



The Lake Berryessa News

August 2, 2026

Sunday Funnies

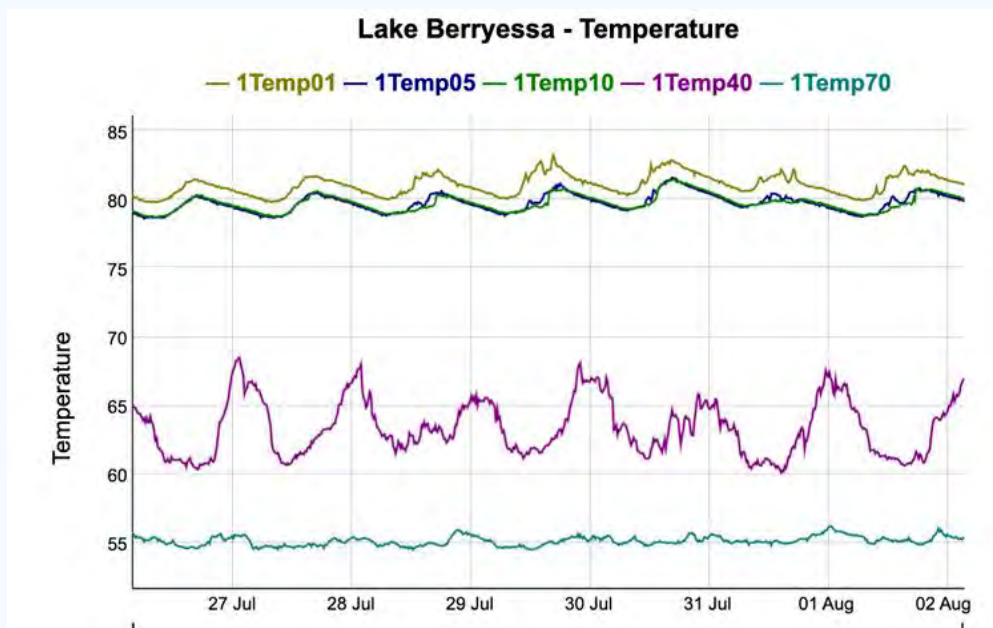
Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/2/26)

Lake Berryessa water level now stands at 432.5 feet - 7.5 feet below Glory Hole.

The lake output is averaging of 550 cfs (1,108 A-F per day).

Lake capacity is now at 1,4129,39 Acre-Feet or 91.1%.

Water temperature is averaging 80 degrees at the surface and a constant 55 degrees at 70 feet.



Napa County Budget Bumps \$Billion\$ Again!

“A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money”

This famous quote is most commonly attributed to U.S. Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois. However, historical records show no proof he ever actually said it, and similar phrases appeared in print even earlier. The latest Napa County 2026-27 budget at \$996,158,529, as the one before it, at \$967,000,000, are inching towards that magic \$1B. (Both of the previous budgets actually round up to \$1B mathematically!)

Budget in Brief

<https://www.napacounty.gov/3726/Budget-in-Brief>

On June 23, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget. The budget reflects the Board of Supervisors' continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, long-term planning, and investment in the services that matter most to our community. This spending plan is designed to maintain essential public services, support our workforce, preserve strong reserves, and strengthen the County's long-term financial resilience. The budget also advances the County's strategic priorities, while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging needs and economic uncertainty.

Key investments include:

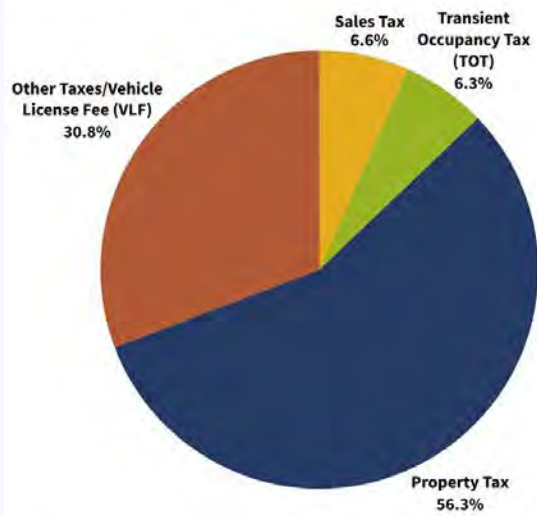
- \$37 million in roads and infrastructure maintenance and improvements
- \$34 million in fire services and wildfire resilience
- \$66 million in public safety services, including investments for recruitment & retention
- \$24 million in affordable housing, homelessness response & housing stability programs
- Advancing construction of a new state-of-the-art behavioral health treatment center
- Continued investment in workforce excellence

General Fund revenues are projected to increase by \$5,305,423 (1.7%) compared to the prior fiscal year. Property taxes remain the County's largest discretionary revenue source and continue to drive overall revenue growth. Other significant sources of revenue driving this budget increase are taxes (property, sales, and hotel taxes). Other revenue sources include sales tax, transient occupancy tax (hotel tax), state funding for specific programs, and charges for services, such as planning permit fees.

While property tax revenues continue to grow, declines in sales tax and transient occupancy tax revenues highlight differing trends among the County's major revenue sources and reinforce the importance of prudent long-term financial planning.

- Property Taxes: \$112,259,650
- Sales Taxes: \$13,154,000
- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT): \$12,500,000
- Other Taxes/Vehicle License Fee (VLF): \$61,319,000
- Total Tax Revenue: \$199,232,650

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), commonly known as the hotel tax, is one of Napa County's primary non-property tax revenue sources. The tax is collected on overnight stays in lodging accommodations located within unincorporated Napa County. The current TOT rate is 13%, including 1% dedicated to workforce housing initiatives.



Nearly Two-Thirds of the General Fund Rides on Taxes

FY 2026-27 projected general fund revenue by source, \$312.0 million



Source: Napa County FY 2026-27 Adopted Budget, General Fund revenue by source.



The Lake Berryessa News is a subscriber to Napa Valley Features and encourages you to read and support it. Here's the introduction to the latest of Tim Carl's excellent series on Napa County economic issues.

Napa Valley Features

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/>

Napa County's \$996 Million Budget Leans on a Softening Tax Base

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/under-the-hood-napa-countys-996-million>

Napa County adopted a \$996.2 million budget for fiscal 2026-27, but its general fund shrank as the county lowered estimates for property, sales and lodging taxes. Rising labor, insurance and storm-repair costs are outpacing the discretionary revenues that support core services. The county's reserves and low debt provide a substantial cushion, though the budget raises a longer-term question about how well an asset-driven tax base can withstand continued weakness in tourism, hospitality and real estate.

Napa County's Board of Supervisors adopted a \$996.2 million budget for fiscal year 2026-27 on June 23, a 3% increase over the prior year that the county's own leadership frames less as growth than as holding the line. The headline number is up. The revenue underneath it is doing something more complicated.

In his transmittal letter, Chief Executive Officer Ryan Alsop wrote that “key discretionary revenues — including property, sales and transient occupancy taxes — are growing more slowly than the cost of delivering critical public services.” In its detailed tables, the budget sets all three of those taxes below the level it adopted a year ago. In its public summary, the county says property tax “continues to grow.” Both are true, and the space between them is this year's story: The county still expects property taxes to rise over time, but it budgeted a smaller number than it had penciled in before, while sales and lodging taxes are falling outright.

Napa Valley Features has argued across several installments that the county's economy stands on four legs — wine, tourism, hospitality, and the property-tax base that funds the public services around them — and that three were slipping while the fourth held. This budget is where that pressure reaches the county's own ledger.

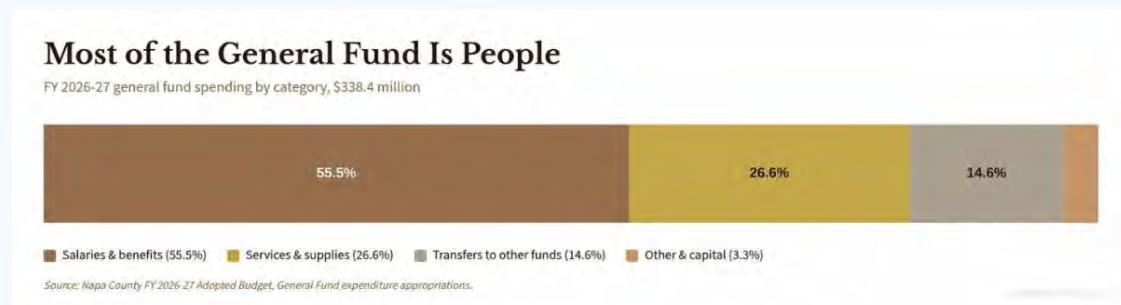
As with most organization's budgets, the major cost category is employee salaries and benefits. See the bar chart below. Napa County salary ranges by category are available on the Napa County website:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/napacounty/classspecs>

Actual salaries by job position are available on sites like:

<https://transparentcalifornia.com/salaries/2025/napa-county>

Below is summarized data for some Napa County salaries in 2025 (without names) from the Transparent California website.



Napa County Top Salaries by Position - 2025

Position	Base Pay	Total Pay 2025	Total Pay & Benefits
Chief Executive Officer	\$400,734.40	\$409,374.40	\$540,384.75
Asst Chief Executive Officer	\$300,104.04	\$319,981.64	\$424,986.82
Auditor-Controller	\$270,374.40	\$303,245.12	\$390,981.86
Chief HR Officer	\$272,676.80	\$297,870.40	\$406,268.88
Treasurer-Tax Collector	\$256,327.20	\$275,148.80	\$373,231.75
Asst. Chief HR Officer	\$223,436.80	\$225,155.20	\$308,023.62
Asst. Auditor-Controller	\$210,342.40	\$219,422.40	\$299,011.78
LAFCO Executive Officer	\$190,982.40	\$210,797.40	\$292,494.03
Deputy CEO	\$196,131.20	\$208,096.80	\$291,412.03
Deputy Auditor-Controller	\$181,956.86	\$199,022.70	\$273,566.68
Public Works Admin Manager	\$165,203.20	\$174,962.40	\$250,371.07
Benefits Administrator	\$157,361.66	\$174,172.96	\$246,967.66
Staff Services Manager	\$157,361.62	\$172,907.70	\$251,303.50
Principal HR Analyst	\$165,203.20	\$171,934.02	\$250,740.54
Clerk Of The Board	\$164,906.40	\$168,982.40	\$247,869.75
Deputy Auditor-Controller	\$159,204.87	\$168,005.11	\$230,089.53
Board Of Supervisors	\$154,342.40	\$164,962.40	\$240,952.34
Staff Services Manager	\$157,361.64	\$161,821.40	\$221,229.72
Asst Treasurer Tax-Collector	\$160,532.89	\$161,372.89	\$239,049.58
Safety Officer & ADA Coord.	\$149,977.60	\$156,976.36	\$222,990.92
Purchasing Manager	\$149,686.41	\$154,758.41	\$226,158.95

Source: <https://transparentcalifornia.com/salaries/2025/napa-county>

Lake Berryessa History As It Happened (and is still happening)

George Gamble is a long-time rancher on the northeast shore of Lake Berryessa who just turned 89 years old - lots of Lake Berryessa history there! George has been a life-long supporter of the Lake Beryessa community, the Lake Berryssa regional environment, and a friend of The Lake Berryessa News. He is also an expert in cattle grazing and environmentally-sound range management. My previous stories about cremation reminded him about his father and his father's connection to his beloved ranch.



Cremation Leads To Reincarnation?

by George Gamble

Growing up as a young man, my father would often tell me that when he died he wanted to be reincarnated as a dog. My father, nicknamed Gobe, was a kind-hearted, modest, but generous, man who loved animals of all kind. Most of all, he always loved his dogs, one of which was named Gobo, hence the nickname Gobe. Gobe always felt that to be a dog to be loved and cared for by a kind person would be the best of all worlds.

I don't know for a fact that there is such a thing as reincarnation, or by whose authority the decision is made as to what creature you will become when your spirit returns to earth. However, I do know that when my father died, a series of events have occurred here at the ranch, which has led me to believe that Gobe is now soaring like an eagle and keeping a watchful eye on me and his beloved ranch.

Gobe left our world, as we know it, in 1973. His final wish was to be cremated. His wish was granted and, since I was the pilot in the family, I asked my mother and brother to allow me to spread Gobe's ashes over a prominent landmark on his ranch known as Knoxville Ridge.

Several years later, while working on the west side of the ridge, I observed a pair of Bald Eagles that seemed to be quite interested in a large Gray pine just off the western ridge top. Up to this time there had never been a record of Bald Eagles nesting in the Berryessa Valley, so I gave it no further thought, except to admire the two birds and their majestic, effortless flight riding the thermals. But as an afterthought, with Lake Berryessa now having been created and providing suitable eagle habitat, maybe the time had come for Bald Eagles to start nesting here.

The following year I was at the top of Knoxville Ridge doing some tractor work when I noticed that the Grey pine now had a very large nest in the crotch of its larger branches. It seems the eagles had set up housekeeping! I wanted to tell my birding friends what I had found but soon came to my senses, realizing that the Southern Bald Eagle was endangered, and it was in my (and their) better interest not to say a word. I have kept the location of this nest private for many years now, except for my family, especially so after realizing that there may be more to these eagles than I previously thought.

Could it be that one of these eagles is my father who has been reincarnated and come back to his beloved ranch? I believe this to be the case. Gobe had always wanted to return as a dog, but who determines these matters? It must be God's, and God chose Gobe's new life to be an eagle.

Another reason I think this eagle is my father is because Gobe studied engineering at Stanford prior to transferring to Davis. During the fall of 2004 a 40,000 acre fire incinerated the entire eastern slope of Knoxville Ridge leaving the trees on the west side unharmed. Fortunately, the nesting tree and nest survived this holocaust, which would not have been the case if the nesting tree was on the eastern side of the ridge. Was this a result of Gobe's engineering skills or just fate?

Still another reason I have to confirm that the eagle nesting on Knoxville Ridge is my father is something that happened to me this spring as I was grading the road on the ridge

top adjacent to the nest. As I passed the nest, I saw two eaglets representing this year's offspring but not quite ready to fledge. Continuing on for a short ways I came to a reservoir where it would be a shaded and cool place for me to have my lunch. I shut the Cat's engine down and was sitting there looking at the reservoir with my feet propped up on the dash when to my amazement, my father (?) while looking directly at me, just ten feet off the surface of the water came gliding by as if to say: "Hi George, keep up the good work, son".

The last confirmation which makes me believe my father, Gobe, was reincarnated as an eagle was a situation that happened on July 1, 2011. I was preparing some rental property, "The School", for a new tenant to move in when I heard a familiar stuttering whistle. "The School" is not but a short distance (as the eagle flies) from the eagle's nest on Knoxville Ridge, so I looked up and there was Gobe again keeping his eye on me. He was approaching in a direct flight over "The School" so I started to wave. The wave I gave from the parking lot was a whole arm wave from side to side. Gobe broke from his direct line of flight and began circling directly above. Gobe must have recognized me, or knew I'd be there, and came to check on me.

As he continued to circle, he gave a few more stuttering whistles while maintaining his normal wing flap cadence. At one point, however, he broke this cadence with a much shallower and quicker flap as if to wave back and then lined out on his journey to who knows where. I'm sure, however, I'll see Gobe soon again on another day as he continues to look out after me.

Someday, I too hope to soar like an eagle!

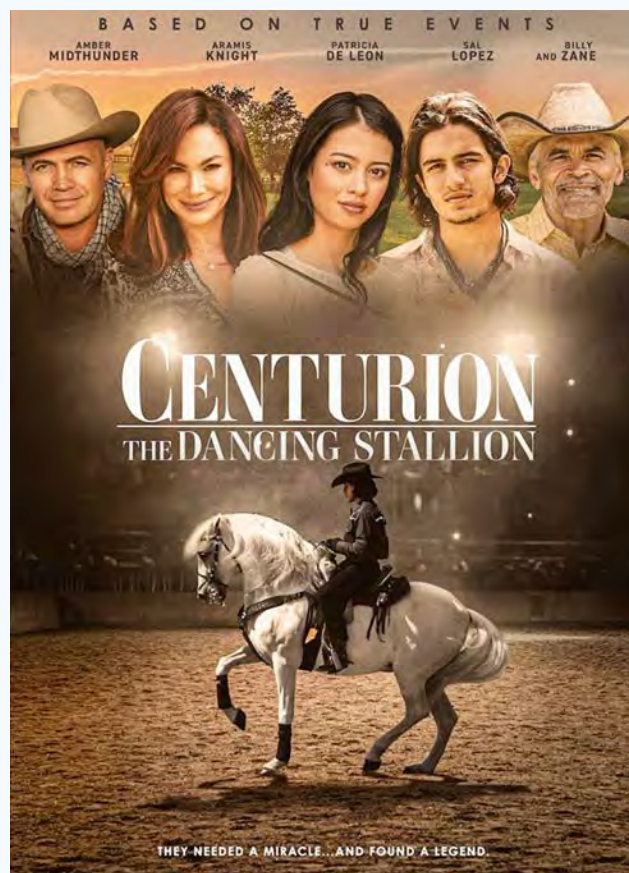
George and his wife, Nancy, were executive producers of a fascinating, and personally-inspired, 2023 movie, "Centurion: The Dancing Stallion", about Mexican dancing horses. Mexican dancing horses are called *caballos bailadores*, and the broader tradition of Mexican horsemanship and rodeo is known as *charrería*. These horses prance, step high, and move to the rhythm of traditional band music, almost looking like they are galloping in place. The movie includes some nice shots of Lake Berryessa and Napa. I just watched it again on YouTube. The ending sequences are amazing. You may smile until your cheeks cramp (IMHO).

You can watch it for free on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVwaRciFuWU>

Production details, photos, and reviews are at:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10387818/>

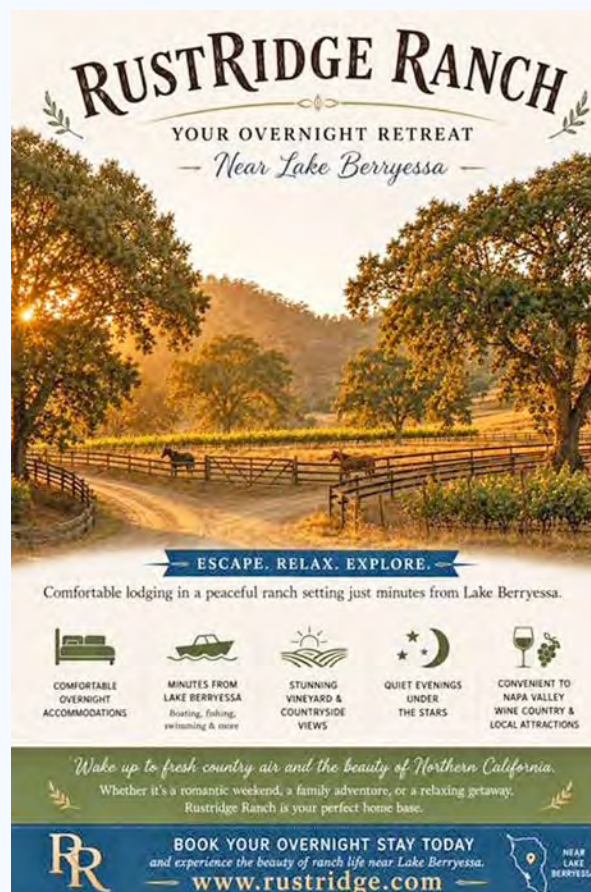


Above: George, Nancy, and Katie on the set of Centurion, The Dancing Stallion



George also had a wildlife camera on his ranch and sent me a few pictures to post in The Lake Berryessa News and in my book, "The Lake Berryessa Technical Manual". The one below elicited a complaint from a mother who didn't like the photo of a bear eating deer ribs. She thought it would frighten her children! More Lake Berryessa history from George next week.





Horoscopes (August 2, 2026)

Aries (3/21-4/19): This week, Microsoft Word may define your grammar as "poorly constructed" and full of "run on sentences".

Taurus (4/20-5/20): Why not pick up the phone and yell into it wildly before dialing your required number.

Gemini (5/21-6/21): Tantalizing new evidence that you're about to have fun is going to reveal itself today.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): You've got as much right as anyone to stamp your feet and demand retribution.

Leo (7/23-8/22): You're as transparent as a blast of canned air - try to be more complex by wearing hats that are clearly too small for your head.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): You will never earn the respect of your peers if you keep inviting them to your house for slumber parties.

Libra (9/23-10/22): You should go with the more expensive helmet.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): You are to be complemented for your skill at navigating websites.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Finding solace in your friends will be key this week, so join a softball league or something to finally make a few.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Your selfish ways will not improve this week as you win a sizeable jackpot on the lottery.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): Man Eating Salad Takes Moment To Appreciate What A Good Boy He's Being.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): Overbearing girlfriend expects man to take feelings in his head, use words to say them into real world.

Headlines (August 2, 2026)

Newborn baby can already tell parents' genetics not going to do him any favors.

City's beautification initiative hamstrung by commitment to local artists.

Government experts say that there is no better time to have children as they will reach adulthood at the perfect time to fight in the world water wars.

Lincoln pool to remain permanently drained as contractors install mirrors instead.

Pharmaceutical ad urges viewers to fight doctors who say drug not right for them.

Study finds gen z telepaths lack attention span to read even single mind.

Doctors warn air fryers not a substitute for human companionship.

Report: Music's power to unite, heal down 74%.

Man binge-watches entire movie in one sitting.

Below: Everyone In Oval Office Meeting Currently In Some Stage Of Stroke.



Five resorts are open.

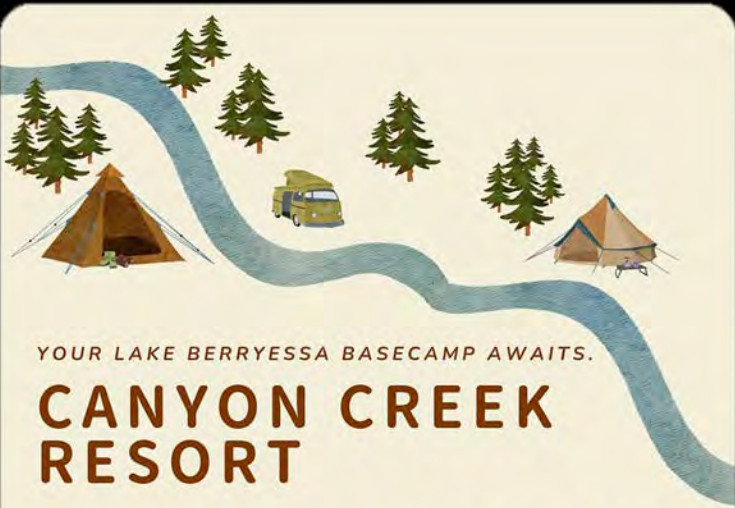
Spanish Flat Campground: <https://campspanishflat.com/>

Steele Canyon Campground: <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>

Pleasure Cove Marina: <https://goberryessa.com/>

Markley Cove Resort: <https://markleycove.com/>

Putah Canyon Campground: <https://royalelcparkmanagement.com/putah-canyon>



YOUR LAKE BERRYESSA BASECAMP AWAITS.

CANYON CREEK RESORT

COME CAMP WITH US – OPEN TO ALL!

CAMP MINUTES FROM LAKE BERRYESSA. FISHING? PULL IN, PARK YOUR RIG, AND HEAD OUT AT FIRST LIGHT. LOOKING FOR A GETAWAY? BOOK AN RV SITE, PITCH A TENT, OR STAY IN A COTTAGE OR YURT.

RV SITES | TENT SITES | YURTS | CABINS

WWW.CANYONCREEKRESORT.COM | 530-795-4133
USE CODE LAKENEWS FOR 15% OFF

Central Capell Valley Location at Capell Valley Cross Road

\$149,000

Two mostly level acres with a well



WINE VALLEY HOMES

Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

Manzanita Lane

\$55,000

Great Lake views from this 0.3 acre lot located in the Berryessa Highlands just a stone's throw from Lake Berryessa's Steele Canyon Recreation Area for boat launching, camping, lake activities. Thirty minutes to the town of Napa with world class amenities.



Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>
Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

Welcome to your own 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private half-acre with a new home overlooking beautiful Lake Berryessa!

4101 Berryessa Knoxville Road

\$369,000

Here is your chance at an affordable home and land ownership in Napa County at its most amazing and overlooked treasure - Lake Berryessa. Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views



Lake View

Sparkling New Interior



Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>
Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

220 Manzanita Lane

\$69,500

This terraced lot offers a prime opportunity to build in highly desirable Berryessa Highlands. Elevated, panoramic views of Lake Berryessa and surrounding peaks provide an exceptional backdrop



A short drive to Napa Valley's renowned wineries, dining, and central amenities, close to Lake Berryessa's recreational activities.



Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa

Property Management and Sales

Available at Turtle Rock Cafe

A LAKE BERRYESSA EXCLUSIVE: THE COWBOY CABERNET HAS ARRIVED!



We are thrilled to announce that Stephen and Leanne Troy's highly anticipated Cowboy Cabernet Sauvignon, crafted right here on the shores of Lake Berryessa, is now **officially available** for your enjoyment!

The passion and artistry described in their *'Maharajah Sleep Here?'* travelogue (seen below) have culminated in this superb vintage. This isn't just a wine; it's a taste of the Lake Berryessa lifestyle.

Visit us at Turtle Rock Cafe today to grab your bottle of this local treasure, perfect for a picnic by the water or a relaxing evening under the stars. Don't miss out on this limited release!



**PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE AT
TURTLE ROCK CAFE TODAY!**
For more info, visit:
www.troyfamilyvineyard.com,
www.turtlerockcafe.com

Available at Amazon in
paperback and audiobook.



& GET THE STORY BEHIND THE WINE.
Visit www.troyfamilycafeandgrill.com
for more info. Scan for Amazon.





Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

The Perfect Blend of Seclusion, Scenery, and Napa Valley Charm

\$1,099,000

<http://www.3955ehwy128.com/>



With privacy, usable land, and a picturesque setting just minutes from Lake Hennessey, Lake Berryessa, Turtle Rock Bar & Cafe, and Napa Valley wineries, a rare opportunity to own a truly special slice of wine country living.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Refined Country Living Meets Resort-Style Luxury

1610 Capell Valley Road

\$1,149,000

<https://1610capellvalley.com/>



Tucked into the scenic hills of Napa's coveted Capell Valley, this single-level retreat offers the ultimate blend of privacy, comfort, and seamless indoor-outdoor, resort-style living on approximately one acre.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

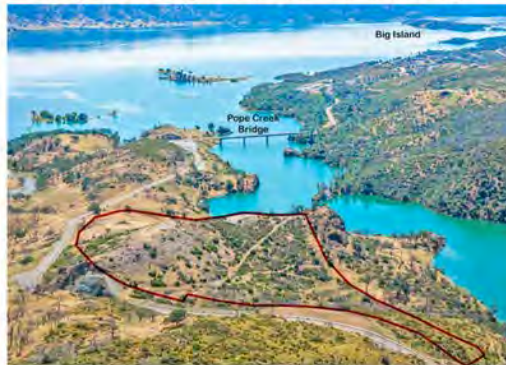
This might be the greatest Lake Berryessa View!

Pope Canyon Road

\$499,000

<https://popecanyonroad.com/>

Imagine standing in your future kitchen watching the sunrise across Lake Berryessa filling your entire field of vision. Wall-to-wall water. Ridge lines fading into the horizon. Endless sky.



Set on approximately 18.5 acres, this extraordinary property offers buildable sites positioned to capture the jaw-dropping panoramic lake views.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Tucked into the hills above Lake Berryessa

1001 Eastridge Drive

\$399,000

<https://www.1001eastridgedr.com/>

This charming bungalow is all about character and connection to the outdoors. From the moment you walk in, you're welcomed by vaulted ceilings, rich wood accents, lots of natural light and a wood stove -the kind of space that instantly feels like home.



Whether it's morning coffee, sunset dinners, or weekend gatherings, this is where memories are made. This property offers a rare blend of privacy, charm, and lifestyle in the Lake Berryessa area. Ideal as a full-time residence, weekend escape, or investment opportunity.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa
<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #0130224
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Stop Planning. Start Pouring!
 Turnkey restaurant and bar opportunity in a prime location
\$495,000
<https://4310berryessa.com/>



**This fully equipped commercial property is ready for operation!
 In Spanish Flat Center near Lake Berryessa.
 No build-out, No permits, No waiting.
 The commercial kitchen includes many new pieces of equipment.**

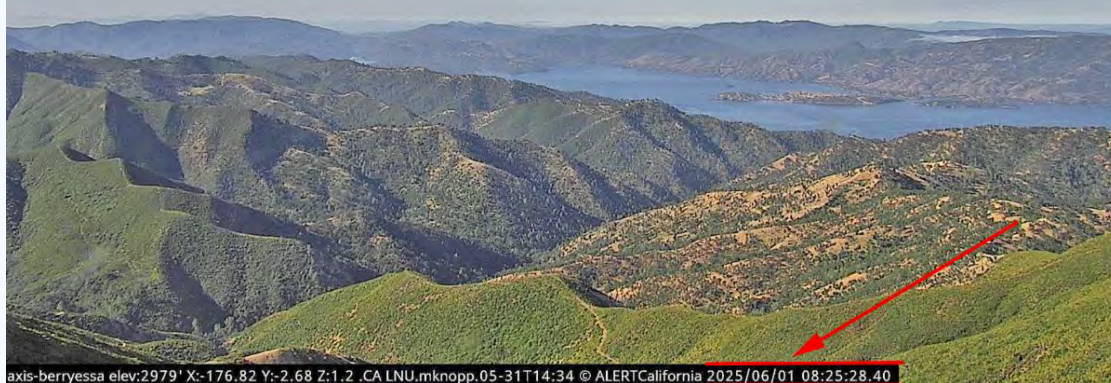
Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



axis-berryessa elev:2979' X:-176.82 Y:-2.68 Z:1.2 .CA LNU.mknopp.05-31T14:34 © ALERTCalifornia 2025/06/01 08:25:28.40



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

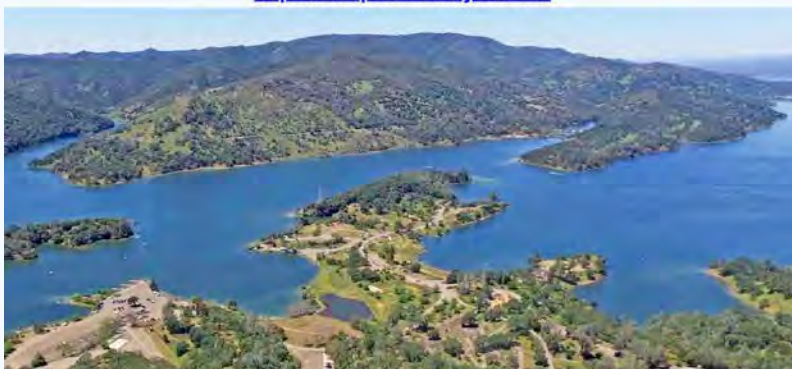
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

We include the gas in all our rentals. Which will save you \$\$!

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



707-966-9954
4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
LAKEBERRYESSABOATREPAIR@GMAIL.COM

SERVICE, PARTS, & SALES



MERCURY

Authorized Dealer
Service, Parts & Accessories



TOHATSU

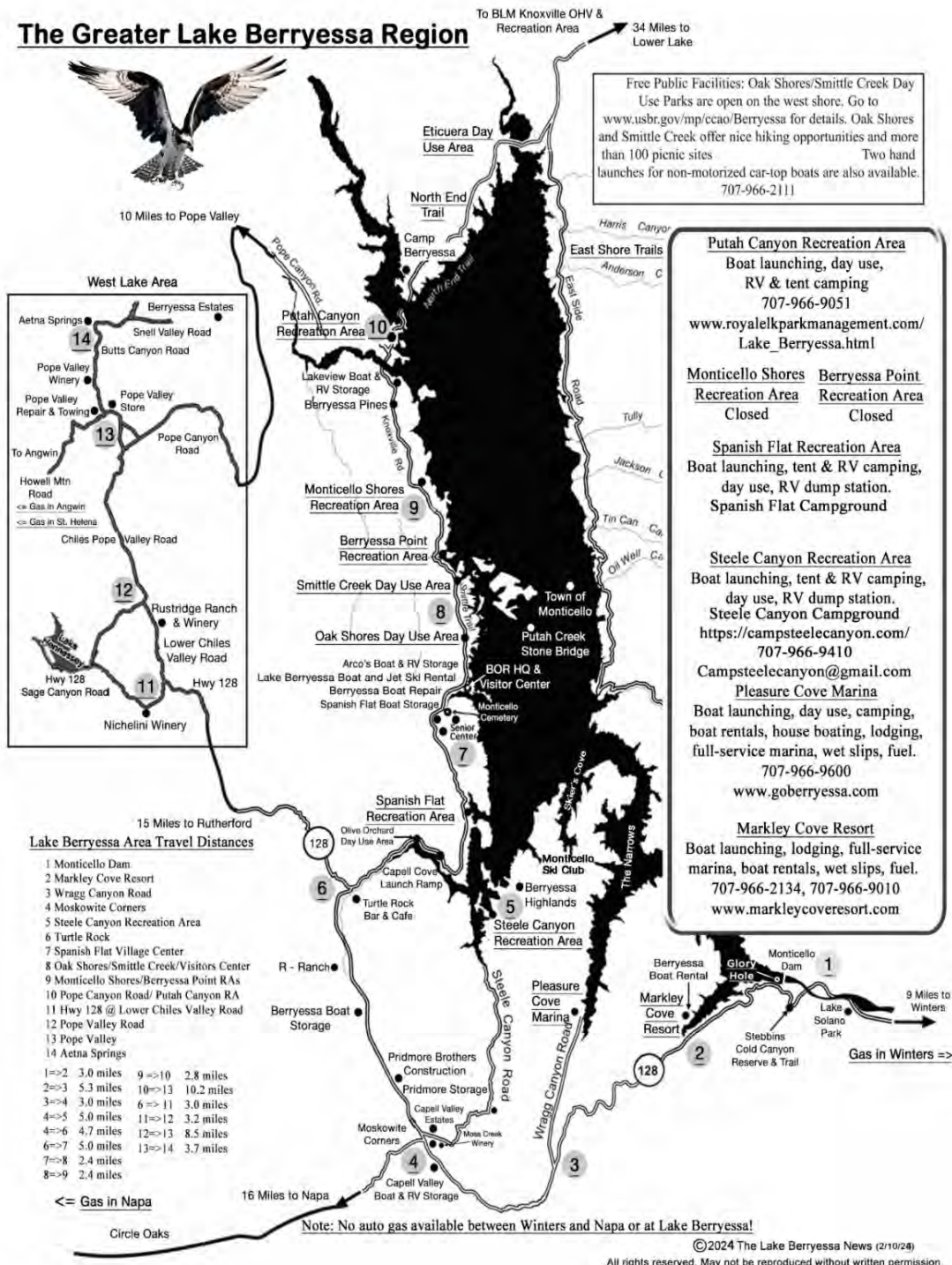


MERCURY
MerCruiser

**WE WORK ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF ENGINES, BOATS, AND JET SKIS.
WE SELL MERCURY, MERCRUISER, VOLVO-PENTA, AND TOHATSU ENGINES**
707-966-9954
FOR STORAGE, DETAIL, & CONSIGNMENT
707-480-3187

Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 |

pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>





Try email marketing for free today!



The Lake Berryessa News

August 9, 2026

Sunday Funnies



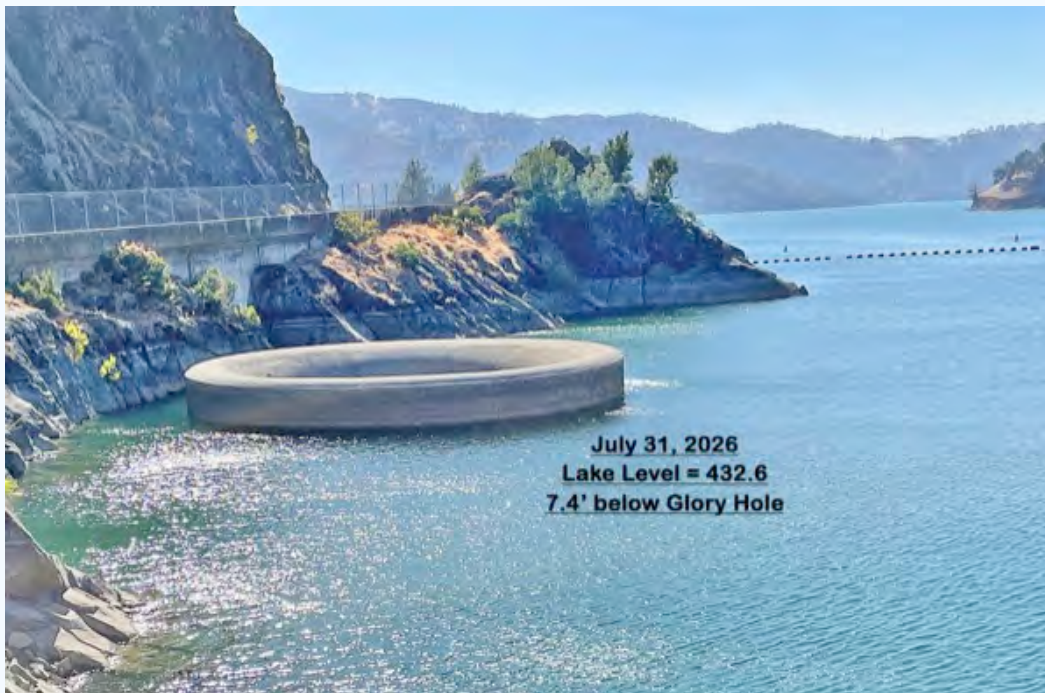
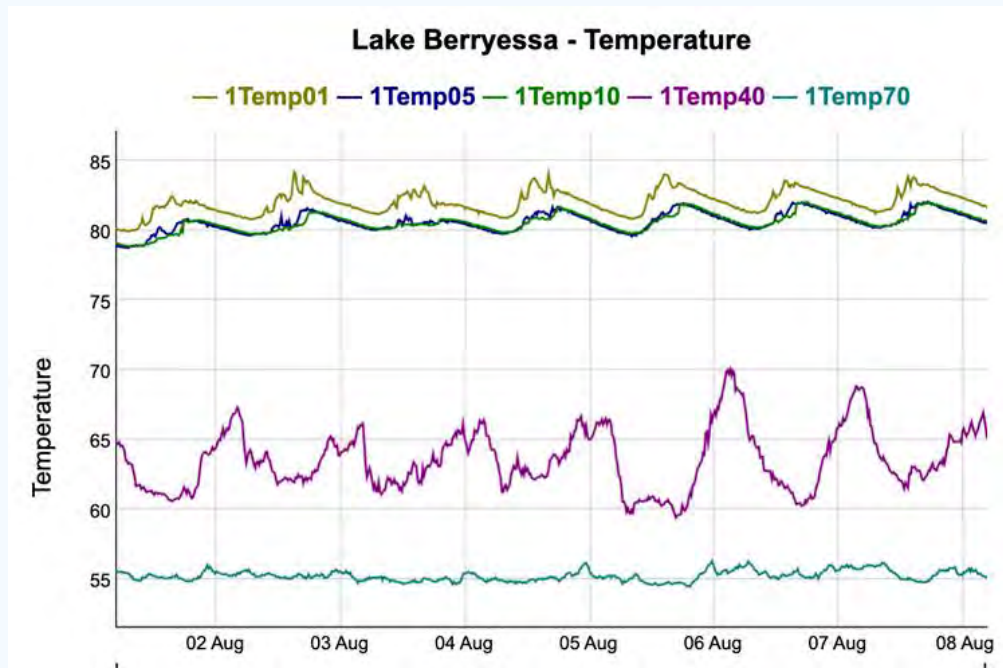
Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/9/26)

Lake Berryessa water level now stands at 432.0feet - 8 feet below Glory Hole.

The lake output is averaging of 525 cfs (1,041 A-F per day).

Lake capacity is now at 1,404,250 Acre-Feet or 90.5%.

The recent hot wether has raised the water temperature to 83 degrees at the surface.



Cowboying at the Gamble Ranch on Lake Berryessa's East Side

George Gamble has been sharing some fascinating local history with The Lake Berryessa News. Those of you who watched Yellowstone over the years have witnessed a lot of cowboying activities portrayed realistically, including the branding of cattle. Here's a history of how cattle branding began and evolved, and the technical details of how it is done correctly.

The History and Art of Branding & the LJ Brand

by George Gamble

The history of branding livestock dates to ancient Egyptian times c. 2700 BC. The word "brand" comes from the Germanic root "to burn" or to make something hot such as a firebrand or a burning stick. It commonly identifies the process of burning a mark into the thick hide of livestock as a means of identification and proof of

ownership. In more recent time the process has been refined by the vaqueros in the south west United States and Northern Mexico, and branding of livestock is now utilized worldwide.

The brand is constructed of iron or steel and is generally heated by a wood fire or propane with the mark or symbol registered to the owner of the livestock to be branded. The construction of a brand is not an exact science, but many are far better than others. The design of the brand should be as open as possible otherwise too much heat will be concentrated in one spot rendering the brand illegible and commonly referred to as a "frying pan" brand. The face of the metal pieces creating the brand should be one-quarter inch and wherever two pieces of metal come together to form the design there should be a three-sixteenth inch gap to reduce the heat in that area. The L J brand is a perfect example of a well-designed brand and will never create a "frying pan" if applied correctly.

A correctly applied and designed brand will require the red hot iron to be held on the dry hide for several seconds depending on the age of the animal being branded and the amount of hair to be burned through. The brand must make a design by causing a warping or dislocation of the hair follicles causing the new hair growth at different angles from the natural hair creating the owner's desired design. A well applied brand comes with experience and will burn off the hair down to the hide leaving a beautiful dark brown hue to the hide resulting in the desired mark of ownership.

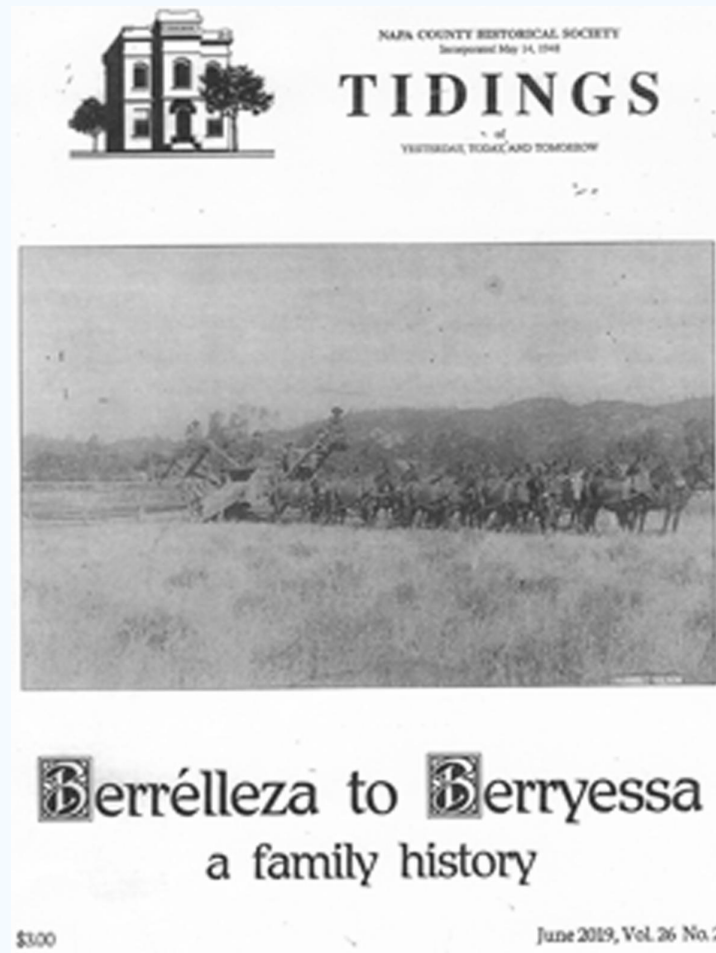
The use of a brand not only shows ownership but assists in the sorting of cattle when the livestock are grazed by multiple owners on open range. The main purpose of branding, however, is to prove your ownership to a brand inspector should livestock become lost or stolen. Your brand is your proof of ownership.

Most western U. S. states have strict laws regarding brands including brand registration with the State Department of Food and Agriculture (California) and physical brand inspections prior to the transfer of title or the movement of livestock to pastures of another county or state. According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Brand Book, the L J Brand, designated as A003745, was 100 years old in 2018, having been registered and recorded by Launcelot John Gamble in the year 1918.

It is not exactly clear when Mr. Gamble graduated from the University of California at Davis, but it was most likely in the year 1916, since Davis celebrated its 100th birthday in 2014. Mr. Gamble was at Davis for two years studying Animal Husbandry. Mr. Gamble purchased property in Middletown, Lake County, shortly after graduating and became a cattle rancher necessitating the need for a brand. The Gamble Brand appeared in the "California Brand Book 1919" being published for the first time during that year and consisting of 355 pages. The 1975 Brand Book consists of 1,327 pages!

At that time there were 58 Brand Districts in California with the Gamble Brand being registered in Lake County, District 14, comprising of Mendocino, Glenn, Napa, Sonoma, Yolo, and Colusa counties. The registration address given was L. J.

Gamble, Middletown. The current registration is under the names George and Launce Gamble, dba Gamble Ranch LLC, PO Box 209 Rutherford, CA 94573. It is considered to be the oldest brand in continuous use Napa County.



Although various stories have been written about the history of the Berryessa Valley and the Berryessa family for which it is named, George Gamble sent me an article from the 2019 Napa County Historical Society which I had somehow missed. It is a detailed genealogical study of the Berryessa family's tragic roots in the region. It also documents a wild and brutal period in American history. One section of the article gives an example:

"One particularly awful case involved Captain John C. Fremont. During the Bear Flag Revolt, Fremont marched on Sonoma and arrested Jose de los Santos Berreyesa. Nazario's nephew and the town's alcalde (local magistrate), and two of his brothers. Jose de los Reyes Berreyesa, Nazario's 61-year-old brother, was sent to Sonoma by his worried wife to check on their imprisoned sons. He was accompanied by his teenage nephews Ramon and Francisco Haro, and they journeyed north from Santa Clara. When they paused near the mission in San Rafael, they had the unfortunate luck of encountering Fremont and his men. The Berryesas were murdered in cold blood then stripped of their clothing and belongings. After watching one of Fremont's soldier parade around in his murdered father's serape, Jose de los Santos was forced to buy back for \$25."

Fremont ran for U.S. president in 1856. Here's one response to that campaign:

On October 4, 1856, a letter possibly written by one of the Berreyesas was published in the Los Angeles Star. The author was furious that John C. Fremont was running for president on the Republican ticket. Fremont made a name for himself during the Bear Flag Revolt and is often thought of in a heroic light, but as this letter shows, many Californios despised him for his violence and brutality.

"NO ROOM." - Just so. That's what Fremont said when asked if the venerable Don Jose Berryesa and the two cousins, should be taken prisoners and shot. He cruelly replied - "There is no room for prisoners." Shoot them down, was the cruel answer of the craven, dressed in a little brief authority. And now, in the language of the old Scotch proverb "the king has come the cadger's way."

The Californians well remember the needless butchery of their innocent, their unoffending countrymen; and in reply to his earnest solicitations for their votes and voices, to elevate him to the lofty position of the Presidential chair, their answer will be, "there is no room"

Mr. Fremont, though very good-looking (in the campaign pictures) "can't come in." No, no, you shed the blood of our kinsmen causelessly - you cannot have our votes as a recompense for your cruelty. A better man wants that place. There is no room for you - no room for the heartless tyrant - no room for the despoiler of our homes - no room for the waster of our ranches - no room for the robber of our cattle - no room for him, who doomed three of our brethren to death, without trial, without even being questioned - shot them down, as landing from a boat, they were peacefully wending their way to inquire after a relative, then in prison; another victim of Fremont's cruelty.

No room for you, Col. Fremont, in the White House - no room for you in the Presidential chair. Such will be the answer of the Californians to your audacious, your presumptuous request, to be raised to a position, for which neither nature nor education has fitted you. On the 4th of November next, the Californians, at the polls, will tell you, "there is no room."

The article is too long to include here, but I have posted a pdf copy on the Lake Berryessa News website at:

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/References-PDFs/Berryessa-Family-History-original.pdf>

[Berrellza to Berryessa: A Family History](#)
[by Alexandra Brown](#)

Artificial Intelligence Invades Political Discourse

Federal Equal Time Rules only apply to broadcast, not print, media. The Lake Berryessa News usually does not take a position on political issues unless those issues involve the local Lake Berryessa Region.

However, in researching my future update on the accelerating impacts of the Artificial Intelligence "boom", I was impressed by the advancements in AI photo and video

production, and its use in political advertising. I am posting, in fairness, a few recent videos from both sides of the political debate for your review and possible amusement. I hope no one will be offended.

More on the state of AI in a future Lake Berryessa News report.

Supports Present Administration

King Trump - Fighter Pilot

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4261752524096621>

MAGA: Welcome to the Golden Age

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxyqSY9iBLo>

Dr. Trump

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/3271286803260203>

Opposes Present Administration

Reflecting Pool Attacked by Underwater Criminals

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP0G1B8iqh>

NBC's Meet Your Maker (Meet the Press parody)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPGblr5IPMw>

Baby Trump

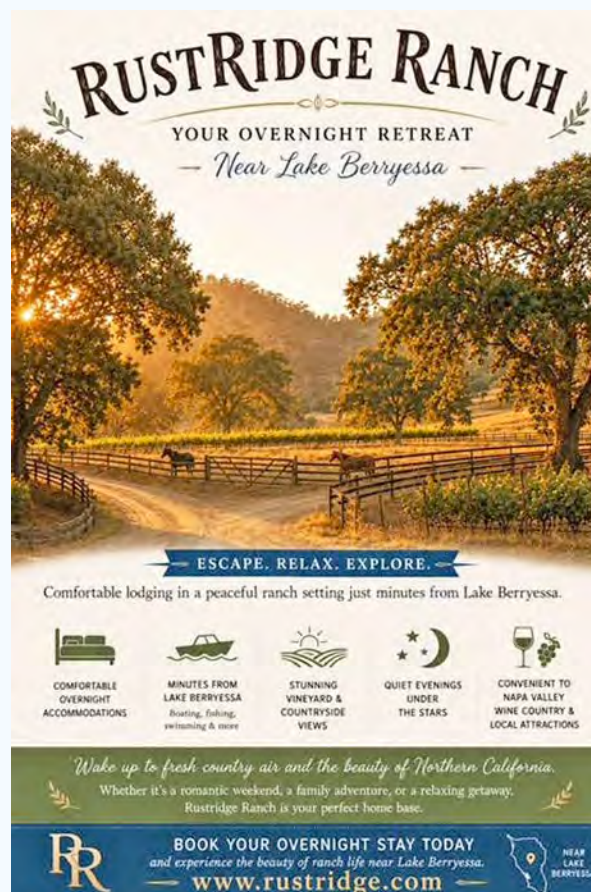
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCngemPTWv0>

Neil deGrasse Tyson's most famous and widely shared quote is:

"The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it."

He is also credited with saying:

"How sad it must be—believing that scientists, scholars, historians, economists, and journalists have devoted their entire lives to deceiving you, while a reality TV star with decades of fraud and exhaustively documented lying is your only beacon of truth and honesty."



"It's the sun rays in the storm clouds and the rainbow overhead."- Logan Ryles

Five resorts are open.

Spanish Flat Campground: <https://campspanishflat.com/>

Steele Canyon Campground: <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>

Pleasure Cove Marina: <https://goberryessa.com/>

Markley Cove Resort: <https://markleycove.com/>

Putah Canyon Campground: <https://royalelkparkmanagement.com/putah-canyon>



YOUR LAKE BERRYESSA BASECAMP AWAITS.

CANYON CREEK RESORT

COME CAMP WITH US – OPEN TO ALL!

CAMP MINUTES FROM LAKE BERRYESSA. FISHING? PULL IN, PARK YOUR RIG, AND HEAD OUT AT FIRST LIGHT. LOOKING FOR A GETAWAY? BOOK AN RV SITE, PITCH A TENT, OR STAY IN A COTTAGE OR YURT.

RV SITES | TENT SITES | YURTS | CABINS

WWW.CANYONCREEKRESORT.COM | 530-795-4133
USE CODE LAKENEWS FOR 15% OFF

Central Capell Valley Location at Capell Valley Cross Road

\$149,000

Two mostly level acres with a well



Robin Short, Realtor
707-738-3006
DRE # 01890377
<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa
Property Management and Sales

Welcome to your own 3 bedroom, 2 bath, private half-acre with a new home overlooking beautiful Lake Berryessa!

4101 Berryessa Knoxville Road

\$329,000

Here is your chance at an affordable home and land ownership in Napa County at its most amazing and overlooked treasure - Lake Berryessa. Zoning allows a secondary dwelling should all county requirements be met.

Stunning Lake and Mountain Views



Sparkling New Interior



Robin Short, Realtor

707-738-3006

DRE # 01890377

<https://winevalleyhomes.com/>

Lake Berryessa

Property Management and Sales

Available at Turtle Rock Cafe

A LAKE BERRYESSA EXCLUSIVE: THE COWBOY CABERNET HAS ARRIVED!



We are thrilled to announce that Stephen and Leanne Troy's highly anticipated Cowboy Cabernet Sauvignon, crafted right here on the shores of Lake Berryessa, is now **officially** available for your enjoyment!

The passion and artistry described in their 'Maharajah Sleep Here?' travelogue (seen below) have culminated in this superb vintage. This isn't just a wine; it's a taste of the Lake Berryessa lifestyle.

Visit us at Turtle Rock Cafe today to grab your your bottle of this local treasure, perfect for a picnic by the water or a relaxing evening under the stars. Don't miss out on this limited release!



**PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE AT
TURTLE ROCK CAFE TODAY!**
For more info, visit:
www.troyfamilyvineyard.com,
www.turtlerockcafe.com

Available at Amazon in
paperback and audiobook.



& GET THE STORY BEHIND THE WINE.
Visit www.troyfamilycafeandgrill.com
for more info. Scan for Amazon.





Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

The Perfect Blend of Seclusion, Scenery, and Napa Valley Charm

\$1,099,000

<http://www.3955ehwy128.com/>



With privacy, usable land, and a picturesque setting just minutes from Lake Hennessey, Lake Berryessa, Turtle Rock Bar & Cafe, and Napa Valley wineries, a rare opportunity to own a truly special slice of wine country living.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Refined Country Living Meets Resort-Style Luxury

1610 Capell Valley Road

\$1,149,000

<https://1610capellvalley.com/>



Tucked into the scenic hills of Napa's coveted Capell Valley, this single-level retreat offers the ultimate blend of privacy, comfort, and seamless indoor-outdoor, resort-style living on approximately one acre.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

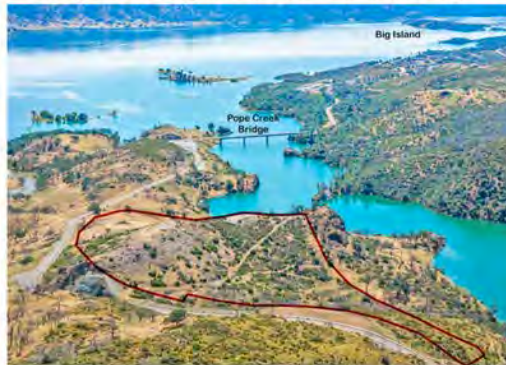
This might be the greatest Lake Berryessa View!

Pope Canyon Road

\$499,000

<https://popecanyonroad.com/>

Imagine standing in your future kitchen watching the sunrise across Lake Berryessa filling your entire field of vision. Wall-to-wall water. Ridge lines fading into the horizon. Endless sky.



Set on approximately 18.5 acres, this extraordinary property offers buildable sites positioned to capture the jaw-dropping panoramic lake views.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Tucked into the hills above Lake Berryessa

1001 Eastridge Drive

\$399,000

<https://www.1001eastridgedr.com/>

This charming bungalow is all about character and connection to the outdoors. From the moment you walk in, you're welcomed by vaulted ceilings, rich wood accents, lots of natural light and a wood stove -the kind of space that instantly feels like home.



Whether it's morning coffee, sunset dinners, or weekend gatherings, this is where memories are made. This property offers a rare blend of privacy, charm, and lifestyle in the Lake Berryessa area. Ideal as a full-time residence, weekend escape, or investment opportunity.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa
<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$895,000



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #0130224
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Stop Planning. Start Pouring!
 Turnkey restaurant and bar opportunity in a prime location
\$495,000
<https://4310berryessa.com/>



**This fully equipped commercial property is ready for operation!
 In Spanish Flat Center near Lake Berryessa.
 No build-out, No permits, No waiting.
 The commercial kitchen includes many new pieces of equipment.**

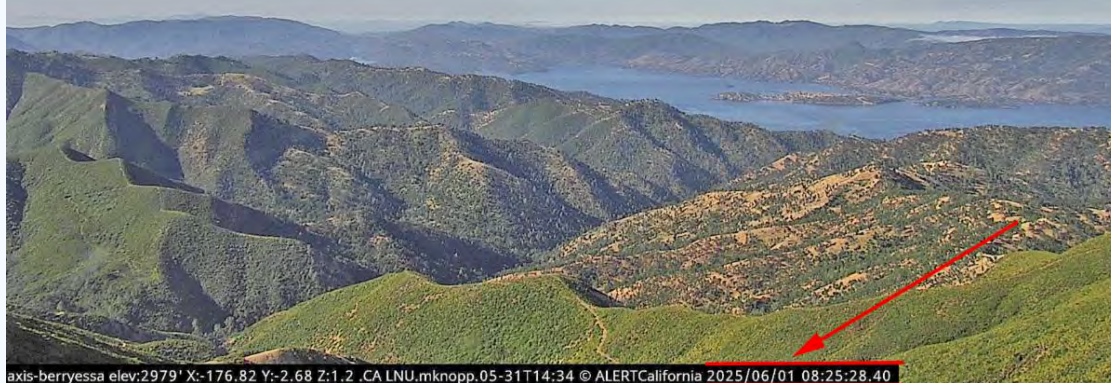
Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



axis-berryessa elev:2979' X:-176.82 Y:-2.68 Z:1.2 .CA LNU.mknopp.05-31T14:34 © ALERTCalifornia 2025/06/01 08:25:28.40



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

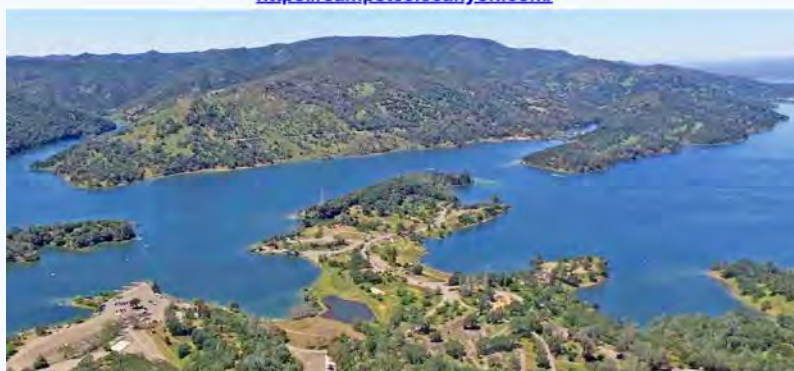
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

We include the gas in all our rentals. Which will save you \$\$!

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



707-966-9954
4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
LAKEBERRYESSABOATREPAIR@GMAIL.COM

SERVICE, PARTS, & SALES



MERCURY

Authorized Dealer
Service, Parts & Accessories



TOHATSU



MERCURY

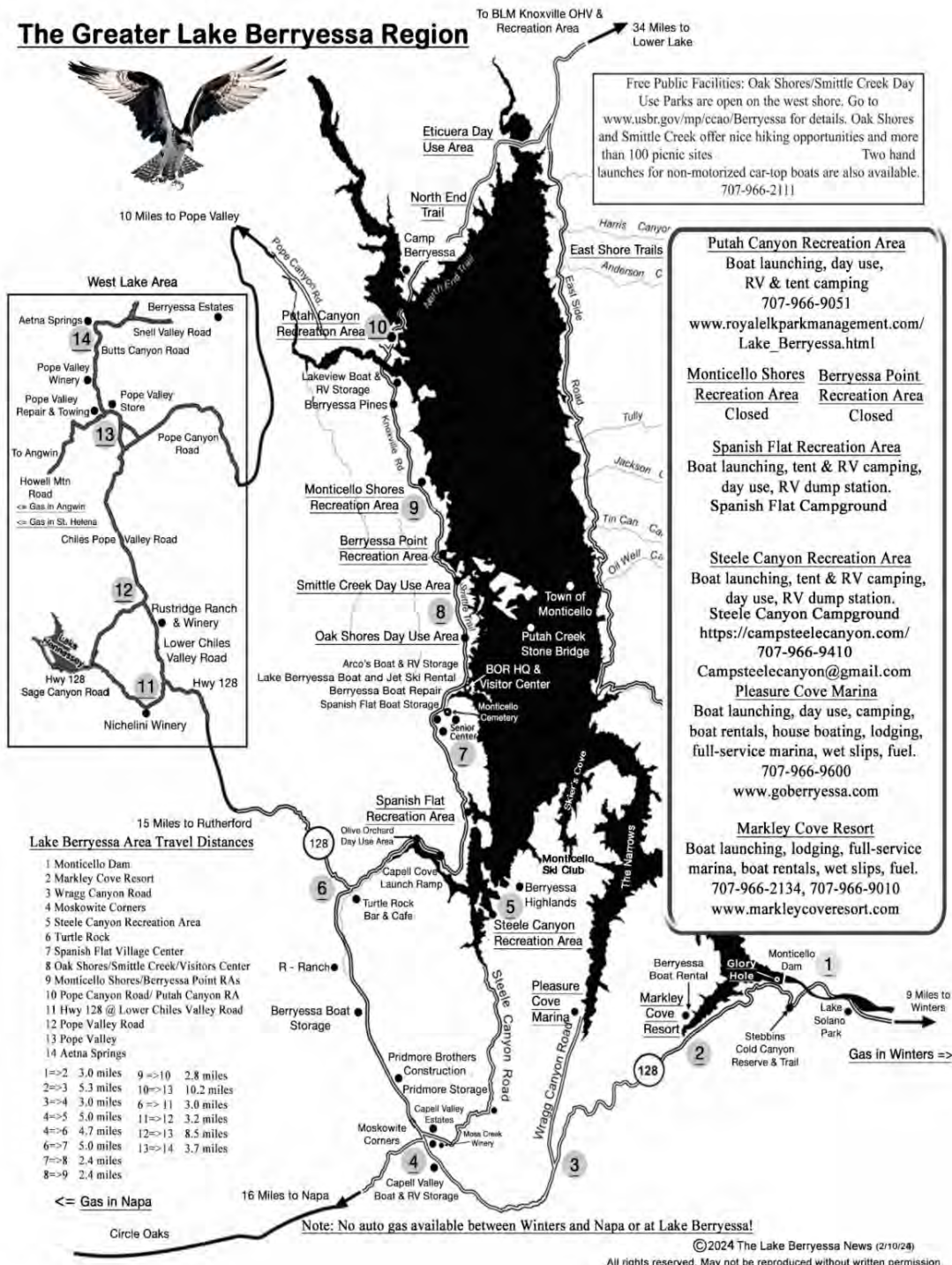
MerCruiser

**WE WORK ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF ENGINES, BOATS, AND JET SKIS.
WE SELL MERCURY, MERCRUISER, VOLVO-PENTA, AND TOHATSU ENGINES**

707-966-9954
FOR STORAGE, DETAIL, & CONSIGNMENT
707-480-3187

Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 |

pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>





Try email marketing for free today!



The Lake Berryessa News

August 16, 2026

Sunday Funnies



Lake Berryessa Statistics (8/16/26)

Lake Berryessa water level now stands at 41.3.0feet - 8.7 feet below Glory Hole.

The lake output is averaging of 500 cfs (991 A-F per day).

Lake capacity is now at 1,393,055 Acre-Feet or 89.8%.

The recent cooler has lowered the water temperature to 79 degrees at the surface.

Internet Archive Wayback Machine

Those of you who remember watching the "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" will recall the Wayback Machine episodes. The videos of the show are still available online. That show was obviously the source of the name for a modern Wayback Machine.



Every now and then while doing online research, an old version of The Lake Berryessa News pops up - the actual version I first posted on my website many years ago. Although I've saved PDF versions of all of them on my own computer, it's comforting to know that I can find the original main web page on the Wayback Machine. I should probably download all the html files to my own back-up disks.

The Wayback Machine (<https://web.archive.org/>) is a free digital time machine for the World Wide Web created by the Internet Archive, a non-profit group. It takes snapshots of web pages over time. This lets you view old versions of websites, even if the pages have changed or no longer exist.

How It Works: Crawling the Web: Automated programs visit billions of web pages and capture copies of them. It stores these copies on large servers. You type a web address into the search bar to see a calendar and timeline of saved versions. Read articles or see data that was taken down or lost. Compare how a company or news site looked years ago.

An example of one of the oldest archived Lake Berryessa News webpage is copied below. New software forced me to simplify the main page since then.



The Lake Berryessa e-News

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

[Local Events Calendar](#)

[News of Local Interest](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Photos & Video](#)

CUCINA ITALIANA
Spanish Flat Village Center

[Click for Cucina Italiana Details](#)

LandSat Photo

Rancho Monticello Web Cam



[Click for Chamber of Commerce Web Site](#)

[Resorts Lose Lawsuit Against Bureau of Reclamation](#)

[How can a poll of only 1,004 Americans represent 260 million people with only a 3 percent margin of error?](#)

[Senior Humor Test](#)

[Dr. Phil's Psych Test](#)

November 15, 2007 Print Edition

Pages: [1&12](#) [2&11](#) [3&10](#) - Capell School

Photos: [4&9](#) [5&8](#) [6&7](#)

Special Features:

[Winery and Resort Day Trips](#)

[The Resorts of Lake Berryessa](#)

[Chamber of Commerce Brochure](#)



[Full Brochure \(1.6MB\)](#)

[Map Only \(440 KB\)](#)

[Chamber of Commerce 2007 Directory](#)

[Bureau of Reclamation Berryessa Info & Maps](#)

[Local Map](#)

VINCENZA "VINNY" REBAK
Real Estate Broker
INTERO
www.vinnysrealty.com
I Love Referrals! Please See My Web Site.

Viking Propane, Inc.
"Where Service Always Comes First!"
Kerah Erickson
17954 Highway 101
P.O. Box 17
Marina, CA 94950
www.vikingpropane.com

CELESTINE REALTY
1000 S. 10TH STREET
SUITE 200
SANTA ANA, CA 92705
www.celestine.com

Berryessa Environmental Management Systems

Property For Sale

Lake Level History: 1959-2002

Napa, CA
Clear
Humidity: 69%
Visibility: 8 miles
Wind: Calm

41 °F
Updated: 11:01 AM

Pope Valley, CA
Mostly Cloudy
Humidity: 77%
Visibility: 10 miles
Wind: SE @ 10 mph

This Napa Weather Station is at Yountville. This Weather Station is at Berryessa Estates.

Welcome to The Lake Berryessa e-News!

We strive to bring you the news and events of the Greater Lake Berryessa Region and our Napa Back Roads.

Community News Makes a Better Community

Peter Kilkus, Editor
1515 Headlands Drive
Napa, CA 94558
pkilkus@aol.com, 415-307-6906

You can also subscribe to have our print edition delivered directly to your mailbox twice a month by sending \$25 to:

The Lake Berryessa News
6244 Hwy 128
Napa, CA 94558
Shirli Kalleba, Owner
shirllnews@sbcglobal.net, 707-287-6240

Last Updated on November 14, 2007
Copyright © 2007

Turkey Herding in the Berryessa Valley

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/.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH_ht8xbkMI

Fascinating stuff. There's a section showing turkey ranching with hundreds 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 or Woodland, just like cattle - a big "turkey drive"! I'm a gullible sort and they both told me this story with a straight face.

Although free-range or driven poultry handling was common in early Napa and Yolo county hill ranches, large-scale commercial "turkey drives" were more historical novelties or local seasonal movements to market rather than staple permanent herding.

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 or Woodland still takes my breath away. I asked for comments from my readers. I actually got several responses which I reproduce below.

On one of the Berryessa Parcels adjacent to Putah Creek, a short time prior to my father's acquisition of our ranch, there was a fellow raising turkeys on the parcel. He had built a cabin for himself and pens for his turkeys. This site to this day has always been known as the "Turkey Cabin". There is a year around spring on it producing 30 gallons per minute and an abundance of oak trees to produce acorns for feed in the fall. When sale time came the farmer would gather up his turkeys, clip their wings and drive them to Napa by horseback, stopping at Windy Flats for an overnight stay. He then continued on to put the turkeys on a barge at Napa Milling, in Napa, for a ride to San Francisco where they were sold. I have always been fascinated by this story and others that have been told me in the past. Old timers always found a way to get the job done and make a living doing it unlike what I often see nowadays.

George Gamble

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 turkey herding is 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 I 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

Here are another two stories about Berryessa Valley history from George Gamble.

Tule Elk and Tom Taylor

by George Gamble

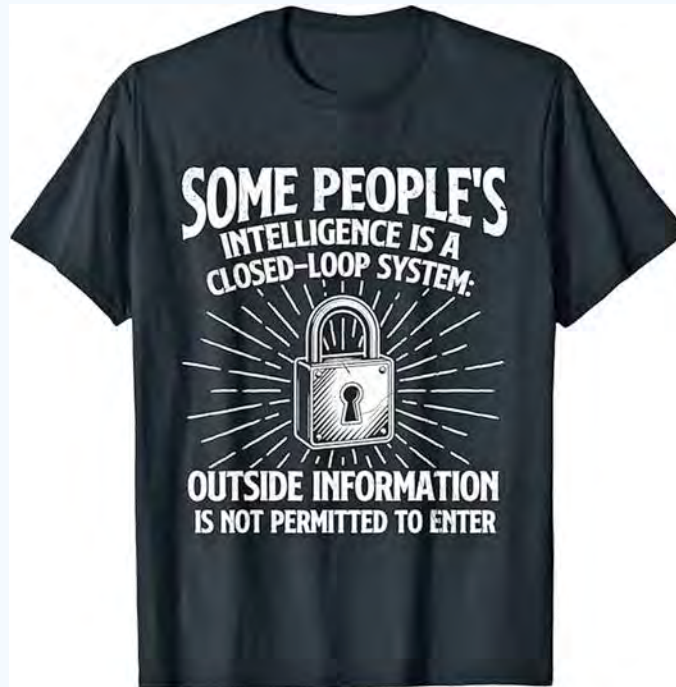
Many years ago, during the early 1800s and the discovery of gold here in California, there was a large population of Tule Elk habituating the central valley of California. At this time, there were no manmade levees on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers to contain the winter run off and snow melt, so much of the adjoining lands were flooded resulting in prime marsh habitat for the elk. In turn, the elk made excellent table fare for the miners and settlers during that era resulting in a large decline in the elk population. But as time progressed, levees were being built, and the rivers began to hold back flood waters resulting in habitat loss for the Tule elk which were now becoming more endangered.

Subsequently, a reserve for the Tule elk was established West of Bakersfield and I-5. The elk numbers responded so well the California Fish and Wildlife began looking for alternate, suitable habitat to expand the population and to become sustainable. The Suisun Marsh was one of the locations selected. On the marsh today, there is a drawing for a chance to harvest a Tule elk as a result of this management decision.

Another location to establish a new population of elk was Clear Lake and the Cache Creek drainage. There was never a problem to relocate elk on the Suisun marsh site since transportation of the elk was by rail and a drop off point was not far from the marsh. However, the location at Clear Lake was different. Clear Lake is a long way from the closest rail in Williams. But, in the 1920s when this move was to be made, life was simpler and situations like this were taken in stride and soon, a plan was developed to gather a team of cowboys to drive the elk from the Williams train station to Clear Lake by horseback. The plan worked well and generations later the elk are still enjoying their new habitat surrounding the creeks and valleys near Clear Lake.

When I was learning to become a "Cowboy" on my father's ranch in the Berryessa Valley during the 1950s, I was introduced to a real cowboy by the name of Tom Taylor. Tom was helping Jim Conner, my father's cattle foreman, and others move cows and calves to the Long Canyon corrals for branding the calves the next day. I remember Tom as being different and I always remember how Tom stood out. His horsemanship was kind, always being where he had to be without running his horse with wasted movement and stressing the cattle more than necessary. Tom was always relaxed unlike some "cowboys" I have ridden with who abuse their horse as a result of their own misconceptions or incompetence.

Tom was a master to the trade and when it came time to apply the brand, there was none better. Applying the brand is a talent unto itself. Temperature is important and often two irons were rotated in the fire at the same time to keep them red to white hot. Of course, the time on the hide was critical as well. Tom was meticulous about his animals not moving unnecessarily before he applied the brand so if the animal jumped because someone rushed to do his job that someone would feel the heat of the iron in his face as a reminder to wait for his turn, and that the brand always comes first!



Flat Earthers Exit and Walk Among Us!

Surveys show that about 2% to 10% of Americans believe the Earth is flat, depending on how the question is asked. A detailed YouGov study found that 2% of people firmly say the Earth is flat, while broader polling by other groups indicates up to 11% say the Earth might be flat or express open doubt. You can watch Flat Earthers argue with scientists online. It's very funny

Flat earthers are people who claim that the Earth is a flat disc rather than a round sphere. This idea goes against all proven science, space photos, and basic physics. Groups like the Flat Earth Society keep this belief alive using the internet.

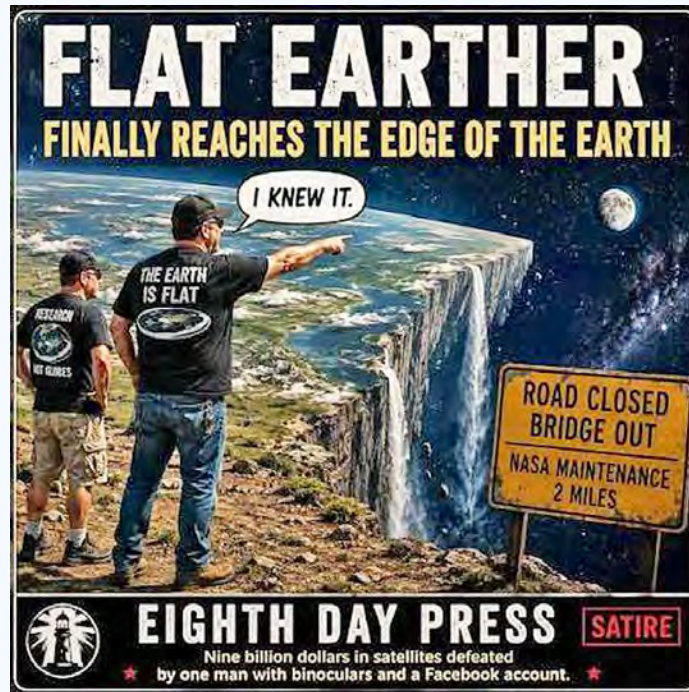
What Flat Earthers Believe

- The Earth is a flat shape with the North Pole in the middle.
- A huge wall of ice, known as Antarctica, sits at the outer edge to hold the oceans in.
- Gravity is not real, and the flat disc just moves upward all the time.
- The sun and moon are small, close, and move in circles above us.

Why They Believe It

- They do not trust governments, space agencies like NASA, or mainstream science.

- They rely only on what they see right in front of them without testing wider geometry.
- Many mix literal readings of old religious texts with conspiracy theories.



[Agricultural Commissioner releases 2025 Napa County Agricultural Crop Report](#)

The gross value of all agricultural production in Napa County in 2025 was \$974,204,600 – a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. The total value of the 2025 winegrape crop was \$968,687,700, down 6 percent or \$62,342,600 from the previous year. Total winegrape production decreased by approximately 2,375 tons or 1.6 percent from 2024. The total winegrape tonnage for the 2025 crop (144,807 tons from 42,937 bearing acres) was 0.4 percent lower than the previous 10-year average of 145,354 tons, and the total winegrape value was 43.4 percent higher than the previous 10-year average. The average price paid per ton for all winegrapes was \$6,690, a 4.5 percent decrease from 2024.

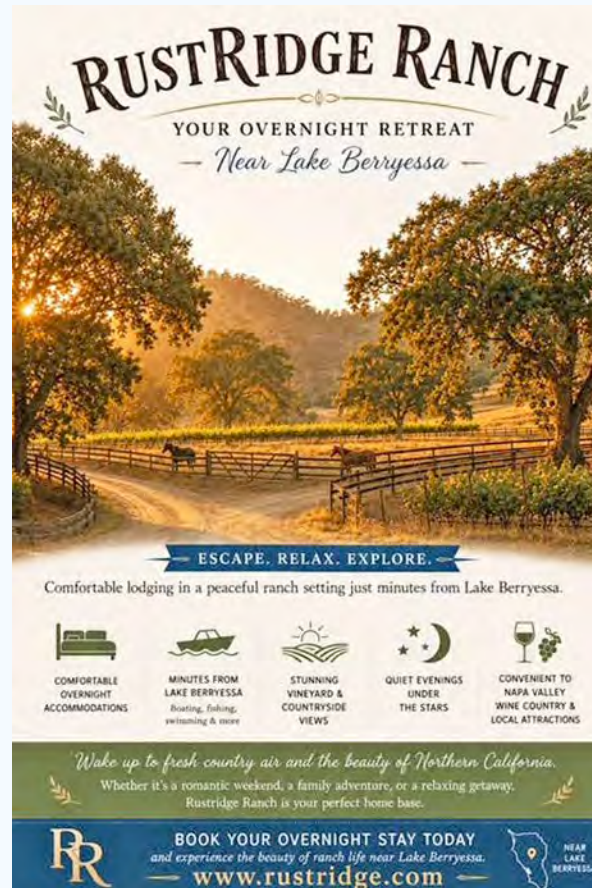
Value of other crops and livestock

Olive production faced a downturn with a final harvest of 112 tons valued at \$373,200 resulting in a decrease in value of \$11,800 from the previous year. Total livestock was valued at \$3,943,000 in 2025, an increase of \$1,681,500 from 2024. Poultry and other animal products were valued at \$697,000, an increase of \$325,000 from 2024. Field crops totaled \$309,000 in value in 2025. Vegetable crops were valued at \$532,300, which was

\$113,900 lower than in 2024. Floral and nursery production area totaled 138,165 sq. ft. representing a decrease of approximately 49.5 percent, while the overall reported dollar value increased by \$30,700 to \$126,400 in 2025.

Pest exclusion and pest detection activities

County staff completed serving to 49,068 pest detection traps in 2025, looking for pests that could harm the county's agriculture and natural ecosystems. The team continued to survey for all life stages of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) this year. 2,770 plant shipments and other host material were inspected for GWSS and other invasive pests in 2025.



Increase in 2026 Napa County Assessment Rates Is Not Good News For Property Owners Who Pay Property Taxes!

Napa County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk John Tuteur has delivered to the Napa County Auditor-Controller the 2026-27 assessment roll totaling \$59.3 billion based on the value of all local property as of January 1, 2026.

Venal: Word of the Year

The word venal means open to bribery, corrupt, or willing to trade dishonesty for money. A venal person sells their influence or breaks rules for cash, bitcoin, or political leverage.

Common Uses and Examples:

Venial leader: A boss or politician who takes cash to break rules.

Venial choice: An action done only to get paid off.

Example sentence:

The reporter exposed the venial politician who took cash to change his vote.

Similar Words: Corrupt, Bribable, Mercenary, Dishonest



Lincoln's statue loomed ahead - calm, stoic, the old man watching over the mess his city had become.





Five resorts are open.

Spanish Flat Campground: <https://campspanishflat.com/>

Steele Canyon Campground: <https://campsteelecanyon.com/>

Pleasure Cove Marina: <https://goberryessa.com/>

Markley Cove Resort: <https://markleycove.com/>

Putah Canyon Campground: <https://royalelkparkmanagement.com/putah-canyon>



Available at Turtle Rock Cafe



A LAKE BERRYESSA EXCLUSIVE: THE COWBOY CABERNET HAS ARRIVED!



We are thrilled to announce that Stephen and Leanne Troy's highly anticipated Cowboy Cabernet Sauvignon, crafted right here on the shores of Lake Berryessa, is now **officially available** for your enjoyment!

The passion and artistry described in their *'Maharajah Sleep Here?'* travelogue (seen below) have culminated in this superb vintage. This isn't just a wine; it's a taste of the Lake Berryessa lifestyle.

Visit us at Turtle Rock Cafe today to grab your your bottle of this local treasure, perfect for a picnic by the water or a relaxing evening under the stars. Don't miss out on this limited release!



PICK UP YOUR BOTTLE AT
TURTLE ROCK CAFE TODAY!
For more info, visit:
www.troyfamilyvineyard.com,
www.turtlerockcafe.com

Available at Amazon in
paperback and audiobook.



& GET THE STORY BEHIND THE WINE.
Visit www.troyfamilycafeandgrill.com
for more info. Scan for Amazon.



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

The Perfect Blend of Seclusion, Scenery, and Napa Valley Charm

\$1,099,000

<http://www.3955ehwy128.com/>



With privacy, usable land, and a picturesque setting just minutes from Lake Hennessey, Lake Berryessa, Turtle Rock Bar & Cafe, and Napa Valley wineries, a rare opportunity to own a truly special slice of wine country living.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Refined Country Living Meets Resort-Style Luxury

1610 Capell Valley Road

\$1,149,000

<https://1610capellvalley.com/>



Tucked into the scenic hills of Napa's coveted Capell Valley, this single-level retreat offers the ultimate blend of privacy, comfort, and seamless indoor-outdoor, resort-style living on approximately one acre.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

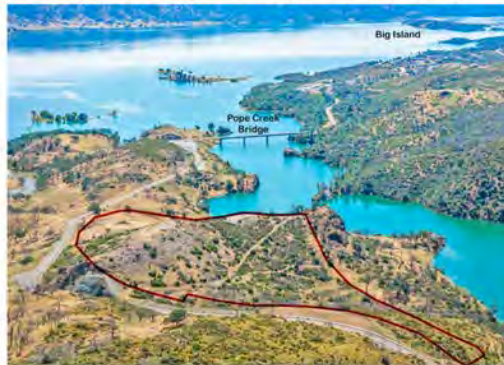
This might be the greatest Lake Berryessa View!

Pope Canyon Road

\$499,000

<https://popecanyonroad.com/>

Imagine standing in your future kitchen watching the sunrise across Lake Berryessa filling your entire field of vision. Wall-to-wall water. Ridge lines fading into the horizon. Endless sky.



Set on approximately 18.5 acres, this extraordinary property offers buildable sites positioned to capture the jaw-dropping panoramic lake views.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Tucked into the hills above Lake Berryessa

1001 Eastridge Drive

\$399,000

<https://www.1001eastridgedr.com/>

This charming bungalow is all about character and connection to the outdoors. From the moment you walk in, you're welcomed by vaulted ceilings, rich wood accents, lots of natural light and a wood stove -the kind of space that instantly feels like home.



Whether it's morning coffee, sunset dinners, or weekend gatherings, this is where memories are made. This property offers a rare blend of privacy, charm, and lifestyle in the Lake Berryessa area. Ideal as a full-time residence, weekend escape, or investment opportunity.

Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Redevelopment Opportunity | Spanish Flat – Lake Berryessa
<https://spanishflatctr.com/>

Unlock the visionary potential of Spanish Flat—an exciting and strategic redevelopment opportunity in Napa County's scenic Lake Berryessa corridor. This rare offering spans approximately 18.38 acres across two adjacent parcels with a County zoning overlay to allow for commercial and housing uses, including an affordable aspect. Whether you're a developer, investor, or planner with a creative vision, this property is primed for transformation.

\$779,000



Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Stop Planning. Start Pouring!
 Turnkey restaurant and bar opportunity in a prime location
\$495,000
<https://4310berryessa.com/>



**This fully equipped commercial property is ready for operation!
 In Spanish Flat Center near Lake Berryessa.
 No build-out, No permits, No waiting.
 The commercial kitchen includes many new pieces of equipment.**

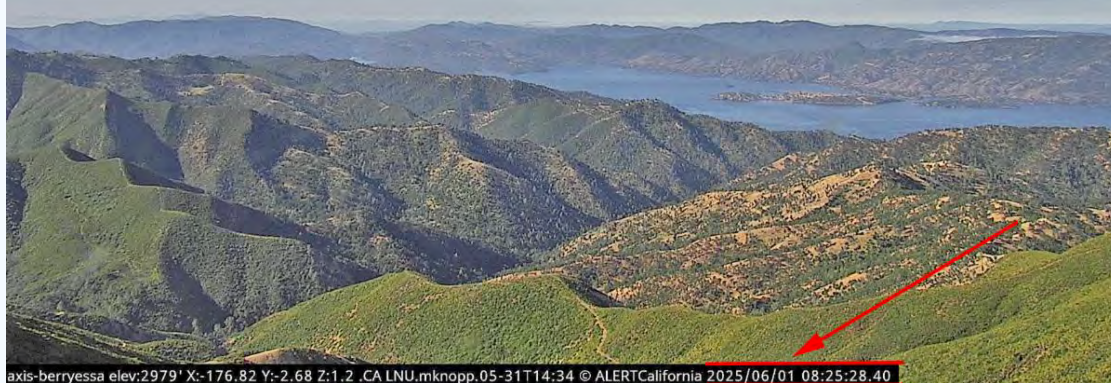
Amber Payne, Realtor, Lic. #01302244
 707-235-1124
amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Lake Berryessa Fire Watch Cameras

This site covers the whole Lake Berryessa Region.

<http://www.rntl.net/lake-berryessa-cams/>

Berryessa Peak Fire Lookout 6/1/25



axis-berryessa elev:2979' X:-176.82 Y:-2.68 Z:1.2 .CA LNU.mknopp.05-31T14:34 © ALERTCalifornia 2025/06/01 08:25:28.40



Steele Canyon Campground Inc.

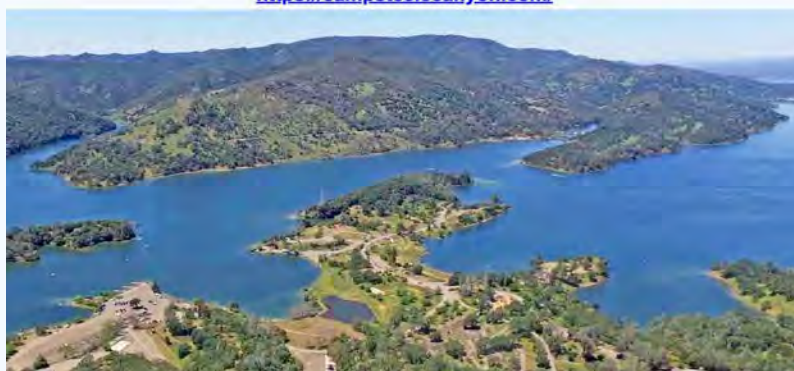
1605 Steele Canyon Rd, Napa, CA 94558

Office: (707) 966-9410

Camp, Boat, Picnic, Hike or Bike...

Enjoy the great outdoors and beauty of Lake Berryessa.

<https://campsteelecanyon.com/>



Lake Berryessa Boat & Jet Ski Rentals

Wakeboard/Ski Boats, Pontoon Boats

Jet Skis, Fishing Boats, Kayaks & Paddleboards

We include the gas in all our rentals. Which will save you \$\$!

All boats are launched from Spanish Flat.



4420 Knoxville Rd. (.9 mile north of Spanish Flat Campground)
707-966-4204 or 707-966-4205 www.lakeberryessaboats.com
Call or go online to book now



707-966-9954
4420 KNOXVILLE RD. NAPA, CA 94558
WWW.BERRYESSABOATREPAIR.COM
LAKEBERRYESSABOATREPAIR@GMAIL.COM

SERVICE, PARTS, & SALES



MERCURY

Authorized Dealer
Service, Parts & Accessories



TOHATSU



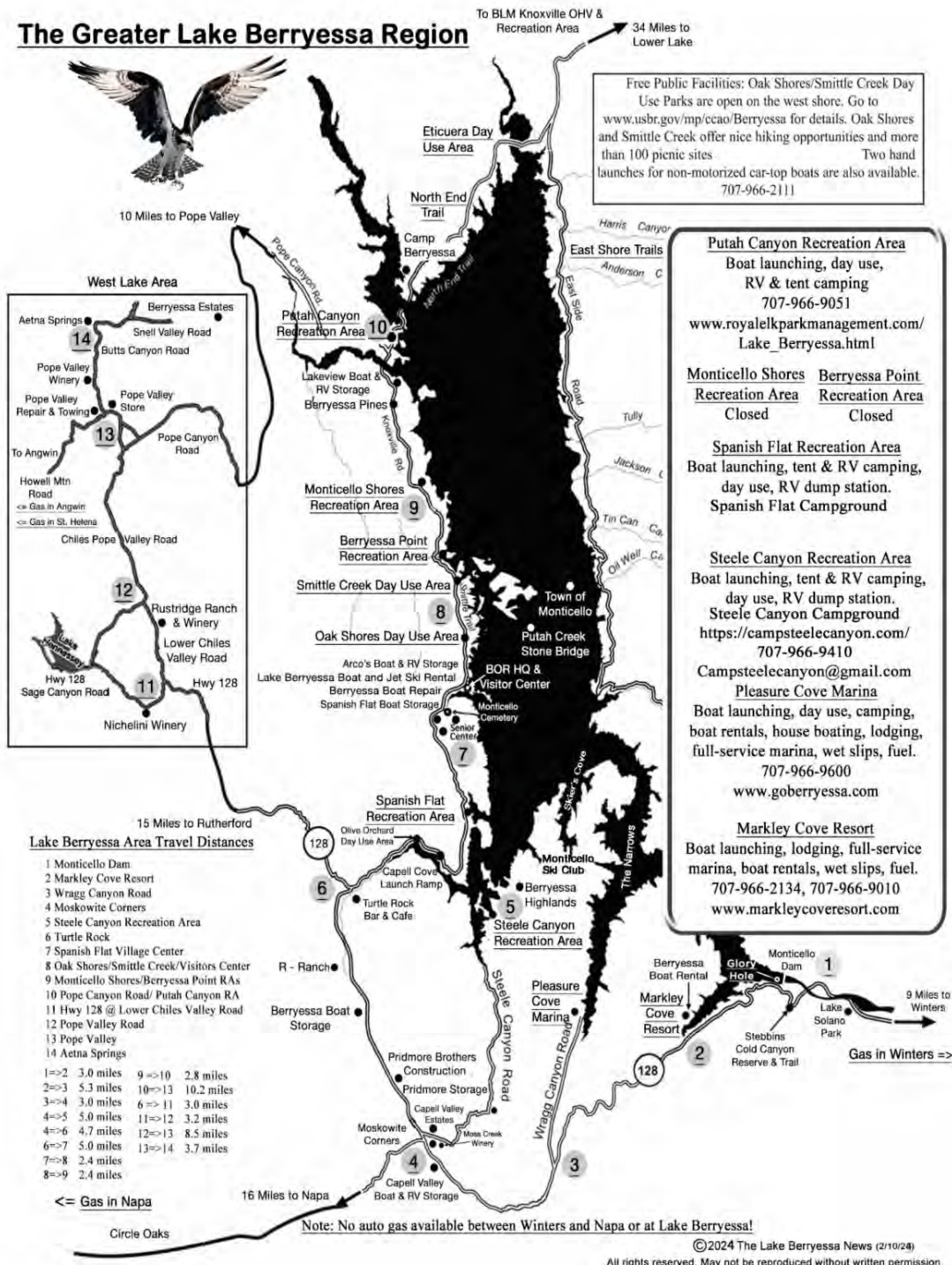
MERCURY

MerCruiser

**WE WORK ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS OF ENGINES, BOATS, AND JET SKIS.
WE SELL MERCURY, MERCRUISER, VOLVO-PENTA, AND TOHATSU ENGINES**
707-966-9954
FOR STORAGE, DETAIL, & CONSIGNMENT
707-480-3187

Updated Lake Berryessa Map (1/28/24)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



Peter Kilkus | 1515 Headlands Drive, Napa, CA 94558 | 415-307-6906 |

pkilkus@gmail.com | <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>





Try email marketing for free today!