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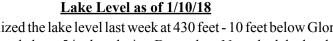
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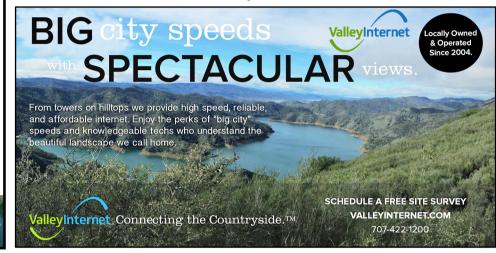




Recent rains stabilized the lake level last week at 430 feet - 10 feet below Glory Hole. The lake had dropped about 5 inches during December. Now the lake has begun to rise - up 7 inches this week to 430.6 feet. Last week's rainfall of 3.1 inches brings this season's rainfall total to 6.51 inches.

Last year at this time the lake was at 416.3 feet (23.7 feet below Glory Hole) and the rainfall total was at 17 11 inches

Climate experts say it's way too early to sound the alarm about a new drought. Most of Northern California's reservoirs, which are critical to keeping water flowing to cities and farms across the state during spring, summer and fall, are in good shape because of last winter's record-breaking rain and snow.



Steven Wright Humor Never Gets Old!

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.

I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.

went to a restaurant that serves "breakfast at any time" so I ordered French toast during the Renaissance.

The other night I was lying in bed, looking up at the stars, and I wondered, "Where the hell is my roof?"

If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate.

Did vou sleep well? No. I made a couple of mistakes.

I intend to live forever. So far, so good.

Support bacteria - they're the only culture some people have.

If at first you don't succeed then skydiving definitely isn't for you.

Cross country skiing is great if you live in a small country.

A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths.

Is "tired old cliche" one?

How much deeper would oceans be if sponges didn't live there?

Clones are people two.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

I went for a walk last night and my kids asked me how long I'd be gone. I said, "The whole time."

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Is it true that cannibals don't eat clowns because they taste funny?

I just got skylights put in my place. The people who live above me are furious.

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.

Since light travels faster than sound, isn't that why people appear bright until you hear them speak?



The Lake Berryessa News

Without THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS there would be no Lake Berryessa news! January 2018

"Holes In History" at Lake Berryessa: Simple Incompetence, Fervent Ignorance, Malicious Arrogance

Donation

By Peter Kilkus

2017, but had to be delayed for <u>3 months</u>. selection process.

But this three month hole in history at Lake The revised bid prospectus was released during the last twenty years.

in 2000 called for a "seamless transition" as most responsive bid for all six from the supposedly polluting resorts concession areas. populated by evil mobile home owners who This rebid process caused a 19 month began its Renaissance Lake Berryessa by the Bureau of Reclamation and the denied access to the American people, to delay, April, 2008 to January, 2010 the new glorious days of internalcombustion-engine-free, rainbow covered eco-resorts populated by pink unicorns and The third major hole in history began to vacationing tooth fairies.

Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin'...Into the future...

They say you can't kill time without combination of simple incompetence, policies and poor management. Pensus on the part of individuals and organizations. despite the validity of their complaints.

So how much time did the holes in history From December, 2011 to December, 2012 at Lake Berryessa steal from us?

bid decision was **delayed for 4 months** due with no results. to a lawsuit by Markley Cove. Selection of successful bidders occurred in April, 2008.

I define a "hole in history" as a period of The government began excavation of the count stood at time during which accomplishments were second major hole in history in March, planned to occur or results were expected to 2009. Reclamation canceled negotiations The fourth hole in history was another long

Berryessa is only the latest of many that two months later in May, 2009. New bid have slowed progress in rebuilding the lake proposals were due in September, 2009; five separate proposals were received. In The original Bureau of Reclamation plans January, 2010 Pensus Group was selected

23 MONTHS TOTAL lost so far!

form immediately after the Pensus contract was awarded in May, 2010. Relations Supervisors direct staff to sign time was beaten into a coma by a caused by Reclamation's unrealistic in the resort. fervent ignorance, and malicious arrogance management appeared inept and arrogant In October, 2017 Another important

relations between Pensus and Reclamation The first hole in history occurred when continued to deteriorate with long legal Reclamation released its first bid arguments exchanged. The Pensus contract prospectus in 2007. The initial due date for was terminated in December, 2012. Pensus bid proposals was September 6, 2007. The lasted from May, 2010 to December, 2012

2 YEARS and 7 MONTHS lost!

4 YEARS and 6 MONTHS lost.

be achieved but, unexpectedly, both with Marklev Cove and Pensus because of one. From August, 2013 to January, 2014 The total holes in history at Lake Berryessa vanished from our historical timeline. A a minor technicality in the bid document Reclamation prepared various detailed add up to recent example of that phenomenon was the regarding future federal funding. This plans for five concession areas, some of effect of the tragic Atlas Fire on the could have been easily resolved. A single which had been done for the previous bid potential Lake Berryessa revitalization government attorney seriously disrupts a proposals. In July, 2015 Reclamation process. Several events important to that decades long process. Reclamation released its latest Concession Bid process were to occur during October, required a complete rebid of the concession Prospectus. In February, 2016 Reclamation announced that no acceptable bids were received - a major disaster for the Lake Berrvessa community. August, 2013 to The County/BOR RFII process is moving February, 2016 -

another TWO YEARS and SEVEN **MONTHS lost**.

7 YEARS and 1 MONTH lost so far!

campaign to return management of Lake County of Napa. Berryessa to Napa County. In January. 2017 Napa County began serious efforts to evaluate the feasibility of taking over management of the lake. Napa County between Pensus and Reclamation soon Memorandum of Understanding with begin to deteriorate. No progress was made Reclamation and a contract with Ragatz in redeveloping any of the resorts. Many of Sedgwick Realty to assist the County in harming eternity. But at Lake Beryessa the problems appeared to observers to be identifying interested concession partners

> milestone in the potential rebirth of Lake Berryessa was achieved. Napa County issued a Request for Information and Interest (RFII) to solicit potential concessionaires for five sites at the lake.

Been Down So Long It Looks Like Up To Me

If all goes well, the present schedule show an optimistic date of July, 2018 for concessionaire selection and negotiations. lake."

Contract negotiations began in June, 2008. At the end of 2012 the total holes in history You do the math. The first contract negotiations of the new era began in June, 2008. The optimistic schedule for future contract negotiations is July, 2018.

TEN YEARS of lost opportunities!

A generation of children and families have missed some of the best experiences of their lives! It's time to start fulfilling expectations, not digging new holes.

Life After the Holes?

forward with positive results. The Bureau of Reclamation had many staff members, here all day on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 for a presentation and tour for prospective bidders. This was followed by an evening In March, 2016, the Lake Berryessa News public Community Forum meeting hosted

The result of that day was very good news for Lake Berryessa. Reclamation said that it is dedicated to coming to a Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) with the County that allows the County to manage the concessions. An MPA would allow Napa County to manage concession contracts with terms that were previously not available through Reclamation, leading to the revitalization of the whole region.

The County is dedicating major financial and staff resources to make this happen. Both Lake Berryessa supervisors, Alfredo Pedroza and Diane Dillon, were present at the community meeting and spoke positively about the potential outcomes.

Supervisor Pedroza said, "We've made great progress in working with the Bureau of Reclamation that will renew the vibrancy and allow sensible development at the

Please Join The Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce To Support The **Revitalization Of Lake Berryessa**

Dear Chamber Members and Potential Chamber Members

made towards having Napa County take over management of the lake recreation areas The Chamber has had a major influence in making this happen. And we are continuing

2018 is here. Thanks for your support during the last year. Significant progress has been

to work with the County and their consultants, Hopefully 2018 will see continued progress and a final resolution.

You don't need to be a business owner or non-profit. We welcome Community Supporter

members. Please return your 2018 dues of \$25 as soon as possible. Send your check for

Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce Spanish Flat Village Center Unit # 9318 Napa, CA 94558 The Chamber's tourist information program includes our partnership with Visit Napa

website: www.visitnapavallev.com. Our own page is at:

\$25 made payable to the Lake Berryessa Chamber of Commerce to:

www.visitnapavalley.com/lake berryessa.htm. The Napa Valley Guidebook is distributed nationwide and can be viewed online by potential visitors at: https://issuu.com/visitnapavalley/docs/nvg 2016xx

Valley including our own Lake Berryessa page on the excellent Visit Napa Valley

The Chamber will also continually promote Lake Berryessa and its businesses in the Lake Berryessa News and on the Chamber web page on the Lake Berryessa News web site www.lakeberryessanews.com/chamber-of-commerce.

Thanks for your support, Chamber Board 2018:

> Peter Kilkus (President). Craig Morton (Vice-President). Bob Lee (Secretary/Treasurer),

Jerry Rehmke, Paul Quarneri,

Tracy Renee,

Marcia Ritz



The Lake Berryessa Senior Center A Community Resource for All Since 1984

Communities evolve because people who care make things happen

2018 will hopefully bring a renewal of our Lake Berryessa recreational community. The Berryessa Senior Center - A Community Hall is also looking forward to a revitalization as a community resource. Please join the Lake Berryessa Senior Center to support the Lake Berryessa community during this time of positive change at the lake. Your \$25 membership will help keep the doors open. Younger members are needed to provide a foundation for the future.

The Lake Berryessa Senior Center offers a broad range of social activities and support services. And this energetic group of Berryessa residents is redefining the Center, both because you don't have to be a "senior" to join the organization and because of their positive attitude towards community action. As with any volunteer organization, the more active people who join, the more active things there'll be to do Official membership age is 50, but Community Supporter members of any age are welcome. Membership dues are just \$25 a year. The Center is a self-supporting

non-profit organization. They have regular monthly dinners and events such as Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, the annual Crab Feed summer BBQs, bingo, and various fundraisers - and in 2018 they'll be installing a pool table and adding a horseshoe tournament. The Lake Berryessa Senior Center Community Hall is an amazing

facility located at 4380 Spanish Flat Loop Rd and is available at a very

reasonable rent for special occasions. Call for details: 966-0206. In the past the Center has hosted weddings, receptions, memorials, and many community functions such as blood drives, flu shots, Bureau of Reclamation presentations and community meetings. When you join you will be put on the Center's email list to receive regular announcements of activities and services.

Please send your check for \$25 made out to the Berryessa Senior Citizens and mail it to:

Berryessa Senior Center, PO Box 9113, Napa, CA 94558

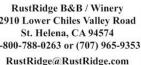






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Spotting Fake News Stories and Phishing Scams

If a Facebook post or an email message seems odd or inflammatory. check the URL of the story. Beware of links in an email. If you see a link in a suspicious email message, don't click on it. Rest your mouse (but don't click) on the link to see if the address matches the link that was typed in the message. ABCNews.com is a legitimate news source but ABCNews.com.co is

not. Anything that ends with something other than .com is likely to be a spoof. Spoofing popular websites or companies is a common tactic. Scam artists use graphics in an email that appear to be connected to legitimate websites but actually take you to phony scam sites or legitimate-looking pop-up windows. Cybercriminals also use web addresses that resemble the names of well-known companies but are slightly altered. If someone important is quoted in a questionable story, google the

quote. It can be tracked back to an event or a statement if it is

legitimate. Reverse search questionable images in the story on Google. Right click on the image and copy the URL. Go to images google.com and paste the URL to find out where the image came from. Report: More Elderly Improving Cognitive Besides promulgating fake news internet trolls also use a crimina

method known as phishing. Phishing is when a scammer uses fraudulent emails or texts, or copycat websites to get you to share valuable personal information – such as account numbers. Social Security numbers, or your login IDs and passwords. Scammers use your information to steal your money or your identity or both. Similar to fake news trolls, phishing scammers lure their targets into a false sense of security by spoofing the familiar, trusted logos of

Fact checking tools: Politics: FactCheck.org & Politifact.com

General Scams: Snopes.com

URLs of established, legitimate companies

Email & Facebook hoaxes: TruthorFiction.com & Hoaxslayer.com ******

Funny Quotes Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever."

> -- Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest *****

"I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

> -- John Wayne *****

"We're going to turn this team around 360 degrees." -- Jason Kidd, upon his draft to the Dallas Mavericks **Onion Headlines**

2018 The Year It All Going To Fall Into Place. Delusional Sources Report

Surgeon General Recommends Exercising Once Every Several Months During Flash Of Panic About Health Starting in January,

New GOP Tax Plan Requires Welfare

Recipients To Apply For Each Individual

On Eating Habits

Piece Of Food Boss's Sexual Harassment A Lot More For those us with a long history at Lake Berryessa, and

Cautious Lately Earth's Successful Completion Of Orbit Around Sun Inspires Woman To Reflect

Man Putting Off Starting Family To Focus On Treading Water In Career For Few

Function By Solving Murders Emporia, Kansas Named Best Small Town In America To Escape From

Study Finds Controlling, Possessive Behavior Most Pure Expression Of Love Estée Lauder Expedition Stumbles Upon Frozen Remains Of Previous Party Sent To Retrieve Rare Moisturizing Herb In The

Teacher Frustrated No One In Beginner Yoga Class Can Focus Chakras Into

Energy Blast Kid With Massive Head Probably Psychic

Himalayas

Assistant Coach Finally Works Up

Courage To Blow Whistle

Weak-Willed Coward Changes Opinion After Learning He Was Wrong

Delirious Koala Hasn't Slept For 72 Straight Minutes

Man At Job Interview Praying He Isn't Asked About 2-Year Gap In Résumé When He Was Abducted By Aliens

'Just Take It Slow, And You'll Be Fine,' Drunk Driver Assures Self While Speeding Away In Stolen Police Car

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Gene Porter & Steele Park Resort

especially at Steele Park Resort, comes sad news of the

passing of Gene Porter. I first met Gene when I bought my

mobile home at Steele Park in 1997. He was the person who first explained to me the ongoing conflict with the Bureau of Reclamation. Of course, no one at the time believed that even the government would do something so obviously stupid as destroying the lake recreational community. But then 2009 came and guess what.

Eugene "Gene " Porter June 11, 1930 - November 2, 2017

moved to Winters.

Gene Porter passed away November 2, 2017 after a brief battle with cancer. He came to California from upstate New York in the late 50's. In 1977 he moved to Steele Park

Resort at Lake Berryessa to work at the Marina. In 1978 he became General Manager of the Resort. The 20

years he spent as Manager at Steele Park were the happiest of his life. He was proud of all the improvements he made at the resort. He met his wife in 1983 at the resort. They were married in 1986 in front of the anchor outside of the Boathouse Restaurant overlooking the lake. In 1998 he left as manager and his family sold their mobile home there and

He followed events at Lake Berryessa and was a long-time subscriber to the Lake Berryessa News. He was hopeful at the prospect of Napa County managing the lake and possibly restoring Steele Park to its former glory.

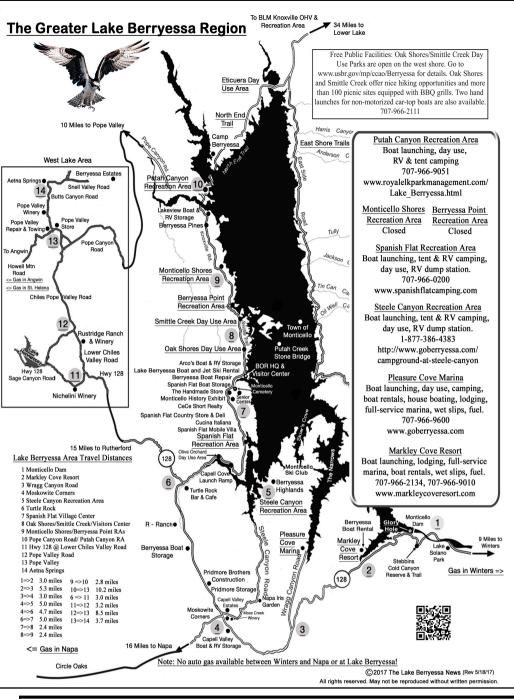
The Lake Berryessa News

www.LakeBerryessaNews.com Peter Kilkus 1515 Headlands Drive Napa, CA 94558

Without The Lake Berryessa News there would be no Lake Berreyssa news.

pkilkus@gmail.com

All editions of **The Lake Berryessa News** since 2005 are available as downloadable, searchable PDF files at www.lakeberryessanews.com/archives/





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Capell Valley 4H members Kel & Jordin, along with friend Nikko honored our local Veterans of the Monticello Cemetery by placing fresh Christmas Wreaths at the Memorial Wall and poinsettias at their individual grave sites.

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Who Will Run The New Lake Berryessa Resorts?

by Peter Kilkus

The Lake Berryessa News, since March, 2016, has been advocating that the federal government turn over the ownership and management of Lake Berryessa to Napa County. Significant, if slow, progress has been made in that direction during 2017. Napa County and the Bureau of Reclamation are negotiating a Managing Partner Agreement under which Napa County will manage several of the Lake Berryessa Recreation Areas.

Napa County has released a Request For Information and Interest (RFII) seeking interested recreation management companies who would potentially become concession managers under contract to the County. The target date for selection of concession contractors and completion of negotiations is Summer, 2018.

But what governance structure will be created by Napa County to actually manage the future revitalization of Lake Berryessa?

There have been recent proposals for some management involvemen by the existing Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). The Lake Berryessa News strongly opposes any involvement of the RPOSD in the Lake Berryessa management structure.

The Lake Berryessa Recreation Areas are neither "parks" nor "open spaces". The RPOSD is a small agency with few resources and no technical expertise in managing large, full service recreation facilities It's basic goal is preservation, not recreation.

A major negative of the RPOSD is that its Board is elected directly by Napa County voters. The rural areas of Napa County are already at a political disadvantage since most of the county's voters are in urban areas with little knowledge of, nor interest in, Lake Berryessa.

Lake Berryessa Recreation Commission

Lake Berryessa is not another "lake in the country". It is a major economic, social, and recreation resource in an urban-proximate setting with significant value to Napa County.

I believe a special Lake Berryessa-only commission should be created reporting directly to the Napa County Board of Supervisors. This was the original, successful form of governance when Napa County managed the lake from 1958 until 1975.

I propose a Lake Berryessa Recreation Area Commission consisting of nine to eleven members with the professional expertise and the competence needed to make the Lake Berryessa recreation areas successful and profitable family recreation destinations.

Members could include the Directors of the Napa County Public Works and Planning Departments, members of the Board Directors of Visit Napa Valley - Napa's premier tourism association, other Napa recreation and hospitality management professionals, finance and contract experts, sustainability design consultants, and business owners and residents of the Lake Berryessa region who have prior personal and professional experience related to the former profitable

January 2018 Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Next week will be a joyful whirlwind of magic, laughter, and romance, so it's too bad you're going to miss the whole thing.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): You'll be saddened when it turns out that all those people who only like you for your money turn out not to be very good

Aries (3/21-4/19): You will finally meet the man of your dreams, which sounds like good news until you remember some of your dreams.

Taurus (4/20-5/20): They say it's never to late to

do something meaningful with your life, which is

a nice idea, but you actually have about nine days. Gemini (5/21 - 6/21): You will soon come into a great deal of money, resulting in your arrest and immediate dismissal from your job as a bank

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Turns out that while dogs can't actually smell fear, they're really good at smelling who likes to carry bacon around in their

Leo (7/23-8/22): When all's said and done, it's our experiences that make us who we are. However, that doesn't explain why you're assistant manager of the produce department.

Virgo (8/23-9/22: Although roughly 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water, that still doesn't explain why you have to be rescued from drowning all the time.

Libra (9/23-10/22): There are some kinds of pain that never go away, but after all these years you'd think they'd come up with a way to get that lobster to let go of your nose.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): Love, wisdom, and luck are all strong in your zodiac sign this week, providing further proof that you are not your

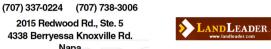
loser. In fact, most people have never heard of to begin with."

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): You'll become embroiled in a vicious conflict between those who feel Queens of the Stone Age are overrated and those who want control of the cocaine trade on the Eastern Seaboard





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Pick Your Political Target - The Post Turtle Joke

An old farmer was getting his hand stitched up after an accident at his cattle farm. He and the doctor start into conversation, which leads into politics.

The old farmer explained, "As I see it, most politicians are 'Post Turtles'." Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked what a 'post turtle' was.

The old farmer explained as best he could, "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a turtle on top, that's a post turtle. The doctor remained puzzled. The farmer continued further.

'You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while up Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): It's simply not true there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and that most people think you're an anonymous vou just wonder what kind of dumb arse put him there



What Happened At Lake Berryessa? A Condensed Political History 1958 - 2018

Without THE LAKE BERRYESSA NEWS there would be no Lake Berryessa News...and finally there would be no definitive history of what happened at Lake

Berryessa. Having participated directly for more than twenty years as an advocate for the lake during the fiasco that was the Bureau of Reclamation's Visitor Services Plan, its tragic outcome, and the process of rebuilding. I have very strong views of the causes and results - supported by facts and data which were mostly obfuscated by the proponents of the destruction of the lake's residential and business community. The Bureau of Reclamation and their supporters destroyed family recreation at Lake Berryessa for a generation of families, children, and friends. Many people ask

me about the history of the process that led to the present situation at Lake Berryessa. When I explain what happened most become incredulous and can't believe the government could have done something so stupid: a combination of simple incompetence fervent ignorance, and malicious arrogance. The goal of this book is to provide the history and the context within which such an incredibly destructive course of action took place. The initial timeline shows a condensed history of the process. The next section tells the story through the eyes of Lake Berryessa News articles. With the permission of the Napa Register, a

parallel history is presented through contemporaneous editorials, articles, and letters to the editor from the Napa Register. This book is not a traditional academic

exercise in historical exposition. Academic historians define history as presenting facts without expressing any opinion or analysis of the events whereas memories are comprised of emotions that can have a great influence on the perception of an actual event. Critical historians live by the old saying of "there are two sides to every story and then there is the truth. "I'm more interested in the narrative approach to defining this history. Almost two decades have passed since this story began, and Lake Berryessa history has been created with every day of that twenty years. This book is the initial partial draft of the raw, as-it-happened, unfiltered picture of what many of us lived through. It is organized chronologically; focused on a single coherent story; primarily descriptive but also analytical; primarily concerned with people but also the abstract circumstances in which they find themselves. To me

a big part of the fascination with any history is trying to discover what was going on inside people's heads in the past, and what it was like to live in that past. Download

Lake Berryessa History Timeline How It All Began: The Origins of the "Big Lie"

Will History Repeat Itself In Reverse? What Happened in 1975? Notice of Intent: Solano Project--Lake Berryessa; Napa, California

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a PDF of the first draft at http://www.lakeberryessanews.com/publications/0-what-happened-at-lake.pdf

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Dueling Napa Register Letters To The Editor

2017 Ends With Good and Bad News

news: heart disease and cancer death rates are down.

developed nations and its own lofty standards. or drugs, or engaging in "delinquent behavior" as much as they used to. 1. We're dying sooner: America just registered its second straight year with a decline in life expectancy. That last happened more than a half-century ago. There is some good 2. We're more environmentally friendly: Boston has joined other cities in banning single-

2016, but the median income for those with college degrees only rose 2.1% over that same 3. Technology is making a difference: Tesla restored electricity to a children's hospital period, per Bloomberg. As a college degree becomes a requirement for entering an in Puerto Rico after it was hit by hurricanes in September, and a North Carolina police increasingly competitive workforce, many young people are doing so with a pile of debt. department used a drone to find a missing 81-year-old woman with dementia within 25 Student debt hit \$1.3 trillion this year, compared to just \$243 billion back in 2003.

2. Student debt is piling up:College costs continue to soar, jumping 6.1% from 2013 to

accounted for a noted drop in homebuyers amongst millennials this year. 4. Mass shootings result in a shrug: The Onion's continuously re-upped headline says it nationally, the unemployment level is at the lowest it has been since 2000. And financial all: "No Way To Prevent This.' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens." And satisfaction hit a 24-year high this year. research from the period 2000-2014 shows that the United States has had more mass

5. The opioid crisis is staggering: The CDC reports that sales of opioids almost Republicans favor allowing it (47%) as opposing it (48%). Americans. Now, 91 people in the United States die every day from an opioid overdose. Vox put things in terrifying context earlier this year: the U.S. has 4% of the world's population but 27% of its drug overdose deaths.

6. Our education system is middling: While the United States has some of the world's best

higher education, its elementary, middle, and high schools are positively average

shootings and more people killed in those mass shootings than 10 other developed nations

compared to other developed nations. Data from the Pew Research Center shows that U.S. STEM education is especially lacking. In 2015, only 38% of fourth-graders, 34% of eighth-graders and 22% of 12th-graders were rated proficient or better in science based on the government's National Assessment of Educational Progress. 7. Our infrastructure is falling behind: President Trump has promised a massive 9. American philanthropy is reaching beyond our borders: Uber partnered with the charity

combined, per Politifact.

infrastructure package sometime early in 2018. That couldn't come soon enough, as the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the United States' infrastructure a D+ grade for 2017.

the planet — and just one of a handful overall — that doesn't guarantee paid maternity leave. We also don't guarantee paid vacation time — most countries in Western Europe guarantee weeks — and there's no guaranteed paid sick days.

9. We drink too much: With alcohol cheaper today as a percentage of income than at any time since 1950, Americans are drinking a lot more, per Bloomberg. A follow-up study done by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism saw risky drinking behavior jump to 12.6% among American adults in 2012-2013 from 9.7% in 2001-2012. That increase amounts to about 7 million more Americans binge drinking each week.

10. Fewer people want to visit: The rest of the world is noting the trends in this list. Tourism is down across the board — per The Telegraph, there are huge drop-offs in demand for British travelers to come to the United States. Tourist hubs like Las Vegas and Orlando saw double digit declines in U.K. visitors in 2017.

On a variety of fronts, the United States is falling farther and farther behind both other 1. The kids are alright: Teen birth rates hit a new low in 2016, dropping 9% since 2015 and 67% since 1991. And Washington University found that teens aren't abusing alcohol

But don't despair! Here are some ways America is crushing it

use plastic bags. St. Louis committed to a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2035

— it currently gets only 5% of its energy from renewable sources.

minutes of her disappearance. 3. Homes are out of reach for millennials: First-time homebuyers accounted for 34% of 4. Medical advances are helping millions: The FDA cleared an earpiece that may help all home purchases in 2017, which neared a historic low, per CNBC. Chalk that up to sky-block symptoms of opioid withdrawal. And Portal Instruments, a private medical device high home prices and those massive piles of student debt, which the New York Fed said company licensed from MIT, has made a needle-free drug injection device.

> 5. The economy is booming: 13 states saw record-lows of unemployment this year: 6. We're becoming more tolerant: Support for allowing same-sex marriage is at its highest

> point in 20 years, according to a Pew Research survey. For the first time, a majority of

Baby Boomers (56%) favor allowing same-sex marriage, and almost the same amount of quadrupled from 1999 to 2010 without any change in the amount of pains reported by 7. Space exploration: Vice President Mike Pence said in October that the U.S. "will return...to the moon not only to leave behind footprints and flags but to build the foundation we need to send Americans to Mars and beyond." In September, NASA's

Cassini spacecraft ended its journey after bringing us some incredible findings.

8. Neighbors are looking out for one another: A man in North Carolina has started the nonprofit ChemoCars, a service that provides cancer patients with free rides to and from their chemo treatments. More than 6,000 Texas inmates decided to donate \$53,863 of their commissary funds to Hurricane Harvey victims. And, a GoFundMe campaign raised more than \$11 million for the victims of the horrific Las Vegas shooting in October that left 58 people dead, and hundreds injured.

summer. And The Carter Center, run by former President Jimmy Carter, announced in October that it helped eliminate the disfiguring tropical disease elephantiasis from two 8. There aren't a lot of days off: The United States is still the only developed country on states in Nigeria, where it was the most prevalent. 10. The bottom line: Americans are pulling together, every day, to help one another; there are medical advances that will help millions, and not even D.C. is that bad all the time.

But, much of the good news never makes headlines.

Berryessa Senior Center Crab Feed

Saturday, February 24, 2018: Mark your calendars! Details to follow.

Whizz-Kidz to give those who use wheelchairs in the UK free rides to polling places this

