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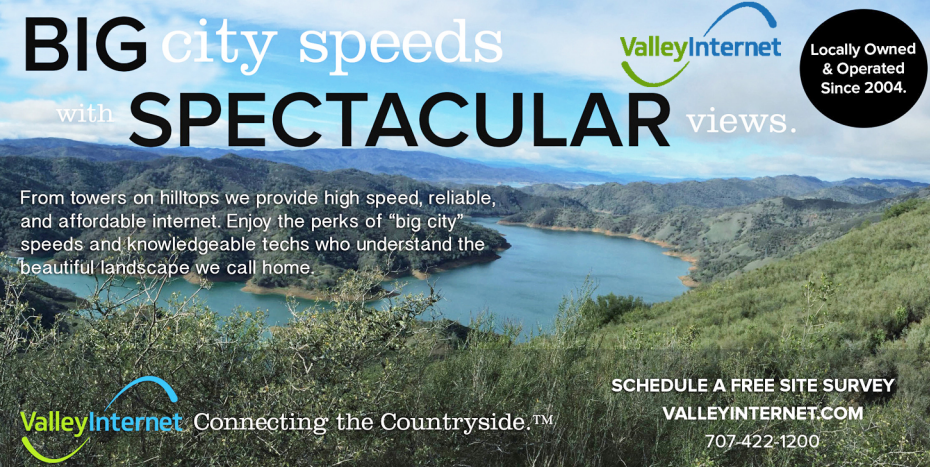
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Lake Level as of 1/10/18

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.



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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.

I 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 you 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 cliché" 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

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By Peter Kilkus

I define a "hole in history" as a period of time during which accomplishments were planned to occur or results were expected to be achieved but, unexpectedly, both vanished from our historical timeline. A recent example of that phenomenon was the effect of the tragic Atlas Fire on the potential Lake Berryessa revitalization process. Several events important to that process were to occur during October, 2017, but had to be delayed for **3 months**.

But this three month hole in history at Lake Berryessa is only the latest of many that have slowed progress in rebuilding the lake during the last twenty years.

The original Bureau of Reclamation plans in 2000 called for a "seamless transition" from the supposedly polluting resorts populated by evil mobile home owners who denied access to the American people, to the new glorious days of internal-combustion-engine-free, rainbow covered eco-resorts populated by pink unicorns and vacationing tooth fairies.

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

They say you can't kill time without harming eternity. But at Lake Beryessa time was beaten into a coma by a combination of simple incompetence, fervent ignorance, and malicious arrogance on the part of individuals and organizations.

So how much time did the holes in history at Lake Berryessa steal from us?

The first hole in history occurred when Reclamation released its first bid prospectus in 2007. The initial due date for bid proposals was September 6, 2007. The bid decision was **delayed for 4 months** due to a lawsuit by Markley Cove. Selection of successful bidders occurred in April, 2008.

Contract negotiations began in June, 2008.

The government began excavation of the second major hole in history in March, 2009. Reclamation canceled negotiations with Markley Cove and Pensus because of a minor technicality in the bid document regarding future federal funding. This could have been easily resolved. A single government attorney seriously disrupts a decades long process. Reclamation required a complete rebid of the concession selection process.

The revised bid prospectus was released two months later in May, 2009. New bid proposals were due in September, 2009; five separate proposals were received. In January, 2010 Pensus Group was selected as most responsive bid for all six concession areas.

This rebid process caused a **19 month delay**, April, 2008 to January, 2010 -

23 MONTHS TOTAL lost so far!

The third major hole in history began to form immediately after the Pensus contract was awarded in May, 2010. Relations between Pensus and Reclamation soon begin to deteriorate. No progress was made in redeveloping any of the resorts. Many of the problems appeared to observers to be caused by Reclamation's unrealistic policies and poor management. Pensus management appeared inept and arrogant despite the validity of their complaints.

From December, 2011 to December, 2012 relations between Pensus and Reclamation continued to deteriorate with long legal arguments exchanged. The Pensus contract was terminated in December, 2012. Pensus lasted from May, 2010 to December, 2012 with no results.

2 YEARS and 7 MONTHS lost!

At the end of 2012 the total holes in history count stood at

4 YEARS and 6 MONTHS lost.

The fourth hole in history was another long one. From August, 2013 to January, 2014 Reclamation prepared various detailed plans for five concession areas, some of which had been done for the previous bid proposals. In July, 2015 Reclamation released its latest Concession Bid Prospectus. In February, 2016 Reclamation announced that no acceptable bids were received - a major disaster for the Lake Berryessa community. August, 2013 to February, 2016 -

another TWO YEARS and SEVEN MONTHS lost.

7 YEARS and 1 MONTH lost so far!

In March, 2016, the Lake Berryessa News began its Renaissance Lake Berryessa campaign to return management of Lake 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 Supervisors direct staff to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Reclamation and a contract with Ragatz Sedgwick Realty to assist the County in identifying interested concession partners in the resort.

In October, 2017 Another important 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 shows an optimistic date of July, 2018 for concessionaire selection and negotiations.

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.

The total holes in history at Lake Berryessa add up to

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?

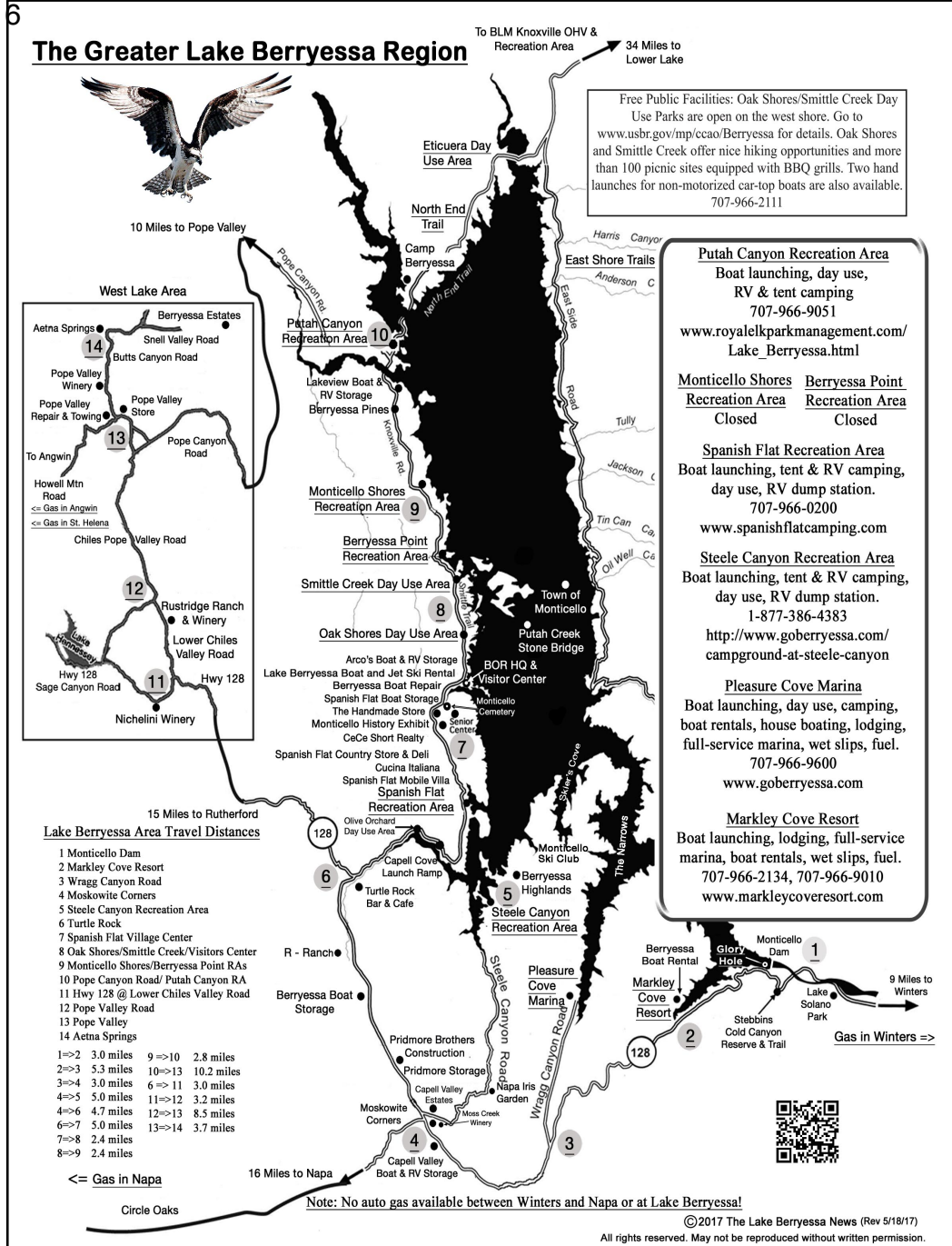
The County/BOR RFII process is moving forward with positive results. The Bureau of Reclamation had many staff members, here all day on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 for a presentation and tour for prospective bidders. This was followed by an evening public Community Forum meeting hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation and the County of Napa.

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 lake."

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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 involvement 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 resorts.

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 friends.

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 teller.

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 pockets.

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 zodiac sign.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): It’s simply not true that most people think you’re an anonymous loser. In fact, most people have never heard of you.

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 there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and you just wonder what kind of dumb arse put him there to begin with."



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4	What Happened At Lake Berryessa? A Condensed Political History 1958 - 2018 by Peter Kilkus	5
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 a PDF of the first draft at http://www.lakeberryessanews.com/publications/0-what-happened-at-lake.pdf		
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<u>2017 Ends With Good and Bad News</u>	<u>But don't despair! Here are some ways America is crushing it.</u>
On a variety of fronts, the United States is falling farther and farther behind both other developed nations and its own lofty standards.	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 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 news: heart disease and cancer death rates are down.	2. We're more environmentally friendly: Boston has joined other cities in banning single-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.
2. Student debt is piling up: College costs continue to soar, jumping 6.1% from 2013 to 2016, but the median income for those with college degrees only rose 2.1% over that same period, per Bloomberg. As a college degree becomes a requirement for entering an increasingly competitive workforce, many young people are doing so with a pile of debt. Student debt hit \$1.3 trillion this year, compared to just \$243 billion back in 2003.	3. Technology is making a difference: Tesla restored electricity to a children's hospital in Puerto Rico after it was hit by hurricanes in September, and a North Carolina police department used a drone to find a missing 81-year-old woman with dementia within 25 minutes of her disappearance.
3. Homes are out of reach for millennials: First-time homebuyers accounted for 34% of all home purchases in 2017, which neared a historic low, per CNBC. Chalk that up to sky-high home prices and those massive piles of student debt, which the New York Fed said accounted for a noted drop in homebuyers amongst millennials this year.	4. Medical advances are helping millions: The FDA cleared an earpiece that may help block symptoms of opioid withdrawal. And Portal Instruments, a private medical device company licensed from MIT, has made a needle-free drug injection device.
4. Mass shootings result in a shrug: The Onion's continuously re-upped headline says it all: "'No Way To Prevent This,' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens." And research from the period 2000-2014 shows that the United States has had more mass shootings and more people killed in those mass shootings than 10 other developed nations combined, per Politifact.	5. The economy is booming: 13 states saw record-lows of unemployment this year; nationally, the unemployment level is at the lowest it has been since 2000. And financial satisfaction hit a 24-year high this year.
5. The opioid crisis is staggering: The CDC reports that sales of opioids almost quadrupled from 1999 to 2010 without any change in the amount of pains reported by 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. 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 Republicans favor allowing it (47%) as opposing it (48%).
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 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. 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.
7. Our infrastructure is falling behind: President Trump has promised a massive 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.	8. Neighbors are looking out for one another: A man in North Carolina has started the non-profit 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.
8. There aren't a lot of days off: The United States is still the only developed country on 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. American philanthropy is reaching beyond our borders: Uber partnered with the charity Whizz-Kidz to give those who use wheelchairs in the UK free rides to polling places this 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 states in Nigeria, where it was the most prevalent.
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. 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.
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.	***** <u>Berryessa Senior Center Crab Feed</u> Saturday, February 24, 2018: Mark your calendars! Details to follow.
	