (although they definitely don’t want to manage it).

Local community members have been overwhelmingly supportive of the concept. However, they will need to step up in large numbers to actually do much of the work in running it to make it a success during the first two years of operation - or it could again be put of for sale.

There is a second cash bid for the property by Pridmore Brothers Construction, whose commercial property is adjacent to the old school grounds. The school was built on property originally transferred to the school district by the Pridmore family.

There is some concern among adjacent neighbors that public usage of the property would need reasonable security. The fact that the Napa County Sheriff’s Department is interested in using it as a physical substation should help alleviate some of those concerns.

In an eloquent presentation to the NVUSD Board, Pastor Bob Lee made some telling points below about the value of a community center to the local community. His comments to the Board are printed below.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are here to address you on your difficult decision in choosing between our effort and the other offer you have for the Capell property.

We are asking you to choose our offer to initially lease and within 2 years purchase the property. We know that monetarily we are not offering much, but in regards to community wellness we are offering much more than dollars will ever bring.

It was 6 years ago shortly after the school closed that we began this effort. We met with District staff, planned and dreamed, came up with an agreement, became Incorporated and a Non Profit so we could obtain the property as a community center. We wanted to offer to our community a meeting and event location, as well as a recreation opportunity nowhere else available in the Lake Berryessa area.

A Sheriff’s substation increasing security, organized sports keeping our kids (and adults) busy, a community garden feeding the elderly and low income were all in the offering. We spent time at the school doing general up keep, reported and fixed water leaks looking after things as the property sat.

All as part of being a concerned community.

We are asking you, the School Board, to help us do something for the community that another home, business or simply vacant lot cannot do. Help us build not only a community center and park but also a hub for social services which are sorely lacking.

We could immediately move and enlarge our weekly food bank, which may lose its current space. It serves 75-80 low income people a week.

We could run our Napa County Yearly Holiday Christmas food and gift assistance program from the Capell Community Center.

The Sheriff would still like to have a substation at the location. AMR ambulance could base there when needed.

Recently Catholic Charities sat in the church parking lot over a several week period offering information and signups for a variety of programs helping the disadvantaged in our community.

There is a strong need for a community center and park to support these and other needed services.

Just two weeks ago I noticed 8 – 10 teens and young adults jumping the fence to enter the school grounds. I contacted them and asked them to leave. They all lamented that there was nowhere else to go which offered what the unused school playground and playing field offered.

A new mother with a 7 year old the other day asked if there were any parks or places her son could play. I told her of our project. She thought it was a great idea.

We are asking you to do something different with this property. Give us a chance to improve not only our community but the greater Napa County Area. A “yes” to our offer will make a difference for generations to come.

**Lake Level Status: 8/30/16**

The lake level is now at 401.1 feet - 38.9 feet below Glory Hole.

At the present level, Lake Berryessa holds 893,074 acre-feet of water - 55.8% of its 1,600,000 A-F capacity.

The lake level at this time last year was 399.43 feet, 1.67 feet lower than today.

The Capell Public Launch Ramp is closed until next year.

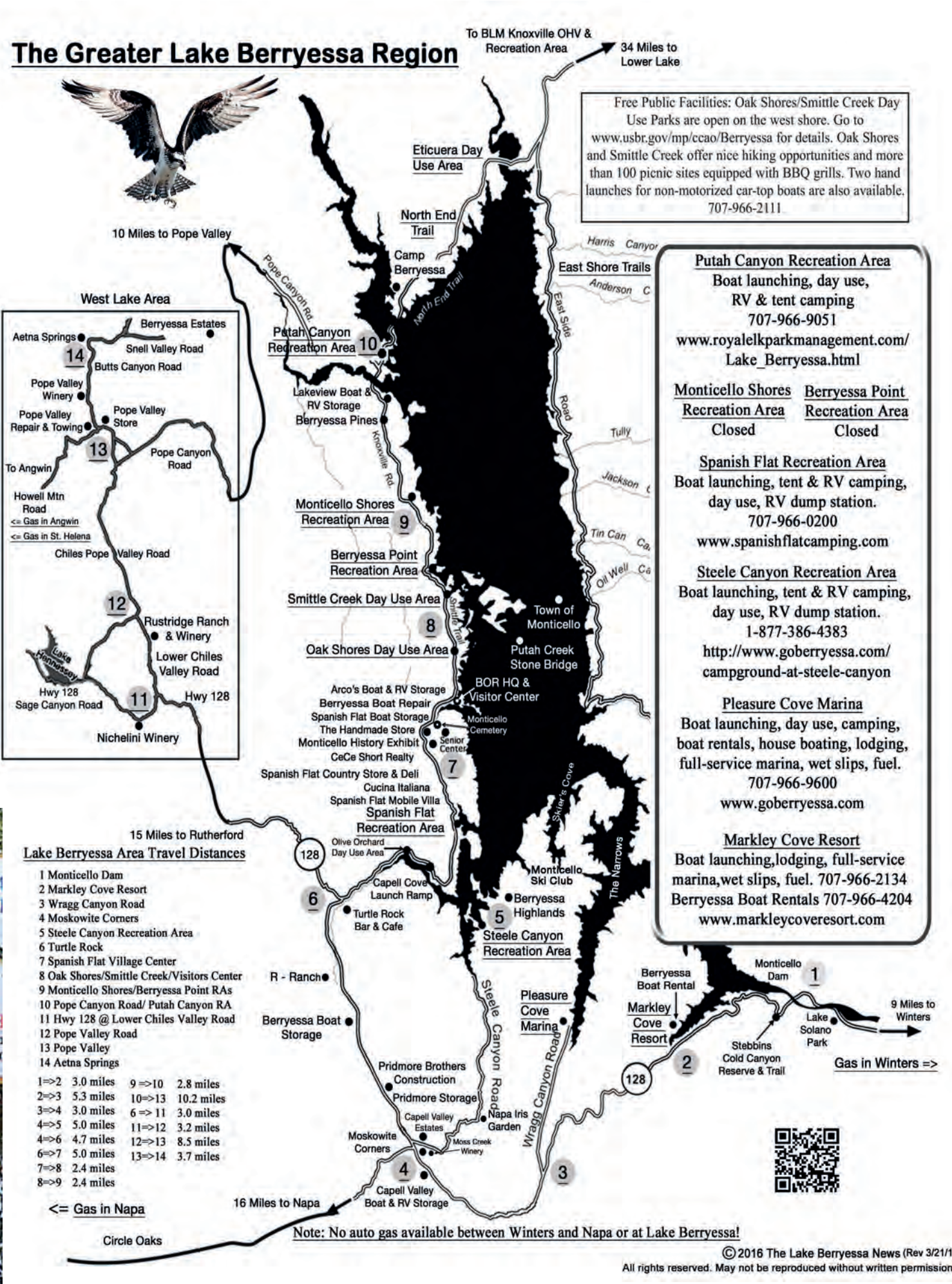
All recreation areas - Markley Cove, Pleasure Cove, Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Putah Canyon - are open for launching and will remain open all summer and beyond.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fishing With Sid**

This past weekend was a highlight for me. It seemed like every bass I landed was bigger then the one before. I limited out and my five largest fish weighed in at a total of just under forty pounds - yes, I said 40 pounds. I couldn't believe it myself but it was great!!!! Bob got two eight pounders.

The next day the fish were not as large, but at 16.5 pounds still a good catch. The color of the lure that worked best for me was chartreuse. My son and daughter-in-law fished the same areas with success as well landing limits of bass weighing between 3 to 5 pounds. I'm hoping I'll have some good size hits this holiday weekend too.







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### LOTS of Lots Around Lake Berryessa!

Lot 287 Headlands	\$25,000
Lot 66 Steele Canyon	\$18,000
Lot 187 Redrock	\$19,800
Lot 341 Arroyo Grande	\$26,000
Lot 302 Eastridge	\$35,000
Lot 328 Arroyo Grande	\$35,000
Lot 118 Cape Cod Court	\$45,000
Lot 43 Berryessa Dr.	\$49,000
Lot 234 Arroyo Grande	\$55,000
Lot 161 Westridge	\$52,000
Lot 6 Steele Canyon	\$70,000
Lot 24 Steele Canyon	\$75,000
Lot 195 Headlands	\$89,900
Lot 139 Westridge	\$100,000
1010 Westridge	\$125,000
Lot 61 Poppy Ln.	\$205,000
Hwy 128, 10+ Acres	\$225,000
Lakeview Estates, 60+ AC	\$350,000

### Lots in Circle Oaks!

Lot 47 Country Club	\$13,000
Lot 186 Columbine Ct.	\$15,000

### Markley Cove Resort Owners Win The Bid For Their Own Resort

One interesting element of this announcement is that Reclamation has extended the contract period to 40 years! Is this the first step in migrating towards a smarter contract than they have offered in the past? No word yet - or maybe ever - as to who the other bidders were. Notice also that the Markley Cove name has been changed from Resort to Marina.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Reclamation Announces Selected Bidder for Markley Cove Marina at Lake Berryessa

The Bureau of Reclamation announces that FX10 International Inc. is the selected bidder for the Markley Cove Marina business opportunity at Lake Berryessa. The principal shareholders in FX10 are John and Linda Frazier, who currently operate Markley Cove under an interim contract with Reclamation.

The business opportunity is to operate a marina and associated facilities for a term of 30 years, with a possible 10-year extension. The business opportunity was advertised on May 13, 2016, and the bid period closed on July 19.

After a bid review by a panel of staff with experience in managing concessions and recreation on public lands, the bid from FX10 was determined to best meet the needs of Reclamation and the public in the provision of required and authorized recreational services and facilities.

Reclamation's Central California Area Office (CCAO) will be initiating negotiations with FX10 with the intention of having a new concession contract signed and in effect prior to January 1, 2017.



# The Lake Berryessa News

Your Information Gateway to Lake Berryessa and our Napa Back Roads!  
**September 15, 2016**

## Measure Z: The Zombie Tax Attacks

By Peter Kilkus

It may not be World War Z, starring Brad Pitt, where a zombie outbreak erupts in metropolitan areas around the world, but Napa County is having its own County Conflict Z with a Zombie Sales Tax outbreak.

The Napa Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) is a government agency that was created under intense controversy in 2006. Local voters created the district by approving Measure I which was passed by only 2,500 votes of 29,000 cast: Yes - 15,791, 54.35%; No - 13,261, 45.65% - hardly a mandate.

Napa County residents currently pay 8 cents in sales tax for each local dollar spent. Napa County voters on Nov. 8 will decide whether to approve Measure Z - a quarter-cent sales tax to raise about \$8 million annually to fund the RPOSD. This new and regressive Zombie tax would have to pass by a two-thirds vote.

In the June 7 election, Napa County failed to pass a quarter-cent sales tax that would have gone to the county general fund, but had been targeted for a new jail and children's programs. This sales tax needed only a majority vote to pass, but it lost with 55 percent "no" votes.

How can any reasonable person believe this new Measure Z sales tax, which requires 66.7% to pass, is more important or more likely to pass than the June 7 attempt? It seems to be a waste of time and money to even try.

When seeking a sales tax hike, proponents depict the impact as being small on taxpayers. But this is a regressive tax, i.e., a tax that takes a larger percentage of income from low-income earners than from high-income earners. For people on limited incomes, these taxes build up and become a burden. And most Napa residents will never benefit from Z.

The controversy over the RPOSD Measure I in 2006 was passionate. Looking back at the history is instructive. "Applehood and Mother Pie" statements.

The arguments against Measure I are clearly still relevant today against Z. The Napa Register was against it: "The proposal on the Nov. 7 ballot - Measure I - is flawed in fundamental ways...The Board of Supervisors needs to address the parks issue, but not by creating an ill-defined new bureaucracy run by a separate set of elected officials. We urge a no vote on Measure I."

Supervisor Bill Dodd was against it and even predicted the present results: "If Measure I passes, a new layer of governmental bureaucracy will be formed, run by five newly elected representatives.

This special district will have no greater power to create access to open space than the county has today, and will have no funds that the county does not have today. In my opinion, the citizens of Napa County will end up paying more taxes if Measure I passes, as this special district will have an unstable source of funding for management and operations functions. Sooner or later, this new layer of government will create a new tax or fee to fund their program."

### Time Passes and Now...

The facts are that, ten years later, the predictions have proven accurate. It's taken that long, but the predicted Zombie (a dead body reanimated through various methods) Tax has awakened and is aimlessly shuffling towards Napa voters.

The RPOSD, with its policy of questionable land acquisitions and trails-at-any-cost philosophy, has done little of compelling benefit for Napa County residents, and most of what they have accomplished could have been done by a Parks and Open Space Department within the Napa County governing structure.

Some think that voting for parks and open space is like voting for "Motherhood and Apple Pie." Unfortunately, as in most of these conflicts, some people find the truth too confining and resort to strained "Applehood and Mother Pie" statements.

Statements that sound good on the surface, but hide a bad taste in the ingredients.

### Reality Check Time

The RPOSD wants to TAX us and give them \$8 million per year! From the pockets of Napa workers, visitors, families, students, elderly citizens! From the budgets of County government and public agencies doing real work important to everyone in the County!

### YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

How many voters actually know what the RPOSD is and does? How many people have hiked the Berryessa Estates "open space"? How many people have boated to and climbed to the top of Berryessa Vista? How many people actually use Moore Creek Park? Are there parks for people?

### The Lake Berryessa Connection

A burning question to many of us trying to revitalize a battered Lake Berryessa region (and I include the Berryessa Estates and Pope Valley) is why this Zombie Tax is being considered at all when one of the most important recreational areas in Napa County, Lake Berryessa, has been so neglected by the County. We'd like to have \$8 million to play with - even a couple of hundred thousand would help!

Lake Berryessa is not another "lake in the country". It is a major economic, social, and recreation resource in an urban-proximate setting whose value to Napa County and the State of California is being utterly wasted.

I believe a special Lake Berryessa-only commission should be created reporting directly to the Napa County Board of Supervisors. And the Commission should be funded by the Transient Occupancy Tax - until the new resorts can provide their own contribution to management costs.

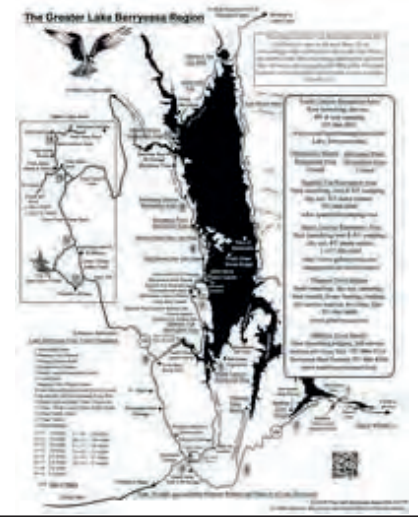
We all know how to kill a zombie - you shoot it in the head.

NO on Measure Z



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### Lake Berryessa Map - Page 5



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We often hear commentators or guests on talk shows say things like “American voters are not stupid”, or “the (pick an interest group) are not stupid”. However, evidence suggests that there are a lot of stupid people spread throughout the general population, and they seem to have become especially visible during this election.

The following article, although obviously written as satire in 1987, seems to be particularly relevant in 2016. Satire is defined as the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

We’ve often heard the aphorism that “You can’t fix stupid”. Studies confirm the statement basically because stupid people are too stupid to know they are stupid. This is known in psychological research as the Dunning–Kruger effect in which low-ability individuals suffer from illusory superiority, mistakenly self-assessing their ability as much higher than it really is.

Their research also suggests corollaries: high-ability individuals may underestimate their relative competence and may erroneously assume that tasks which are easy for them are also easy for others.

This inherent dichotomy in personal self-awareness makes communication, especially in political discourse which requires complex reasoning, difficult at best, and impossible, due to emotional biases, unreasoned anger, and self-pity, at worst.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The Basic Laws of Human Stupidity**

by Carlo M. Cipolla, Prof. of Economics, UC Berkeley

#### **THE FIRST BASIC LAW**

**Always and inevitably everyone underestimates the number of stupid people in circulation.**

At first, the statement sounds trivial, vague and horribly ungenerous. No matter how high are one's estimates of human stupidity, one is repeatedly and recurrently startled by the fact that: a) people whom one had once judged rational and intelligent turn out to be unashamedly stupid; b) day after day, with unceasing monotony, one is



harassed in one's activities by stupid individuals who appear unexpectedly in the most inconvenient places and the most improbable moments.

#### **THE SECOND BASIC LAW**

I firmly believe stupidity is an indiscriminate privilege of all human groups and is uniformly distributed according to a constant proportion. One is stupid in the same way one is red-haired; one belongs to the stupid set as one belongs to a blood group. A stupid person is born stupid by an act of Providence. This fact is scientifically expressed by the Second Basic Law with states that:

**The probability that a person be stupid is independent of any other characteristic of that person.**

The evidence that education has nothing to do with the probability of being stupid was provided by experiments carried on in a large number of universities in five major groups, namely the blue-collar workers, the white collar employees, the students, the administrators and the professors.

#### **THE THIRD (AND GOLDEN) BASIC LAW**

**A stupid person is a person who caused losses to another person or to a group of persons while himself deriving no gain and even possibly incurring losses.**

When confronted for the first time with the Third Basic Law, rational people instinctively react with feelings of skepticism and incredulity. The fact is that reasonable people have difficulty in conceiving and understanding unreasonable behavior.

Our daily life is mostly made of cases in which we lose money and/or time and/or energy and/or appetite, cheerfulness and good health because of the improbable action of some preposterous creature who has nothing to gain and indeed gains nothing from causing us embarrassment, difficulties or harm. Nobody knows, understands or can possibly explain why that preposterous creature does what he does. In fact there is no explanation - or better, there is only one explanation: the person in question is stupid.

#### **THE FOURTH BASIC LAW**

One is tempted to believe that a stupid person will only do harm to himself, but this is confusing stupidity with helplessness. On occasion one is tempted to associate oneself with a stupid individuals in order to use them for one's own schemes - as in contemporary politics.

Such maneuver cannot but have disastrous effects because : a) it is based on a complete misunderstanding of the essential nature of stupidity and; b) it gives the stupid person added scope for the exercise of his gifts.

One may hope to outmaneuver the stupid, in politics or

other endeavors, and, up to a point, one may actually do so. But because of the erratic behavior of the stupid, one cannot foresee all the stupid's actions and reactions and before long one will be pulverized by the unpredictable moves of the stupid partner.

This is clearly summarized in the Fourth Basic Law which states that:

**Non-stupid people always underestimate the damaging power of stupid individuals. In particular non-stupid people constantly forget that at all times and places and under any circumstances to deal and/or associate with stupid people always turns out to be costly mistake.**



#### **THE FIFTH BASIC LAW**

**A stupid person is the most dangerous type of person.**

In a society which performs poorly, the stupid members of the society are allowed by the other members to become more active and take more actions, and there is a change in the composition of the non-stupid section with a relative decline of non-stupid populations.

Such negative shift in the numbers of the non-stupid population inevitably strengthens the destructive power of the stupid fraction and makes decline a certainty. And the country goes to Hell.

#### **THE POWER OF STUPIDITY**

Essentially stupid people are dangerous and damaging because reasonable people find it difficult to imagine and understand unreasonable behavior.

A stupid creature will harass you for no reason, for no advantage, without any plan or scheme and at the most improbable times and places. You have no rational way of telling if and when and how and why the stupid creature attacks. When confronted with a stupid individual you are completely at his mercy.

Because the stupid person's actions do not conform to the rules of rationality, it follows that one is generally caught by surprise by the attack, and even when one becomes aware of the attack, one cannot organize a rational defense because the attack itself lacks any rational structure.

Volunteer Fire Chief Sandy Storck gave an update on the new volunteer fire station to be built in the Berryessa Highlands. The earthwork contractor will be starting at the Highlands site on September 19th.

There will NOT be a ground breaking ceremony, but the plan is to have a Grand Opening Ceremony upon completion. She will post updates as she receives them. Everyone is very excited for the start of this long awaited project.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Volunteer for Capell Valley Fire Department, please feel free to contact Sandy at capellvalleyfiredepartment@gmail.com or come down to their training nights on the 3rd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7 PM -11 PM at the Capell Valley Fire Station at 193 Capell Valley Road.

#### **“Things native English speakers know but don’t know we know.”**

That quote comes from a book called The Elements of Eloquence: How to Turn the Perfect English Phrase.

Adjectives, writes the author, professional stickler Mark Forsyth, “absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose Noun.

So you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that order in the slightest you’ll sound like a maniac. Try it.

It’s an odd thing that every English speaker uses that list, but almost none of us could write it out. And as size comes before color, “green great dragons” can’t exist. And "big bad wolf" is right and "bad big wolf" isn't? Make up some of your own for fun.

#### **Solve Your Drought Needs with Napa’s California Native Plant Society Sale Oct. 15 & 16**

Fall Native Plant Society sale at Skyline Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 15th & 16th. Skyline Park is located at 2201 Imola Ave, Napa, CA 94559. For information, visit [www.napavaleycnps.org](http://www.napavaleycnps.org). Admission is free.

Fall is the ideal time to plant California Natives. Over 1,000 hard-to-find native plants will be available for sale at Skyline Park Social Hall, ready for fall planting in your garden. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

A special presentation on Saturday, October 15 at 11:30 am on landscape design basics and using native plants in your garden. Cathy Baskin, certified Landscape Designer, specializes in designing and installing gardens of native drought tolerant plants.

The adjacent Martha Walker Garden will be open to see many of these plants identified in a landscape setting. The rich diversity of California’s native ground covers, grasses, shrubs, vines, and trees will satisfy every gardener’s needs.

All proceeds benefit the maintenance, improvement, and educational programs of the Martha Walker California Native Habitat Garden in Skyline Park, maintained by the Napa Chapter, California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

Aries (3/21-4/19): You’re not the type of guy who gets all mushy, that will change when they leave you out in the sun.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): You bring out the very best in those around you. This week, those around you will include four firefighters, a team of baffled paramedics, and several circus chimps.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): You still have no idea what makes most women tick, despite having asked literally hundreds of certified watchmakers.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): For the millionth time, telling the truth doesn’t technically qualify as a speech impediment.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Soccer, when played with skill and grace, is like poetry in motion. Which explains all the bored-stiff people just pretending to follow along.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): You’ve never worked a day in your life, mainly because you keep getting the damn graveyard shift.

Libra (9/23-10/22): You’ll be roundly condemned by members of the Academy of Country Music when, despite their specific instructions, you let your babies grow up to be cowboys.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You find yourself unable to comply with simple requests this week, as you lack the internal resources to “be cool,” “get down,” or “boogie.”

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): The training wheels will soon come off your bike, and both regular wheels, the front and back brakes, each handlebar, and, finally, you.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Decent people everywhere will be shocked and appalled by the treatment you received and the conditions under which you were held, but it's not like their jobs are any better.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): You'll find yourself curiously unfulfilled, if not a little frightened, when you finally learn the answer to the question of who watches the birdwatchers.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): In retrospect, you should have paid more attention to the obvious warning signs, which were of course placed there by the Department of Transportation for just that purpose.



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**What College Students Don't Know About the World**

A survey of college-aged Americans shows they have surprising gaps in their knowledge of geography, the environment, demographics, U.S. foreign policy, recent international events, and economics. This dumbing-down of America has been going on for a few generations now. Learning can be hard work.

The recent Council on Foreign Relations survey asked a series of knowledge questions. The average score was only 55% correct. Just 29% of the respondents earned a minimal pass of 66% correct or better. And just over 1% - that's only 17 out of the 1,203 students interviewed - earned an A, which was 91% or higher.

Only 63% realized the Alps were in Europe. Less than 50% could identify Iraq or Afghanistan on a map. Only 31% could point to Israel on a map. And Facebook was the number one platform where got their news and information. See the satirical Onion article about Facebook below. There's a lot of truth there.

What does it actually mean to be a college-educated person in America? And what does that imply about the knowledge level of the rest of the population? Can people who know so little be active citizens and informed voters? We're getting some answers in this crazy 2016 election.

**Horrible Facebook Algorithm Accident Results In Exposure To New Ideas**

Assuring users that the company's entire team of engineers was working hard to make sure a glitch like this never happens again, Facebook executives confirmed during a press conference Tuesday that a horrible accident last night involving the website's algorithm had resulted in thousands of users being exposed to new concepts.

"Unfortunately, late Monday evening, a major failure in our news feed program allowed a significant number of users to come into contact with concepts unfamiliar to them," said CEO Mark Zuckerberg, appearing contrite as he emphasized to reporters that the issue had been resolved and that it was now safe to visit the social media site again without fear of encountering any opinions, notions, or perspectives not aligning with one's existing worldview.

"To those who were forced to read a headline they did not agree with when they visited Facebook yesterday, we are deeply sorry. It's an inexcusable failing on our part if your viewpoints were not reinforced by what you saw onscreen. I want all Facebook users to know that you'll never again encounter any ideas on our site that are in any way novel or ideologically challenging to you—that's my personal promise."

Zuckerberg then concluded the press conference by thanking users for their support, assuring them that a news article confirming their own individual political and personal biases would be directed to their news feeds with more information on Facebook's policy.

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Master suite with deck, jetted tub, double vanities  
Spacious updated kitchen  
Attached two car garage  
Room to spare PLUS boat/RV parking.

**\$379,000**

**Local People Rescue Spanish Flat Resort at Lake Berryessa**

A professional resort operator had tried to run a stripped-down version of Spanish Flat with campsites and a boat launch on an interim basis but decided to pull out. Operating Spanish Flat Recreation Area today are long-time local residents Craig Morton, Jerry Rehmke, Marcia Ritz and Mike Medina. The first three are also Board Members of the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce.

A major goal of the partners is to staunch the economic bleeding of a west Lake Berryessa economy dependent on visitors. By the agency's estimate, the number of visitors coming to the lake has fallen from more than a million annually to about 400,000. Some lake residents say they believe that latter figure is high.

For Ritz, no resort meant no steady flow of people coming to her Spanish Flat County Store & Deli to buy sandwiches, drinks, bait and other items. She needed a resort for her store to succeed along a southwest shore that doesn't have that many businesses.

Still, wanting Lake Berryessa to thrive and running a resort successfully are two different things. Of course, not being millionaires who could subsidize running a resort as a hobby, the partners needed the Spanish Flat venture to at least pay for itself. That mission has been accomplished since they are slightly more than breaking even from their personal hard work.

Eight years ago, the Bureau of Reclamation demolished the 50-year-old resort, with its marina, store, mobile homes and other features. Still, today's Spanish Flat has about 50 campsites with tables and barbecue pits. It has a boat launch. It has coves of lake water separated by brushy, oak-covered hills. It has a day-use area.

And it has operators willing to give their time and energy. Morton and Rehmke find themselves there much of the day and late into the night on weekends and stop by on weekdays in between doing their other jobs. Ritz does the accounting work.

When the partners launched their venture in 2015, they hoped the Bureau of Reclamation by now would have found permanent operators for Spanish Flat and the other resorts. But the latest bid attempt for resort concessionaires failed, and the agency is looking to Napa County for help as it considers its next move.


Napa County has yet to decide if it wants to play a role in renovating the Berryessa recreation scene. Supervisors are to take up the issue again at a future meeting. The search for a permanent Spanish Flat operator with deep pockets is on hold until this situation is resolved. All of this means that the partners might find themselves running Spanish Flat for another two years.

Lake Berryessa has seven resorts along its 165-mile-long shoreline. For eight years, the Bureau of Reclamation has struggled to renovate six of them, leaving two resorts closed, three resorts – including Spanish Flat – operating in stripped-down fashion and two resorts operating at full strength with marinas and stores.

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**293 + ACRES** on Steele Canyon Rd. Great recreational property w/4-wheel drive roads. Spectacular views, abundant wildlife, year around spring. Great opportunity. **\$599,000**

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**Onion Headlines**

USDA Admits Weight Loss Not Possible For People Who Don't Like Salmon

NASA Discovers Distant Planet Located Outside Funding Capabilities

Smithsonian Acquires Rare Photograph Where Whole Family Looks Really Nice

Small Town Throws Pride Parade For Only Gay Resident

Man Has Never Given Single Definitive Yes To Any Invitation He's Ever Received

Company Encourages Women Who Have Been Sexually Harassed To Come Forward With Resignation Letter

Nation Excited To See Whatever Bile The Internet Spews Up Today

Dolphin Spends Amazing Vacation Swimming With Stockbroker

Dubai Completes Construction On World's First Full-Scale Replica Of Dubai

'There Is Beauty In Decay,' Says Head Of Federal Highway Administration While Surveying Nation's Crumbling Roads

**The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce** 3

wants you to know that

**Beautiful Lake Berryessa is OPEN!**

All recreation areas - Markley Cove, Pleasure Cove, Steele Canyon, Spanish Flat, and Putah Canyon - are open for launching and will remain open all summer and beyond. The Capell Public Launch Ramp is closed until next year due to low water levels.

Oak Shores Day Use Area is great for picnics and viewing the lake and wildlife. After touring around the lake and stopping at local wineries like Rustridge and Nichelini, a wide variety of food and drink is available at Cucina Italiana, Spanish Flat Country Store & Deli, and Turtle Rock.

Delve into the fascinating past of the Town of Monticello, now at the bottom of the lake, by visiting the Berryessa Valley History Exhibit at the Spanish Flat Village Center. Please use this web site to contact our members to make use of their services:

www.lakeberryessanews.com/chamber-of-commerce/





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By Ken W. Davis

It's true, in late 2015 we had more than 800 Chinook salmon spawning in Lower Putah Creek. The third straight year with a significant increase in spawning fish created many questions and several theories for the success. A state fisheries biologist stood near the Putah Diversion Dam and asked me, "What changed? Why all the salmon in the last few years?" I went through the list of theories for him.

Some say that that Delta is full of stray salmon that don't know which river is home. Large numbers of fingerlings were released in the Delta and Putah Creek looked interesting to them when they return as adults. Up the river they swam.

I tend to discount that idea because stray salmon have been in the Sacramento River systems for years and prior to 2013, we had very few salmon visit the Winters area.

Don't misunderstand me, if stray salmon visit Winters, they are welcome.

The second idea credits the Putah Creek Accord that required pulse-flows of water for the increase in salmon. Okay, I can't discount that the added water signature helps signal the fish to enter the creek. That said, we have had the required pulse-flows since 2000 with no great increase in salmon until December of 2013.

Then there is my theory - it's relatively simple: Restoration. That's right, if the salmon do not have a place to spawn, then an increase in water or millions of stray salmon would make little difference toward a successful salmon run. I can consider that it's all three components with restoration being the final key for success.

The Putah Creek salmon dilemma started for me in December 2004 when I was conducting New Zealand mudsnail surveys near Interstate-505. I encountered several salmon trying to spawn. They were unsuccessful.

The loose gravel needed for the female salmon to successfully lay her eggs was non-existent and/or buried

by a condition of hardened sediment call "embeddedness" or in its severe form - cementation. As I watched from behind an Alder tree, the salmon laid her eggs on hardened gravel.

The yellowish-orange eggs immediately rolled downstream and were eaten by other fish. The adult salmon soon withered and died. What a waste. Several years prior they left freshwater as small salmon and survived in the Pacific Ocean for three years. Unfortunately, they returned and attempted to spawn in creek conditions that were unacceptable. That broken cycle had to change.

Soon after that event, the Putah Creek Streamkeeper (Rich Marovich) and the Solano County Water Agency started constructing a series of W-shaped weirs (boulders) that were designed to increase water velocity, get more oxygen in the water, and develop safe harbor for native fish.

Those weirs now attract and provide protection for trout, other resident fish, adult salmon, and juvenile salmon. Other restoration projects include the very successful Winters Putah Creek Park (unfinished), the Dry Creek realignment, and a scarification project to loosen the cemented gravel beds.

Since 2013 we have used proprietary equipment to capture the spawning salmon on subsurface video. I have documented that hundreds of salmon selected the restored areas of Putah Creek for spawning.

We monitor the areas they select for egg laying and strategize what we can do to improve their success. This has proven to me that the salmon seem to know better than all the pundits about where they want to spawn.

Many of the citizens of Winters and surrounding regions are excited about the ongoing success of the restoration projects and the apparent return of the Chinook Salmon to Putah Creek. To celebrate and share the information, an event has been planned for Saturday November 5th 2016 in downtown Winters and nearby Rotary Park.

Join us for great food, music and entertaining events. For more information, just Google the "Winters Salmon Festival," We are on Facebook and the City of Winters website.

Regarding my opinions about the Putah Creek salmon, if we don't have a great run this year. I guess I'll have a few bad days of remorse. If we have a good salmon return you will be able to see them on guided tours being set up near the Winters Car Bridge. Just remember, no fishing.

The salmon are protected in all waterways other than the major river systems. Please join us for the Winters Salmon Festival and sign up for email notifications that will alert you when the salmon arrive in Putah Creek.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ken Davis is an aquatic biologist and wildlife photojournalist who has done work at Lake Berryessa. He has significant expertise in designing invasive species survey programs, aquatic invertebrate biology and taxonomy, plankton collection and identification, Eurasian mussel survey techniques and identification, New Zealand Mudsnail identification, and intermittent waterway biology.

Ken has been a professional photographer for more than 30 years. He has expertise in photographing sensitive species, endangered species, nesting species, sub-surface imaging and documentary photography. His images have been published in more than 4000 different periodicals, newsletters, brochures, encyclopedias and websites. He is considered to be one of the best aquatic invertebrate photographers in the business.

Visit his fascinating web site at: [www.creekman.com](http://www.creekman.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Strange Southern Phrases

That's about as useful as a trap door on a canoe!

He was as mad as a mule chewing on bumblebees!

He's about as handy as a back pocket on a shirt.

He is so ugly that my mother had to tie pork chops to

### Summer 2016 Recreation Season

During the month of August through the Labor Day Weekend, some 300 visitors participated in Ranger-led activities at beautiful Lake Berryessa.

Park Rangers hosting the Saturday afternoon "Meet a Park Ranger" program at Monticello Dam talked with about 250 people who stopped by to view the dam and lake from this vantage point along Route 128. Visitors learned about the history of the Berryessa Valley and Monticello Dam and how the lake's water is used today.

Pointing out the visible burn area from the August 2, 2016, "Cold Fire," the Rangers reminded visitors to exercise extreme caution in this high fire danger region.

On August 19, Lake Berryessa Park Rangers Erica Calvo and Todd Eggert led 11 kayakers on a "Full-Moon Friday" paddle. Beginning the excursion under a cloudy sky, the Rangers initially provided the paddlers with information about the lake's colorful history and constellation myths. When the clouds finally parted, the Rangers discussed the moon's role in bat migration and food sourcing.

On August 14 and 28, Ranger Calvo presented two Water Safety Programs as part of the Sunday afternoon Park Ranger programs at the Oak Shores Day Use Area.

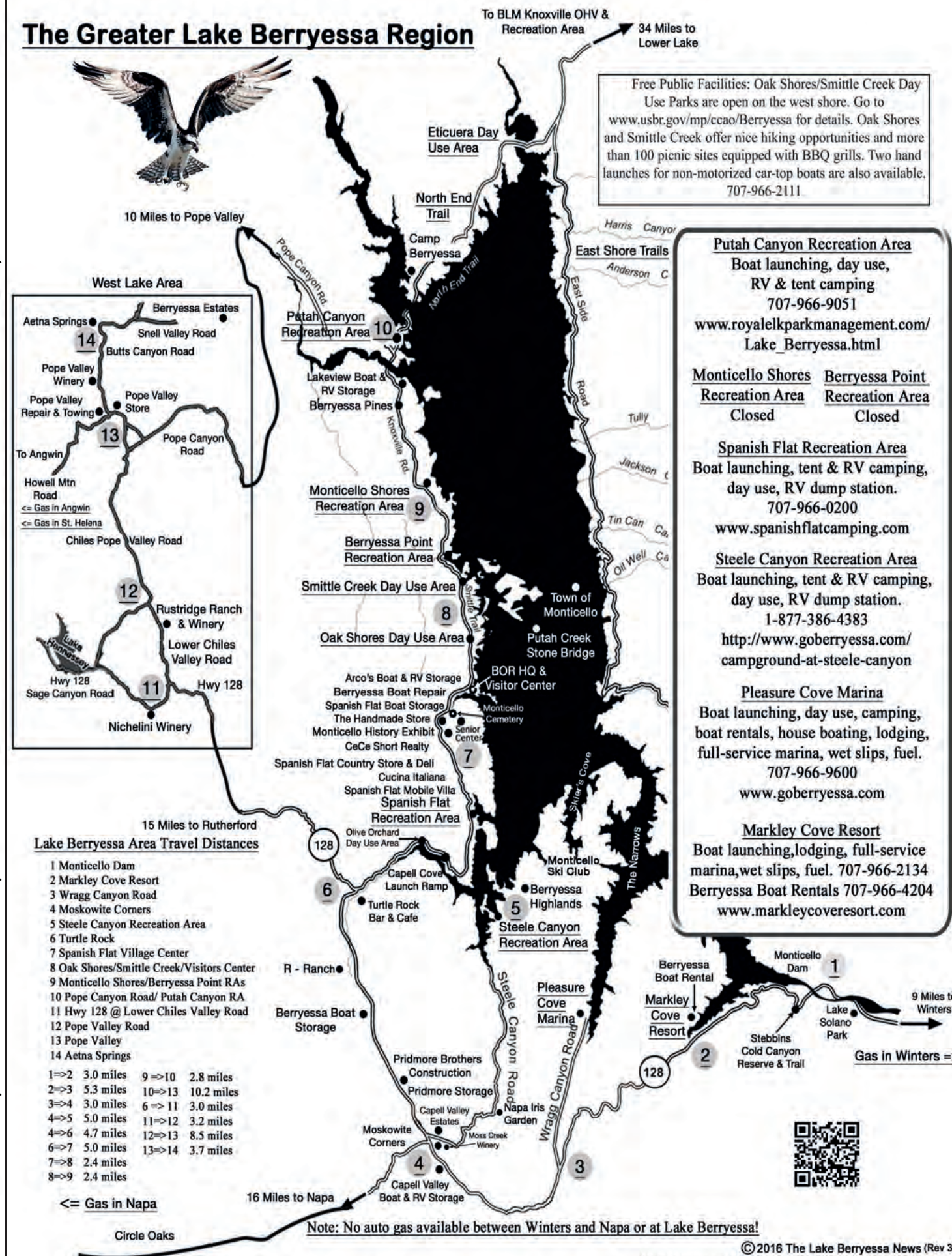
Over the Labor Day Weekend, things were busy at the lake:

On Saturday, September 3, 25 hopeful anglers participated in a Free Fishing Day, offered by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Two Free Fishing Days are offered by CDFW each year. On these days, individuals may give fishing a try without needing to buy a sport fishing license.

On Sunday, September 4, Ranger Erica Calvo instructed eight individuals in layman CPR skills and taught them to recognize distressed swimmers as part of the Water Safety Program at Oak Shores.

And on Monday, September 5, Rangers Aaron Page and Todd Eggert led eight paddlers in a kayak trip from Oak Shores, discussing Lake Berryessa's local geology along the way.

## The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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