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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF NAPA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INCREASING RATES FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES IN GARBAGE ZONE TWO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Napa County Board of Supervisors that on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 9:35 a.m., or soon thereafter as reasonably practicable, a public hearing will be conducted to consider increasing rates for solid waste collection and disposal services in Garbage Zone Two of Napa County.

The fees initiated or revised by the fee resolution do not exceed the estimated amount required to provide the service for which the fee is levied.

The public hearing will be held at 9:35 a.m. on November 13, 2018, in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room, Suite 305, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street, Napa, California. Interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.

A copy of the proposed fees and data regarding the amount of cost or estimated cost required to provide the service for which the fee or service charge is levied and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service, including General Fund revenues, is available for review on November 2, 2018 (ten days prior to the hearing) at the office of the Clerk of the Board, County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Napa, California, 94559.

DATED: October 29, 2018
 ATTEST: Greg Morgan, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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It's only after you train all your life (giving up weekends and ballgames and late nights at the club to study control systems and thermodynamics, then later checklists of launch processes, the physics of reentry, and the thousands of other things they stuff into your head), after you find it's a simple mechanical failure that causes all the trouble (an Allen wrench in basic black which was not designed to fall into the airlock mechanism but most certainly does fall into that same mechanism), only after you find yourself on the wrong side of the ship's skin, watching as Dag and Trina and Lane go bat shit crazy trying all the things from all the manuals, guides, and computer simulations that they gave up their nights and ballgames and weekends to study (and then try a few hundred more things that aren't in those manuals), after you realize they can't think of anything else and you're still out here and you cut your self loose to spare their feelings and you rotate slowly into space for hours, or days, or weeks while your suit drains its battery pack and you shut off the heads-up to save the last few minutes - it's only after all that work, and pain, and suffering, that you look with your oxygen-starved brain into a Universe so deep with its stars and galaxies, with its novae and pulsars and other things you cannot even pretend to imagine, that you say to yourself, "My God, how beautiful you are."

Ron Collins

The Lake Berryessa News

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

November, 2018

Another Bureau of Reclamation Time Warp Moment!
The "2020-something..." Lake Berryessa Revitalization Schedule

Think Positive!

by Peter Kilkus

After more than two years of painfully slow progress, the Board of Supervisors has yet to finalize a Managing Partner Agreement (MPA) with the Bureau of Reclamation. Reclamation has a 20-year history of delays and bureaucratic bungling that led to the present situation at the lake. The first phase of this debacle began with a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on November 7, 2000.

That was 18 years ago, Rocky Horror fans! It's astounding; time is fleeting; madness takes its toll. But listen closely, not for very much longer, I've got to keep control. Let's do the time-warp again.

That was also when I first met newly-elected Supervisor Diane Dillon at a small meeting at Pleasure Cove Resort to discuss the future of Lake Berryessa. Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future. (Think Positive.)

In a previous story I calculated that the lake community had lost TEN years of progress. Now add another year to that for no progress in 2018. The new proposed plan starts slowly in 2019 with the first redeveloped resorts, Steele Canyon and Monticello Shores, to open in 2022.

These are the two resorts that county research showed are generating the most interest from the private sector. Disappointingly, the schedule stretches past 2025. A "2020-something" schedule! Is that a real time? Almost fifteen years of family recreation lost!

To put it the perspective, the average life expectancy of a male is roughly 80 years. As someone who has been involved in this BOR nightmare for 20 years, 5 more

years at my age is the statistical end.

I'm not a fan of 5 year and longer plans, nor those that show results in late "2020-something". Someone who is 35 has about 50 years to get things done so it's easier to be positive about the future.

Don't ask me to wear a happy face t-shirt to BOR meetings. (Think Positive.) But I will continue to work positively for the revitalization of Lake Berryessa because I wish to support my community. And I do still hope to enjoy the benefits myself.

At a recent meeting the Board of Supervisors unanimously voiced their support for the County taking over management of the Lake Berryessa recreation areas, commonly referred to as "the resorts". "This isn't about doing it for net revenues," Supervisor Diane Dillon said. "This is about doing it for net benefits for the greater community."

Supervisors seemed optimistic that an agreement will be reached, possibly by early next year. Ironically, only a year ago the schedule showed that a bid process leading to contract negotiations with new concessionaires were to be completed by summer 2018. (Think Positive.)

About five years ago Reclamation seemed to understand the serious damage they'd done to the local Lake Berryessa community. They promised to make it right, and for awhile followed through with some positive actions.

But even then I was reminded of one of my favorite quotes from Polish poet Stanislaw Lec,

"Is it progress if a cannibal uses a fork?"

The Bureau of Reclamation is what I characterize as an "OK, but..." bureaucracy - one adept at feigning concern but always seeming to find a reason to move the goal posts farther out.

The latest example is from Drew Lessard of the Bureau of Reclamation who addressed the Board during public comments. He expressed optimism that Reclamation and the county will come to agreement, "but...the last thing we want is to enter into a managing partner agreement and not have success". Write your own favorite cliché here... "the pot calling the kettle black" comes to mind. (Think Positive.)

Apparently now Reclamation wants new information, a new economic analysis, and a proposed new schedule from Napa County - all of which was actually done more than a year ago. Is a "2030-something" schedule the next Reclamation "ok, but..." moment?

A recent letter to the Lake Berryessa News from Senator Diane Feinstein did indicate that she had been told by the "local Reclamation office", wherever that is, "that the agency emphasizes that it still intends to work with the County to pursue an agreement and is seeking to do so by the end of 2018." Two more months!?

How long does it take before a flickering candle finally goes out? When does saying "OK, but..." actually mean "OK, butt..."? When can the Lake Berryessa community finally stop being the butt of the long running bureaucratic joke that is the Bureau of Reclamation?

Download a PDF copy of the full plan at: www.lakeberryessanews.com/county-berryessa-plan.pdf

Latest Proposed Schedule for Lake Berryessa Resort Development

- > Award Concessions - Steele Canyon & Monticello Shores (Phase 1: 2019)
- > Initial Occupancy - Steele Canyon & Monticello Shores: 2022
- > Markley Cove & Pleasure Cove Join MPA (Phase 2: 2019-2021)
- > Award Concession - Spanish Flat (Phase 3: 2022 - 2024)
- > Initial Occupancy - Spanish Flat: 2025 - 2027
- > Award Concessions - Berryessa Point & Putah Creek (Phase 4: 2025-2027)
- > Initial Occupancy - Berryessa Point & Putah Creek: 2028 - 2030

Steele Canyon, now managed under temporary agreement with Suntex (Pleasure Cove Resort), will operate during 2019 under temporary agreement.

Reclamation will seek temporary concessionaire (3-5 years) for Spanish Flat; possibly others (Putah Creek?).

Spanish Flat is now managed under temporary agreement with the BOR by Spanish Flat Partners - a group of local residents who organized to support the west shore Spanish Flat business and residential communities. Putah Creek is now managed by Royal Elk Park Management under temporary agreement with Reclamation.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

The First Thanksgiving in 1621 - Myth and Legend

Few people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving the next year, or any year thereafter, though some of their descendants later made a "Forefather's Day" that usually occurred on December 21 or 22. Several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. In 1827, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying several Presidents for the instatement of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, but her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Today, our Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 (approved by Congress in 1941), who changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the *last* Thursday in November (which could occasionally end up being the fifth Thursday and hence too close to Christmas for businesses). But the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving began at some unknown date between September 21 and November 9, most likely in very early October. The date of Thanksgiving was probably set by Lincoln to somewhat correlate with the anchoring of the *Mayflower* at Cape Cod, which occurred on November 21, 1620 (by our modern Gregorian calendar--it was November 11 to the Pilgrims who used the Julian calendar).

There are only two contemporary accounts of the 1621 Thanksgiving: First is Edward Winslow's account, which he wrote in a letter dated December 12, 1621.

Our corn [i.e. wheat] did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown. They came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom. Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

The second description was written about twenty years after the fact by William Bradford in his History *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Bradford's History was rediscovered in 1854 after having been taken by British looters during the Revolutionary War. Its discovery prompted a greater American interest in the history of the Pilgrims, which eventually led to Lincoln's decision to make Thanksgiving a holiday. It is also in this account that the Thanksgiving turkey tradition is founded.

They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercising in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

Foods Available to the Pilgrims for their 1621 Thanksgiving

The following is a fairly complete list of the foods available to the Pilgrims during the three-day Thanksgiving harvest celebration. As can be seen in the above two quotations, the only foods specifically mentioned by the Pilgrims are: "corn" (wheat, by the Pilgrims usage of the word), Indian corn, barley, peas (if any where spared), "fowl" (Bradford says "waterfowl"), five deer, fish (namely bass and cod), and wild turkey.

FISH: cod, bass, herring, shad, bluefish, and lots of eel.

SEAFOOD: clams, lobsters, mussels, and very small quantities of oysters

BIRDS: wild turkey, goose, duck, crane, swan, partridge, and other miscellaneous waterfowl; they were also known to have occasionally eaten eagles (which "tasted like mutton" according to Winslow in 1623.)

OTHER MEAT: venison (deer), *possibly* some salt pork or chicken.

GRAIN: wheat flour, Indian corn and corn meal; barley (mainly for beer-making).

FRUITS: raspberries, strawberries, grapes, plums, cherries, blueberries, gooseberries (these would have been dried, as none would have been in season).

VEGETABLES: small quantity of peas, squashes (including pumpkins), beans

NUTS: walnuts, chestnuts, acorns, hickory nuts, ground nuts

HERBS and SEASONINGS: onions, leeks, strawberry leaves, currants, sorrel, yarrow, carvel, brooklime, liverwort, watercress, and flax; from England they brought seeds and probably planted radishes, lettuce, carrots, onions, and cabbage. Olive oil in small quantities may have been brought over, though the Pilgrims had to sell most of their oil and butter before sailing, in order to stay on budget.

OTHER: maple syrup, honey; small quantities of butter, Holland cheese; and eggs.

Some perhaps startling omissions from the authentic Thanksgiving menu

Ham. (The Pilgrims most likely did not have pigs with them).

Sweet Potatoes-Potatoes-Yams. (These had not yet been introduced to New England).

Corn on the cob. (Indian corn was only good for making cornmeal, not eating on the cob).

Popcorn. (Contrary to popular folklore, popcorn was not introduced at the 1621 Thanksgiving. Indian corn could only be half-popped, and this wouldn't have tasted very good.)

Cranberry sauce. (Cranberries were available, but sugar was not.)

Pumpkin Pie: (They probably made a pumpkin pudding of sorts, sweetened by honey or syrup, which would be like the filling of a pumpkin pie, but there would be no crust or whipped topping.)

Thanksgiving used to be America's national chow-down feast - the one occasion each year when gluttony becomes a patriotic duty. But now it seems there are three such days: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their AGE!

Turkey Herding in the Berryessa Valley

Thanksgiving being so closely associated with turkeys, it reminded me of some turkey stories I've heard about historical Berryessa Valley turkey ranching. I discussed Berryessa Valley history with Carol Fitzpatrick and Clint Pridmore at the Berryessa Seniors Crab Feed several years ago (January, 2011). I digitally captured Carol's film of the Berryessa Valley and Town of Monticello from 1929. I've posted segments of it on my web site, www.lakeberryessanews.com/photo-album/berryessa-valley-history/. Fascinating stuff.

There's a section showing turkey ranching with thousands of turkeys running around. Both Carol and Clint told me that decades ago the turkey ranchers used to drive their turkeys from Monticello to Winters, just like cattle - a big "turkey drive"! I'm a gullible sort and they both told me this story with a straight face. I've been stopped on western roads by cowboys herding cattle and Native Americans herding sheep across the road. But the concept of a herd of turkeys being wrangled to Winters still takes my breath away. I asked for comments from my readers. I actually got several responses which are reproduced below.

The turkeys from Pope Valley were driven to Rutherford...I guess to the railroad...Rutherford was where the wheat crop of Pope and Chiles valleys was taken by wagon to be shipped by rail...1880's...I was told when a herd of pigs was driven the pigs eyes would be sewed shut...makes some sense...pigs would be harder to herd than cats.....Bill Hardin, Pope Valley

I read your article about the turkey drive, and made me think about the days my Grandfather, Bruno Goetze, had a ranch in Wragg Canyon (which is Pleasure Cove now, and where I live) and herded his sheep with 2 good dogs on foot to the Dixon Auction. My dad, Ernie Goetze, said it took him 3 days to get there. So I'm saying its probably true. And I also heard of stories from another friend of mine, who lived in Vacaville, and her mother raised turkeys. They used to herd them from one ranch to another.

Lynn (Goetze) Graham

I was born and raised in Pope Valley and can testify that they did raise turkeys. Don't know about the actual turkey drive but was told that the special breed they raised, could weigh up to 65 lbs and had a wing span of 8 ft. Wouldn't think they could fly at that weight. I do know for a fact that you can drive turkeys.

Another little known fact is that I have known turkeys who were smarter than the individuals who drove them. Undocumented of course, but the comparison was made in Pope Valley.

Vernon Duvall

Onion & Reddit Headlines

Publicist Worried Kanye West's Support Of Trump Will Damage His Carefully Crafted Public Image As A Manic Self-Absorbed Lunatic

Fox News Now Just Airing Continuous Blood-Red Screen With Disembodied Voice Chanting 'They're Coming To Kill You'

Couple Starting To Feel Like They Just Don't Have Any TV Shows In Common

104-Year-Old Reveals Secret To Long Life Being Cursed By Witch To Wander Earth Eternally

Man On Bus Can Tell By Surroundings He Either Hasn't Reached Stop Yet Or Passed Stop Long Time Ago

Thrill-Seeker Microwaves Pot Pie Without Slitting Crust

Loser Woman Hasn't Even Inspired One Bar Fight

Magpie Worried Mate Only Interested In Him For Collection Of Shiny Objects

Woman In Waiting Area Feels Twinge Of Betrayal While Watching Her Hairdresser Making Small Talk With Another

4th Grader Panics Upon Realizing Classmate Giving Presentation Had Exact Same Summer As He Did

Frat Brothers Draw All Over Pledge Who Passed Away At Party

Couple Nervous To Admit They Met Online In Comments Section Of 'How To Iron Shirt' Video

Man Wouldn't Be Eating At Red Robin If He Knew Bus Was Going To Hit Him In 18 Minutes

Woman Who Has Been Let Down By So Many Leave-In Conditioners Can't Bear To Put Herself Out There Again

6th-Graders Feel Kind Of Bad After Seeing How Easy It Was To Make Young Teacher Cry

In a move to free up staff resources, newspaper reports only on Trump's truthful statements.

Did You Know This About Leather Dresses? 7

Do you know that when a woman wears a leather dress, a man's heart beats quicker, his throat gets dry, he gets weak in the knees, and he begins to think irrationally

Ever wonder why?

It's because she smells like a new golf bag!

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Quotes from Polish poet Stanislaw Lec

Is it progress if a cannibal uses a fork?

Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.

No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.

If a man who cannot count finds a four-leaf clover, is he lucky?

You must first have a lot of patience to learn to have patience.

Thoughts, like fleas, jump from man to man, but they don't bite everybody.

The weakest link in a chain is the strongest because it can break it.

Even his ignorance is encyclopedic.

He had a clear conscience. Never used it.

Some like to understand what they believe in. Others like to believe in what they understand.

It's the priests who have demands, not the gods.

When reasons are weak, attitudes stiffen.

Never turn your back on reality. It surrounds you.

The only fool bigger than a person who knows it all is a person who argues with him.

You will always find some Eskimo ready to instruct the Congolese on how to cope with heat waves.

In order for you to be yourself, you have to be somebody first.

There were grammatical errors even in his silence.

Do We Need \$75,000 a Year to Be Happy?

People say money doesn't buy happiness. Except, according to a study from Princeton University, it sort of does — up to about \$75,000 a year. The lower a person's annual income falls below that benchmark, the unhappier he or she feels. But no matter how much more than \$75,000 people make, they don't report any greater degree of happiness.

The study points out that there are actually two types of happiness. There's your changeable, day-to-day mood: whether you're stressed or blue or feeling emotionally sound. Then there's the deeper satisfaction you feel about the way your life is going.

While having an income above the magic \$75,000 cutoff doesn't seem to have an impact on the former (emotional well-being), it definitely improves people's life satisfaction. In other words, the more people make above \$75,000, the more they feel their life is working out on the whole. But it doesn't make them any more jovial in the mornings.

The study authors found that most Americans — 85% — regardless of their annual income, felt happy each day. Almost 40% of respondents also reported feeling stressed (which is not mutually exclusive with happiness) and 24% had feelings of sadness. Most people were also satisfied with the way their life was going.

So, where does the \$75,000 come into play? Researchers found that lower income did not cause sadness itself but made people feel more ground down by the problems they already had. The study found, for example, that among divorced people, about 51% who made less than \$1,000 a month reported feeling sad or stressed the previous day, while only 24% of those earning more than \$3,000 a month reported similar feelings. Having money clearly takes the sting out of adversities.

Past research on money and happiness has also found that it's not absolute wealth that's linked with happiness, but relative wealth or status — that is, how much more money you have than your neighbors.

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Q. Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? A.The outside.

Q. What are the feathers on a turkey's wings called? A. Turkey feathers.

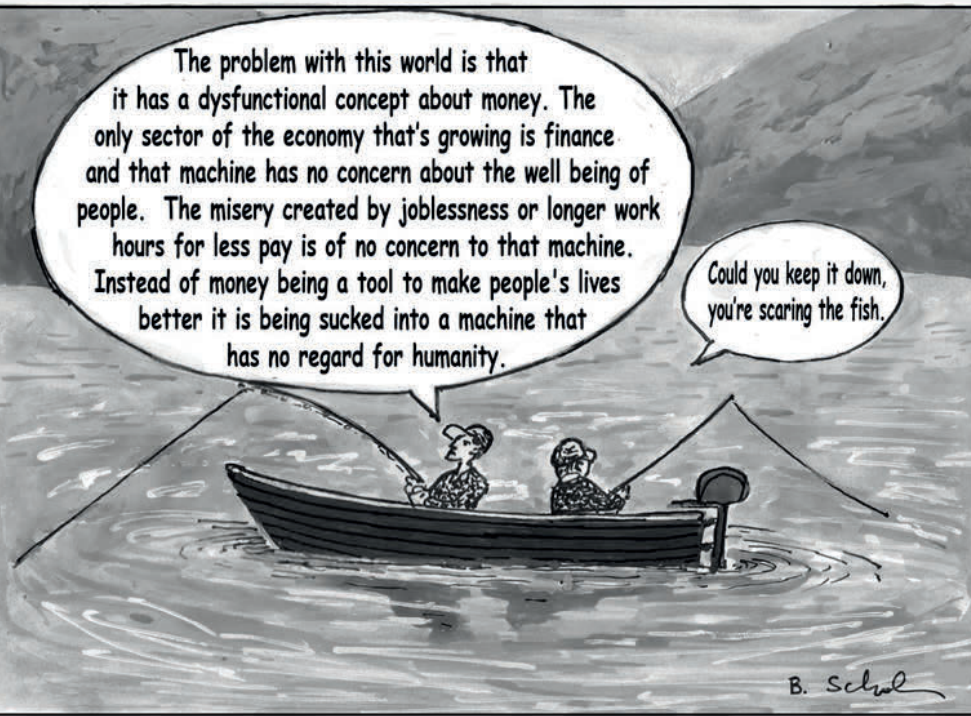
Q. Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? A.Yes - a building can't jump at all.

Q. How do you make a turkey float?
A. You need 2 scoops of ice cream, some root beer, and a turkey.

What nine letter word in the English language is still a word when eight letters are removed one by one? (Hint: starts with an s and ends with a g.)

Startling
Starting
Staring
String
Sting
Sing
Sin
In
I

NAPALACHIA by Bill Scholer



The Scientific Basis for Astrology

by Peter Kilkus

There is none! Which makes it even more amusing to see the spate of stories that came out awhile ago about possible changes to the Signs of the Zodiac. But relax, you don't have to learn a new sign. The ancient zodiac is not affected by Earth's wobble. Has the zodiac really changed? Is your personality different? What about your soul mate's? And what about your future?

Some horoscope readers were shocked to hear that, after a life of assuming they were romantic, easygoing Libras, they actually were practical and intelligent Virgos! But it turns out that rumors that the zodiac is off by a month are largely much ado about nothing. That's a relief for believers because adjacent astrological signs are considered to carry opposite personality traits.

The Star Tribune of Minneapolis ran a short story about how the Earth's axis has shifted enough over the past few millennia to offset which zodiac constellations go with which months. The story went viral, creating a storm of confusion. There was even talk of the rearrangement creating a 13th sign in the sky called Ophiuchus, the serpent bearer.

Meanwhile, a lot of people have been confused about their identities. About one in four Americans believes in astrology, according to a 2009 poll by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Some people even have wondered whether this changes their compatibility with their spouses.

Then there's the issue of the 13th sign, wedged in the sky between Scorpio and Sagittarius. Modern astrologists are conscious that there are countless constellations in the sky and that various traditions use various stars. But Western astrology traditionally is based on 12 signs and that's not going to change.



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November 2018 Horoscopes

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): You go down in history as the world's lousiest criminal when you attempt to escape from police into the pages of a great romance novel.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): A strange incident involving you, a parking meter, a banjo, and a pratfalling Sherpa guide will result in your being featured as a special case in the nation's medical textbooks.

Aries (3/21-4/19): A torch-bearing mob drives you from your village after you correctly pick all 15 games in this week's football pool.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): Due to scheduling conflicts, Taurus will have no future this week.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): The mystery of your parentage will be solved this week when General Motors recalls you and 20,000 of your brothers and sisters.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): The twin specters of confusion and bankruptcy haunt your life when Wilford Brimley confronts you with a prenuptial contract you do not remember signing.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Confusion is in store for you this week when you wake from a deep sleep to find ex-heavyweight champ Sonny Liston tenderly massaging your feet.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Poor quality control and lack of attention to detail force Consumer Reports to rate Virgo 12th out of 12 star signs.

Libra (9/23-10/22): A drunken Father Time will appear at your doorstep this week, ask you how much time you think you have left, and laugh uproariously at your guess.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You need to come back to earth. Daydreaming and maxing your credit card won't make you happy.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Become a better parent. Purchase a coffee mug emblazoned with the phrase, "World's Greatest Parent.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Many of your problems indicate that you need to become more firmly grounded. Ask a friend to nail you to the floor.



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The Lake Berryessa News Has The Best Horoscopes!

We will always try to provide the best available, and possibly accurate if not true, horoscopes to our readers. A comparison of recent horoscopes in two publications for the same week are given below. You can see that they are very traditional and probably taken from the same book of rotating horoscope descriptions you've been reading for years.

But compare that to the Lake Berryessa News horoscopes printed here and you'll clearly note the difference in quality.

Publication #1: PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - Keep your opinions to yourself regarding problems or decisions that don't directly involve you, even if it does affect a friend who won't fight back. You could make things worse.

Publication #2: PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - You feel an expansive sense of freedom and liberation. It is a deeply spiritual time that can result in experiences of expanded awareness. Recreation and travel can also be activities that take advantage of these opportunities.

Here Is The Stunning Truth Behind The Mysterious Hole Inside Lake Berryessa!

In this era of "fake" news, false "facts", and alternative reality "presidents", it's gratifying to see that Lake Berryessa and its famed Glory Hole have received their fair share of international social media coverage.

There are several of these odd web sites out there, often originating in Asia. This story was obviously pieced together from public sources and written by someone for whom English is a second language. See the credits at the end of the article for some fun English usage and the purpose of the NEWSD web site.

This imaginative story has been circulating since July, 2018 and just popped up again this week.

<https://www.newsd.co/stunning-truth-behind-mysterious-hole-inside-lake-berryessa/>

Fourteen years ago the City Council of Lake Berryessa's sister city, Winters, unanimously passed a resolution criticizing the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed plans for Lake Berryessa. I'm reproducing it here in full because it was so accurately prescient in its concerns.

Ironically, our stated efforts to "Preserve the Best, Improve the Rest." of Lake Berryessa received no support from Napa County, any Napa city, nor our own Congressman. And Reclamation clearly ignored the concerns of the City of Winters.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINTERS CALIFORNIA IN REGARDS TO THE LAKE BERRYESSA RE-USE PLAN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation are currently pursuing a Re-Use Plan for Lake Berryessa which serves as a main attraction and economic center for the City of Winters; and

WHEREAS, the City relies on the activity in an around the Lake to provide jobs and tax revenues to help subsidize the local economy and City operations; and

WHEREAS, the critical link between Winters and Lake Berryessa has been in existence since the original construction of the Monticello Dam; and

WHEREAS, under the re-use proposals, significant changes may occur which will significantly change the use of the Lake and the positive fiscal impacts to the City of Winters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now wishes to express our concerns on the most important concerns and impacts to the Winters Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Winters that the City declares as follows:

Section 1. Closure of the southerly concession areas (Markley/Pleasure Cove's) (partially or fully), even for renovation for an extended period could pose a serious economic impact to lake serving businesses. The City receives a significant amount of our sales tax from boaters passing to and from Markley Cove.

Section 2. The projected re-use of the areas, including reduction of day boaters and motorized craft from the Cove's would provide for a considerable loss of local business to the Winters community. As described, the use of Berryessa would change to a greater houseboat and non-motorized use versus the current mix.

Section 3. The proposed uses for these areas would change from a mostly year-round to seasonal, thus reducing revenues to Winters for prolonged periods.

Section 4. Risk of single operator of an area the size of Lake Berryessa with the described multitude of uses. The selection of a single operator is inherently a significant risk because of the potential for failure.

Section 5. The lack of a phased approach by canceling all existing contracts within a two year period could create a catastrophic situation in the event that plans are not available for a transition of control and Lake management for users.

Section 6. Effects on citizens of Winters who extensively utilize Lake Berryessa.

Section 7. Under the current plan, it appears unlikely that the local operators could be as competitive as larger corporate operators in gaining the re-bid concession contracts. There is considerable uncertainty and probability that local operators could be required to remove existing facilities while a new operator installs new. This transition of deconstruction and construction could take many years.

Section 8. The City currently benefits in our traffic from the boat storage capabilities at Markley Cove. The current plan does not adequately define how this area might be re-used. If less storage is allowed, the City could experience a higher volume of boat transport traffic than currently experienced.

Section 9. Local employment - A number of Winters residents are currently employed by the local operators. The uncertainty of re-use and local employment is a concern.

Section 10. As proposed, the re-use plan appears to begin the exclusion of many of the current users of the Lake, for a more exclusive and restricted access for non-motorized users.

Section 11. The current interpretation of Public Law 93-975 by the Bureau's seems inherently unfair to the current concessionaires. As adopted, PL 93-975 specifically provided for fair compensation to the concessionaires for improvements made at the facility, in the event that another lease was issued. It appears that under the current plans, these concessionaires would receive no compensation for facilities or improvements, which seems unjust.

Section 12. It is the request of the City Council of the City of Winters that the Bureau of Reclamation reconsider the use of Option B as the preferred alternative which includes a combination of multiple concessionaires and a phased implementation/transition of use.

Section 13. It is recommended that the Bureau consider other options put forth by citizens such as "A+" which recommends that the Bureau undertake a vigorous clean-up program of existing residences and leases to bring into compliance existing rules, ordinances and laws.

Section 14. The City Council believes that Reclamation's DEIS Alternative "B" has not addressed the broad range of concerns of local communities like Winters. The Council therefore requests that the Bureau of Reclamation open a formal public comment period for the economic analysis of the plan as well as reopen the comment period on the DEIS itself because of the lack of economic data to support the DEIS as proposed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of October, 2004 by the following vote: AYES: Anderson, Fridae, Stone, Mayor Martinez NOES: None, ABSENT: Chapman

If you look at the map of Lake Berryessa on the right you'll notice a location on the east shore called Oil Well Canyon. I had always wondered what that meant until I attended a seminar a few years ago and saw photos of an oil well near where the Bureau of Reclamation headquarters building stands.

The first "Oil Rush" began when some local businessman and a professional surveyor went prospecting for oil in Berryessa Valley in October, 1900. They returned with several full bottles that they said came from springs. A well should be drilled, one told the Napa Journal, to find the source somewhere in the sandstone and shale below.

Within days an "expert" from the Mt. Shasta Oil and Development Company said they were going to develop what suddenly became known as the "Berryessa Oil Lands." Soon after that the Monticello Oil Company was formed. Oil strikes were making news all over the country.

The value of this new form of gold was only beginning to be recognized. As a replacement for whale oil and tallow, "rock oil" or "coal oil," as it was once called, illuminated homes around the country in the form of kerosene. Gasoline was used as a cleaning solvent. Oil was converted to light whole buildings as well as city streets. But by far the most significant use of oil would prove to be as a fuel in a contraption called the "internal combustion engine."

When Henry Ford began making gasoline-powered vehicles, he started a demand that transformed the world. Ford's first automobile was completed and ready to go in 1896. The horseless carriage had become a rare but impressive sight on the streets in many American cities by 1902, and someone had already driven a motored vehicle through Napa. Prompted by the invention of the automobile, oil production in California had grown from 470,000 barrels in 1893 to 24,000,000 by 1903.

Now practically everyone with any cash in the bank made a beeline to Berryessa. President of the Miners' Petroleum Association said, "I consider the oil indications in Northern California superior to any that I have seen in any part of the world." People promised that there would be an oil rush in California that echoed the great gold rush 50 years earlier. Indications for oil were supposedly popping up on the Gosling ranch in Berryessa and in Wooden Valley. So much oil, of so fine a quality, so near the surface, so close to home!

In mid-April, a man from Capell Valley struck oil after drilling down 125'. After that... silence. There were no more big stories in the local papers about oil strikes. There may have been oil there, but somehow most of it vanished before it could come to the surface. The drillers and drifters, surveyors and investors quietly packed up their things and went away. A lot of money had changed hands for nothing, much of it going in legal and professional fees to attorneys.

The second "Oil Rush" began due to persistence, better known as an obsession in this case. Berryessa had long been a frustration to the scores of investors who had hoped to find oil and gas there. When someone claimed to have found oil and coal on the McCormick ranch on Spring Mountain in St. Helena, a rush of speculation started again, and a hatch of new companies appeared. One businessman convinced some Hollywood stars to invest.

A moderate-sized company produced about 10 barrels of oil a day, "very high grade and clear as crystal," according to the speculator. But it wasn't enough and the hole was closed and the riggings were removed. Local Napa businessmen also bought into the dream. But when a geologist from Los Angeles came to inspect the site, the expert advised folks to pull out. All the other little oil companies that had popped up in Berryessa soon reeled in their cables, too, and disappeared.

Convinced that Berryessa would yield oil, one "wildcatter" sank what was at the time the deepest hole ever drilled in Northern California. At 3,710', his 25'-long, heavy steel drilling cable snapped off. The line he used to rescue the cable also broke, and he had to seal the hole with cement. He tried again with another well nearby, but this time it was he who busted. He found a Los Angeles firm that was willing to finish the job on contract, but then the stock market crashed and no one had the cash to sink into questionable oil well investments.

As before, the only people to profit from Berryessa's gas and oil reserves were the lawyers who drew up the contracts.

