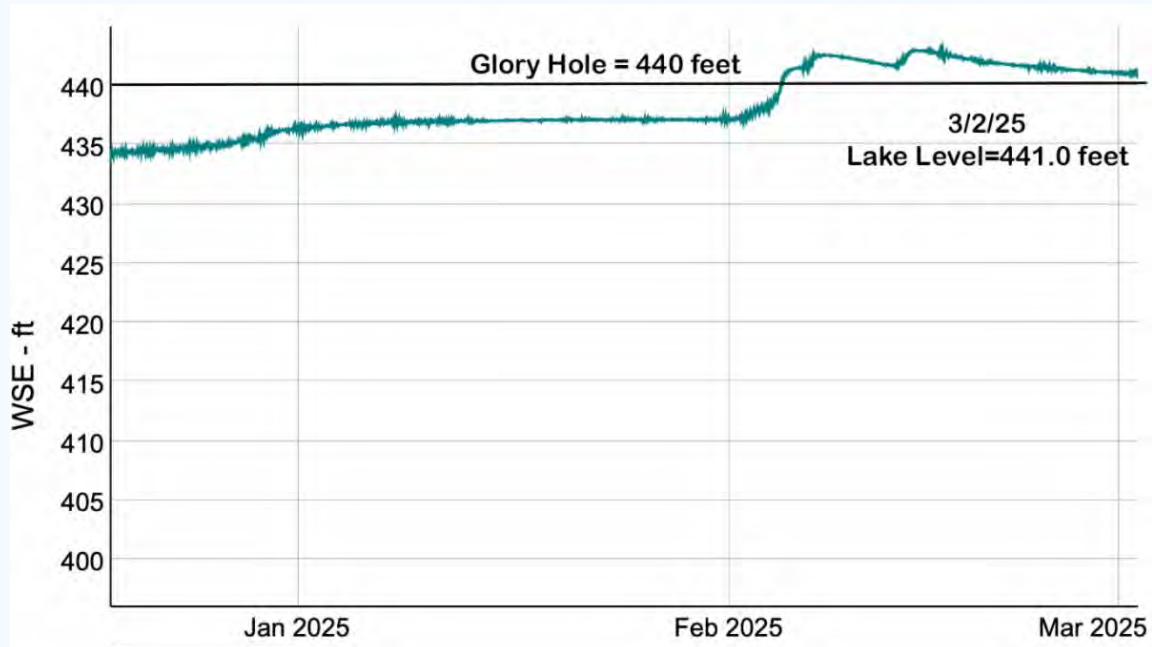


Lake Berryessa News - March 2 2025

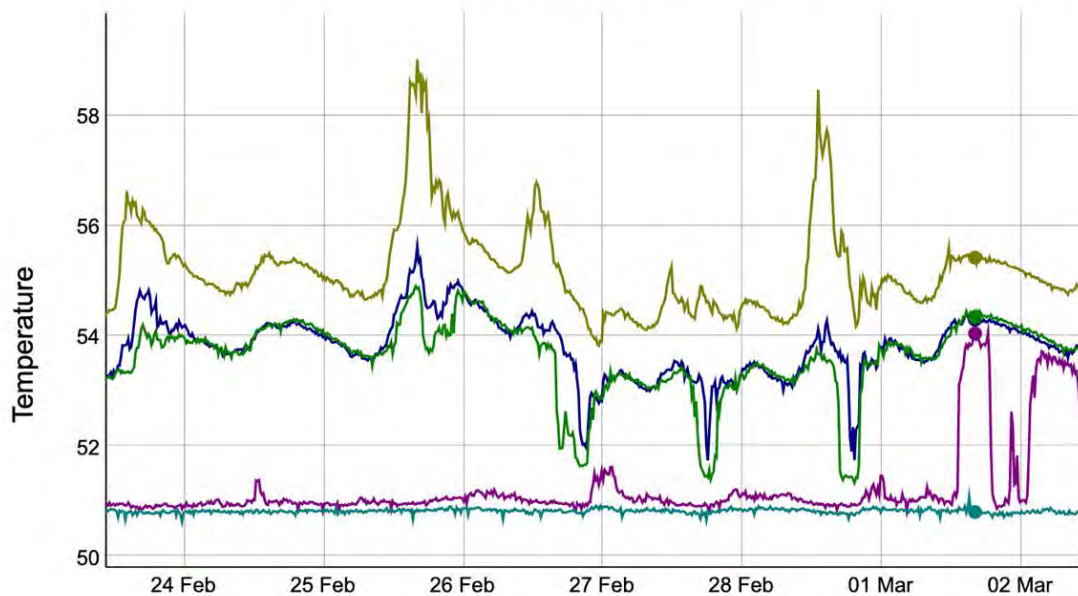
Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/2/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is continuing to drop slowly. It is now at 441.01 feet, 1.0 feet above Glory Hole. Rainfall remains at 20.14 inches at Monticello Dam. Capacity is 101.2%.



Lake Berryessa - Temperature

2025/03/01 16:15: 1Temp01: 55.4 1Temp05: 54.3 1Temp10: 54.3 1Temp40: 54
1Temp70: 50.8



On February 19 the main dam output dropped from 1,310 cfs to 370 cfs. The water is now draining from the main output pipe below the surface of Putah Creek as it usually does.



The Reel Life: Salmon, trout and bass biting at Lake Berryessa

BRENT RANDOL brentrandol@comcast.net

https://napavalleyregister.com/sports/lake-berryessa-san-joaquin-delta-ducks-unlimited-klamath-river-basin/article_17399a38-ed1c-11ef-aa6f-3f77d239b194.html

Boats have been able to access Lake Berryessa in greater numbers, either through the red tag quarantine process or decontamination. King salmon, Eagle Lake-strain trout, and bass are all possibilities, and anglers are beginning to mooch for salmon with Gitzits. The bait has been scattered, but shad-patterned spoons from the surface to 30 feet have been the best option. Covering plenty of water is a must. Bass can also be found by jigging spoons. Limits to 18 pounds are possible.

All boats need to be decontaminated prior to launching. Currently the cost is free. Another option is to receive a red quarantine seal, requiring a wait for 30 days prior to launching at

either Sweeney's Sports in Napa or Gone Fishin' Marine in Dixon. Upon launching, all boats are issued a green seal attached by authorized staff.

Green decontamination tags are available at both the Markley Cove and Steele Canyon launch ramps. Hand-launched watercraft with electric motors, such as fishing kayaks, also require an inspection prior to launch. Non-motorized watercraft like kayaks and paddleboards are not subject to inspection, but owners are encouraged to take advantage of a free inspection at any watercraft inspection station.

There are several bass tournaments scheduled throughout the year. However, due to the additional requirements for boaters, many of the tournament dates may be relocated to other bodies of water.

Trout rearing at Lake Berryessa

Big Nate's Guide Service teamed up with a group of volunteers and the California Inland Fisheries Foundation to transfer Eagle Lake-strain trout to their brand new pens at Lake Berryessa.

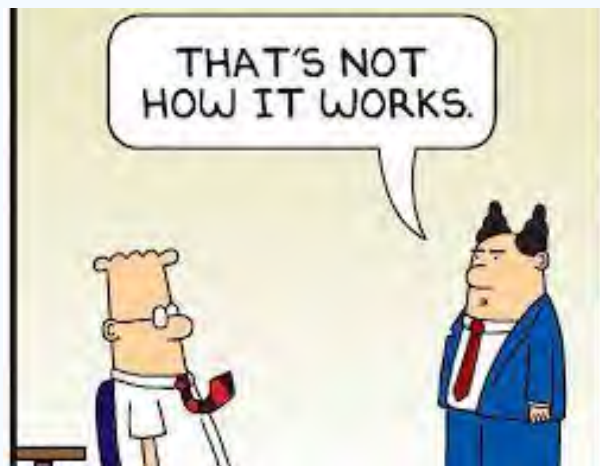
These fish will now acclimate in their new environment, be fed daily by Markley Cove staff, and well forage naturally before the pens are pulled out to the main lake sometime in May for release. The trout are already good-sized fish, and they will grow exponentially over the next three months. This will bolster the already excellent fishery and provide great fights, and table fare for anglers.



Some of you will recognize this flag on the way into the Narrows from the lake.



Sunday Funnies: A Philosophical Dilbertian View.



Optimistic Nihilism

In philosophy, nihilism is any viewpoint that rejects generally accepted or fundamental aspects of human existence, namely knowledge, morality, or meaning. Optimistic nihilism is a philosophy that life is meaningless, but that people can still find joy and purpose. It's also known as Existential Nihilism. Optimistic nihilism is based on the idea of "The Absurd", which was described by Camus in his essay The Myth of Sisyphus.

Key ideas

- There is no objective truth, morality, or inherent value.
- People create their own meaning and purpose in life.
- People can find happiness in the present moment and simple pleasures.
- People can embrace the feeling of surrender.
- People can be grateful for things they can't control.

Benefits

- It can help people change their experience from negative to positive.
- It can be comforting for people who feel like failures or underachievers.
- It can help people find solace in the present moment.

Drawbacks

It can lead to a life without purpose or goals.

Some say that the word "nihilism" carries a bleak outlook on life, and that optimistic nihilists are really absurdist.



March 2025 Horoscopes

Aries (3/21-4/19): Everything you read online today may turn out to be a complete sham, or alternatively contain very inciteful tidbits detailing the most intimate details of your unconscious self.

Taurus (4/20 – 5/20): It is none of your business what aliens think or what their religion is.

Gemini (5/21 – 6/21): The night may feel like a safe time to parade naked through the local city streets, however, you may find there are some that oppose your freedom.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Correlating facts is an awesome responsibility. Are you sure you're up to it?

Leo (7/23-8/22): Everything you are thinking about will end up getting lost in some sort of fuzzy logic.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Many things that people say over the coming days will appear nonsensical, but may start to make sense towards the end of the week.

Libra (9/23-10/22): Scroll further down any web pages you access today, just in case there

are hidden clauses you aren't aware of.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21): 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.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21): Many of your feelings can be expressed in the form of haikus. However, you'll be lucky if you can find anyone who gives a flying hoot, or who actually finds them impressive in any way.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19): Telephone salesmen may come through for you this week and finally offer you something useful and at a decent price.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18): When you steal copyrighted material, make sure you do it in a comical fashion. That way you can claim "fair use" and hold up court proceedings...at least until they find you guilty of stealing copyrighted material.

Pisces (2/19-3/20): All your problems cannot be solved by putting them in one basket full of eggs.

Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty
1104 Steele Canyon Rd.
\$579,000
<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>
<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TluE>



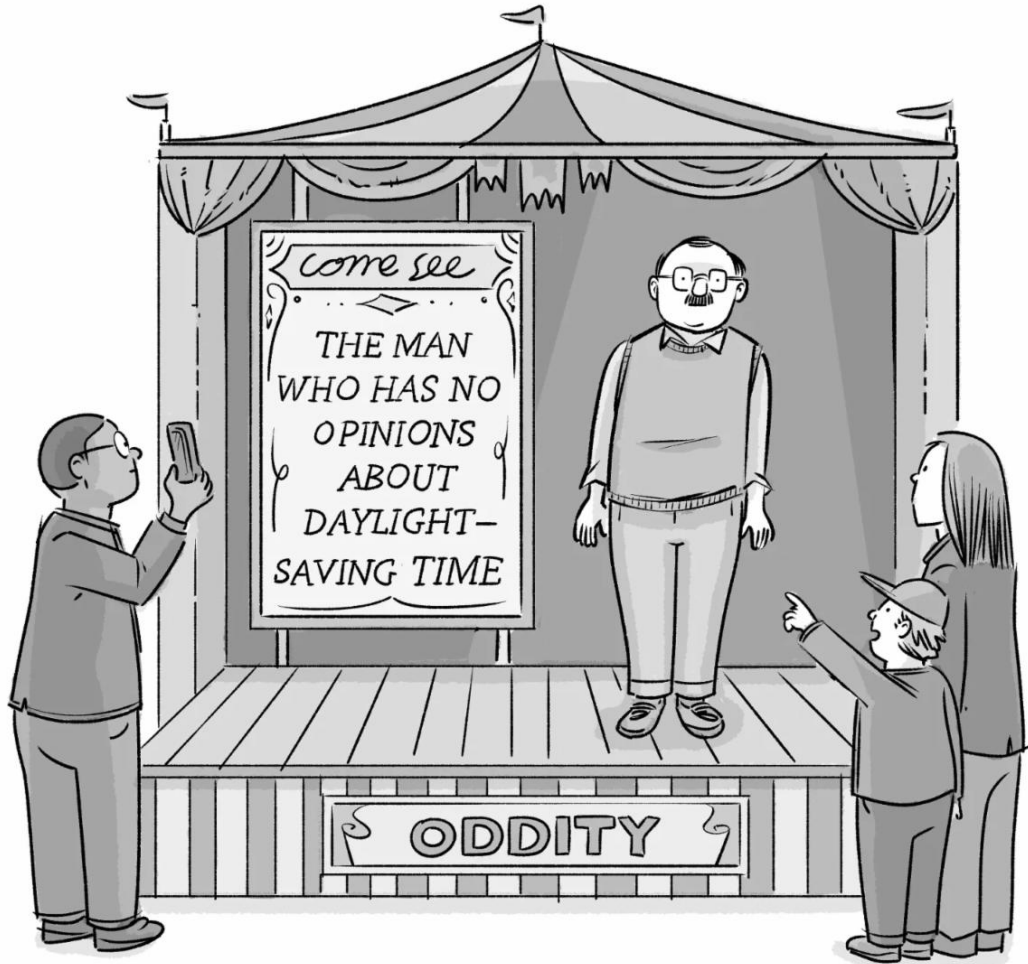
Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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amber.payne@corcoranicon.com
www.amberpayne.net

Happy Daylight Saving Time Day!

The latest surveys show that 54% of Americans want to abolish Daylight Saving Time. The Lake Berryessa News agrees!



Conversation starter at a party: Daylight Savings Time is a misspelling but more common than the correct term. Setting our clocks one hour forward in the spring is often referred to as "Daylight Savings Time," even though "Daylight Saving Time" is the correct spelling. The poor little moon below is wrong!



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/9/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level is continuing to drop slowly. It is now at 440.6 feet, 7 inches above Glory Hole. The level is being controlled by the output of the dam which has dropped to 370 cfs for the last two weeks from its high of 1,310 cfs on 2/18/25. The dam operators appear to be conserving water in the lake for future use.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

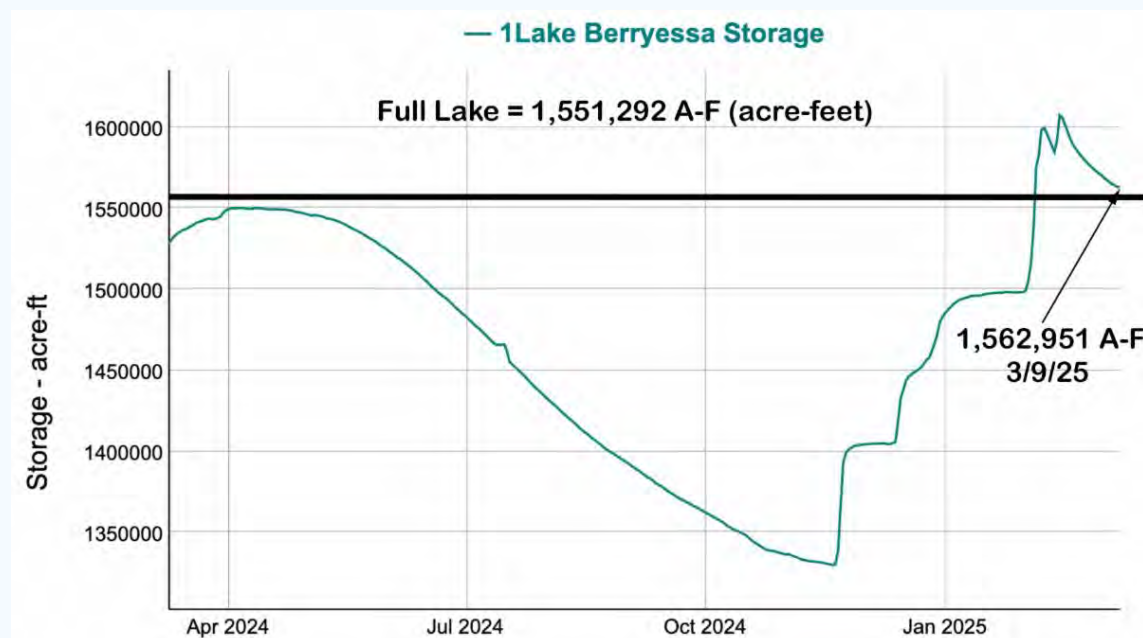
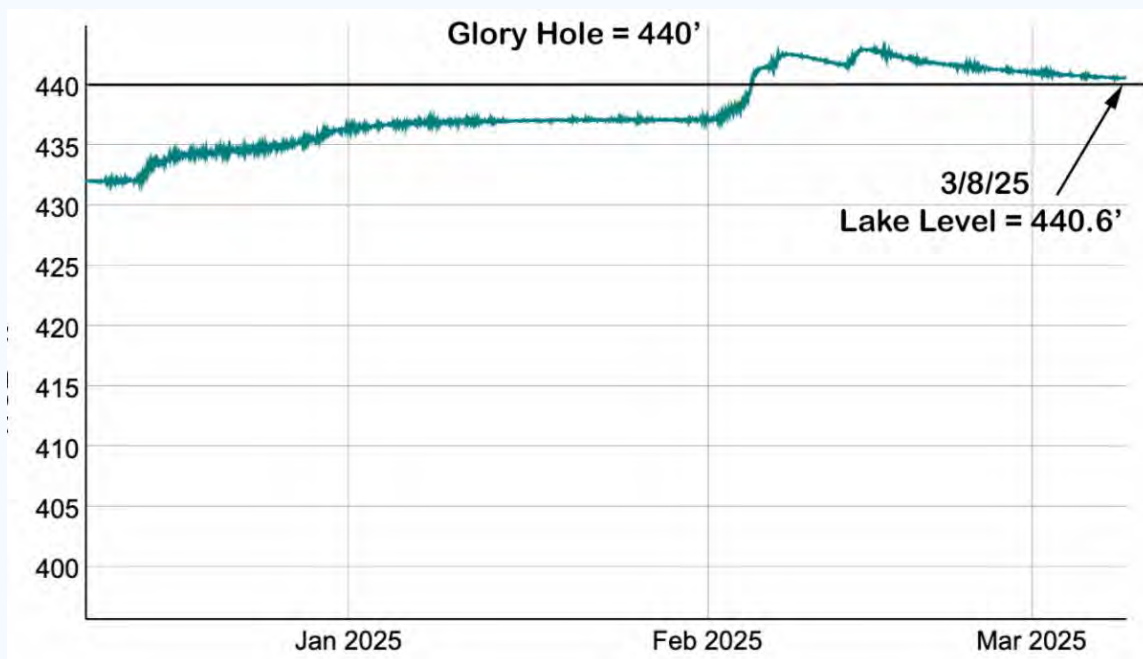
Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 33.

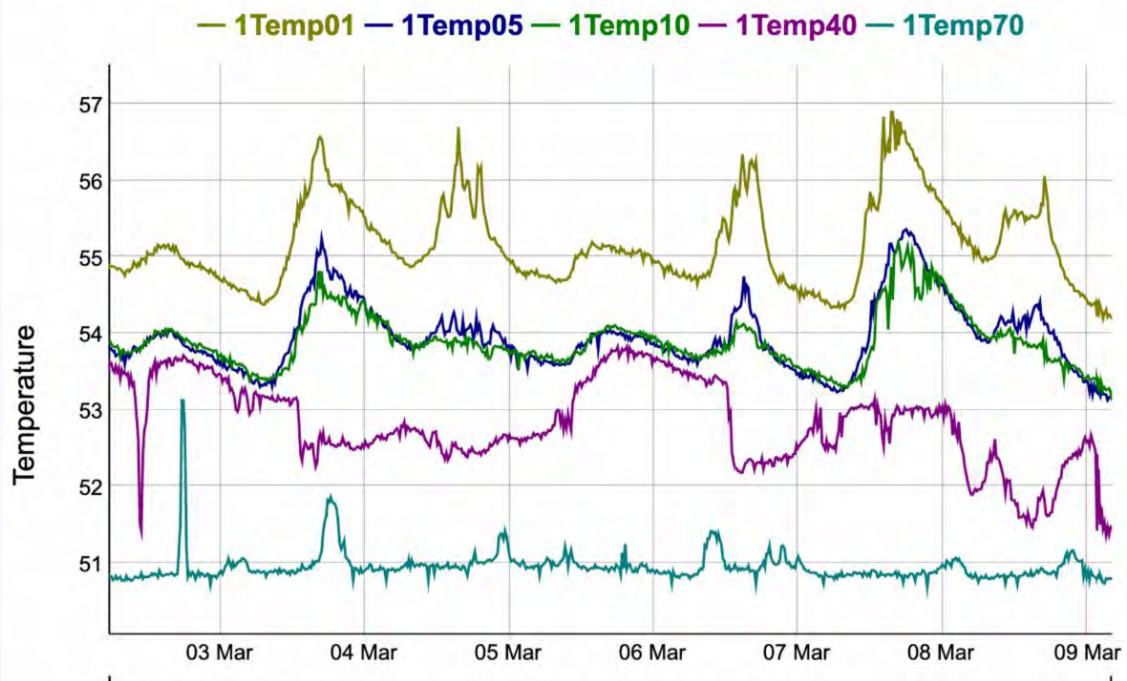
Rainfall remains at 20.14 inches at Monticello Dam. Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 442 cfs and dropping about 50 cfs per day. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future lake level.

Lake capacity is at 1,562,951 A-F or 101.7%.

Lake temperatures show the lake is still very cold but starting to mix.



Lake Berryessa - Temperature



Acres of Usable Land with Two Homes at Lake Berryessa

1061 Steele Canyon Road

<http://www.steele canyonroad.com/>

\$1,395,000



Main House: 4BR | 2.5BA *** Guest House: 2BR | 2BA**

Beautifully updated with an oversized 2-car garage

Detached 1,200 sq. ft. Shop with 3 roll-top doors – perfect for hobbies or projects

Additional Features: Separate Office space, fully fenced, water storage tank, goat barn/chicken coop, greenhouse, olive trees, and filtered lake views.

5 minutes from Steele Canyon Recreation Area



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Bad signatures, Notaries, and Presidents

A "bad signature" in the context of a notary means a signature that is illegible, inconsistent with the signer's usual signature, or appears to be forged, which can lead to a notary potentially invalidating the document if they suspect the signature is not authentic and fail to properly verify the signer's identity, potentially causing legal issues for both the signer and the notary. A notary's primary role is to verify the identity of the person signing a document and ensure the signature is genuine.

I have a notary friend who had a young couple in to sign some important papers. The young lady simply scrawled a line at the bottom of the form. My notary friend had to explain to the signer why her signature had to be legible to be official. What a concept!

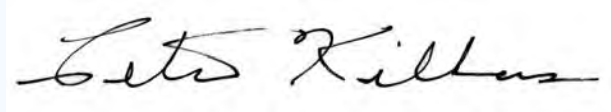
Common issues with signatures

Illegible handwriting: Signatures that are too messy or unclear to identify.

Significant variations: A signature that looks significantly different from the signer's usual signature on other documents.

Potential forgery: A signature that appears to be copied or fabricated.

Since cursive handwriting has been falling out of favor for many years, it's not surprising that some people simply don't know how to write and may not even have a legible signature or are simply lazy. To me a sloppy signature is a sign of disrespect. Signing your name to most people is a minor ritual. But I've noticed one person to whom the process of signing his name appears to be an odd obsession. Can you guess whose signature this is?

A cursive signature that reads "Let's Killas". The handwriting is somewhat messy and informal, with a mix of capital and lowercase letters.

Ooops, I meant this one.

A highly stylized, jagged signature, likely Donald Trump's. It consists of many sharp, vertical strokes and loops, making it difficult to read at a glance.

This is Donald Trump's official signature. A recent article in Quartz, a business magazine, described Trump's signing process in "Trump takes a tediously long time to sign his name".

<https://qz.com/891546/donald-trump-official-signature-trump-takes-a-tediously-long-time-to-sign-his-name>

"Per tradition, President Donald Trump signed his first executive orders shortly after being sworn in to office yesterday. Surrounded by his family and members of Congress, the world witnessed how long it takes Trump to write down the 11 letters in his first and last name.

His official signature—a jagged, loop-less scrawl reminiscent of a seismometer reading from a catastrophic earthquake—took about six to seven seconds and over 30 strokes to complete. In comparison, his predecessors including left-handed Barack Obama took a second or two to scribble their executive marks."

I It is interesting to see and compare the signatures of all the former U.S. presidents. Can you read them all?



Handwriting analysis, also known as graphology, is the study of how a person's handwriting relates to their personality. Graphologists believe that handwriting can reveal a person's psychological profile, including their personality style, intelligence, and cognitive thinking style. However, recent studies have found that handwriting analysis is not a valid way to predict personality traits or job performance. Handwriting analysis lacks empirical evidence, consistency, and reliability, and it is not considered a scientifically valid method for assessing personality traits or making accurate predictions about an individual. But it's amusing to speculate.

March 2025 Headlines

Forgetful Man Playing Fast And Loose With Free Trials

Town With Heavyside Mule Stuck In Barn Door Plumb Out Of Ideas

DoorDash Order Arrives In Humiliatingly Large Bag

Passengers Rush To Arriving Train's Doors Like Rat Babies Nursing At Mother's Teats

'Maybe Hot Dog Will Make Wife Feel Better,' Thinks Husband No Closer To Fixing Things

Shh, Boyfriend Doesn't Want To Talk During Part Where They Are blowing Up Pentagon

Horried Woman Swears Off Ambien After Seeing Number Of Library Books She Reserved Last Night


Numerous Teams Express Interest In Aaron Rodgers Playing Elsewhere

Canada To Rename The Great Lakes As Lake Canada, 2 Lake 2 Canada, Lake Canada:
Snow Drift, Lake And Canada, Lake 5

DOGE To Replace NOAA Weather Prediction Supercomputer With Old Man With Arthritic
Knee

DOGE: Cancelling Elections Could Save \$16 Billion Annually

Embrace a Lifestyle of Relaxation and Beauty
1104 Steele Canyon Rd.
\$579,000
<https://www.1104steelecanyonrd.com/>
<https://youtu.be/dmVbvT32vN8?si=HvrsbkFprhy4TluE>



Adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bath chalet-style home with breathtaking lake views nestled in a lush, garden paradise in Lake Berryessa's Berryessa Highlands combines natural beauty with modern comfort. Enjoy a landscaped oasis with vibrant greenery and a variety of mature fruit trees. Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and entertainers, this gated property offers proximity to Lake Berryessa's water activities at nearby Steele Canyon Recreation Area. It can be your peaceful retreat or an entertainer's dream overlooking Lake Berryessa.



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Your Lake Berryessa dream home awaits!
1460 Steele Canyon Rd.
<https://www.1460steelecanyonrd.com/>
<https://youtu.be/RQ5rhdF243s>
\$676,000

This stunning 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home offers 1832 sq. ft. of beautifully designed living space on a sprawling .58-acre lot in the desirable Berryessa Highlands. Enjoy breathtaking lake views from the living room and the deck off the primary suite. With a three-car garage, covered RV storage, and plenty of space for all your needs, this property is perfect for entertaining, relaxing, or exploring the beauty of Lake Berryessa. Steele Canyon Recreation Area is only a few minutes downhill.



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Lake Berryessa News - March 16, 2025

Happy St.Patrick's Day (tomorrow). The hills around Lake Berryessa are so GREEN! The Lake Berryessa News publisher, Peter O'Kilkus, and Associate Editor, Evan O'Kilkus, wish you a great day.

"Go n-éirí an bóthar leat" is a Gaelic expression meaning "may your journey be successful." or "May the Road rise up to meet you."



Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/16/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has stopped dropping due to the latest light rains. It is now at 440.6 feet, 7 inches above Glory Hole. The level is being controlled by the output of the dam which has dropped to 370 cfs for the last two weeks from its high of 1,310 cfs on 2/18/25.

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 40.

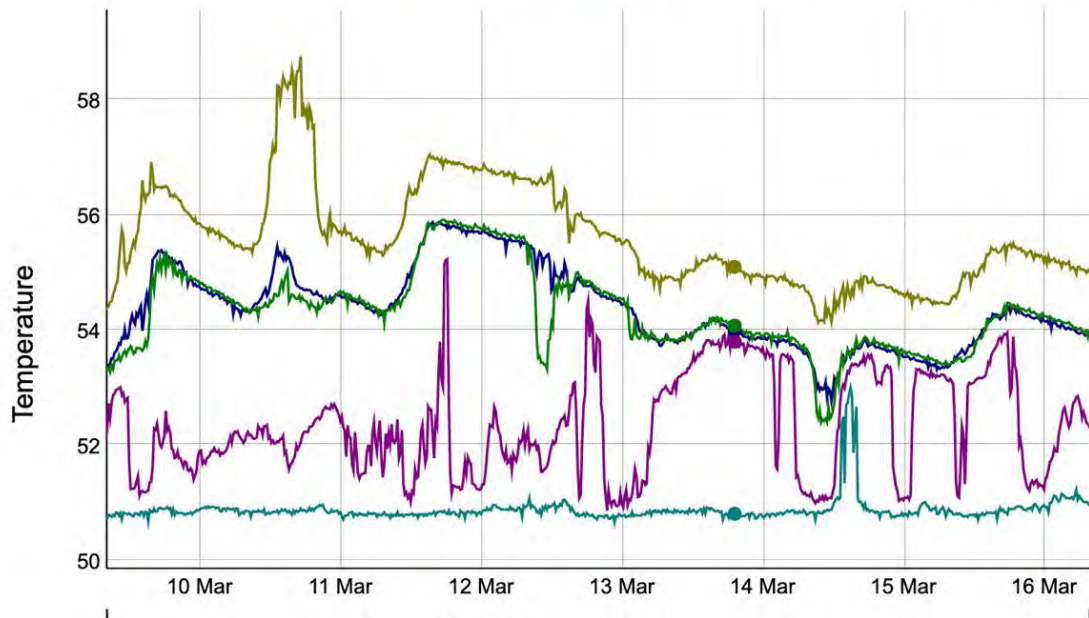
Rainfall is at 21.6 inches at Monticello Dam - about average for the year. Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future lake level.

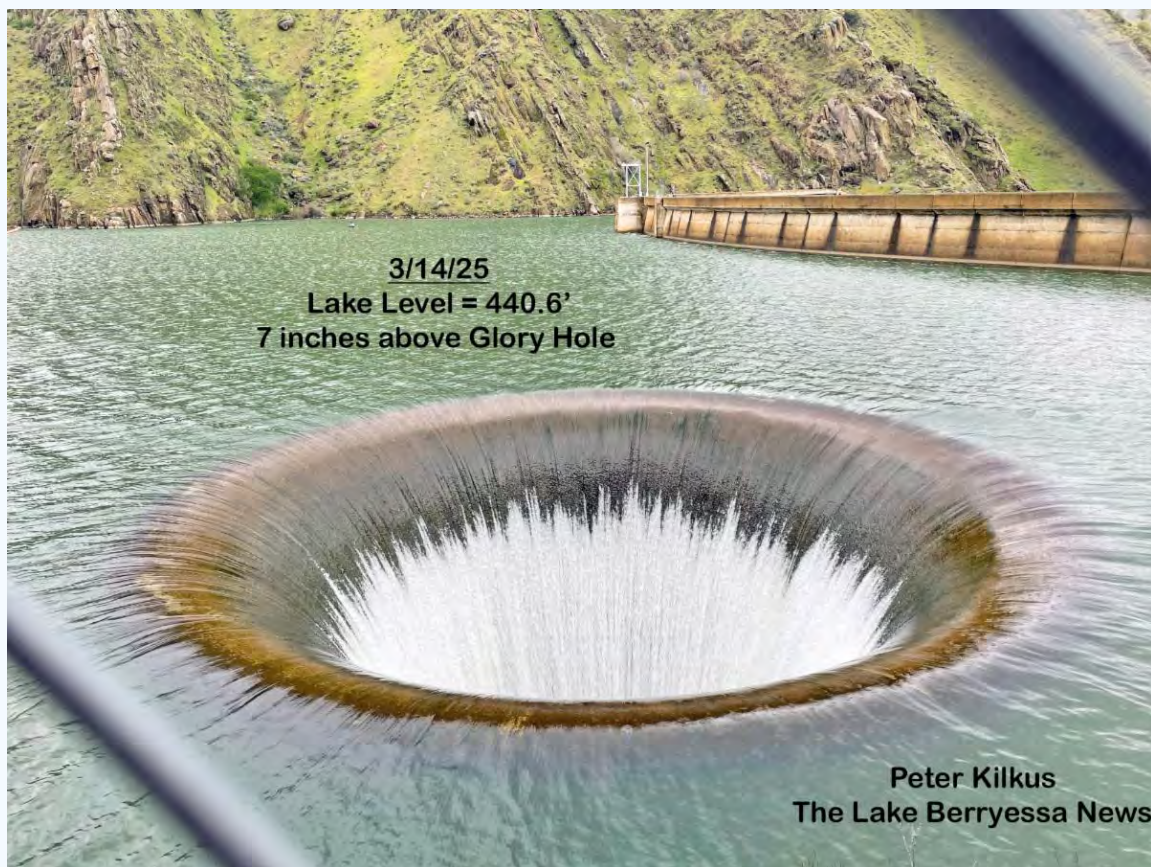
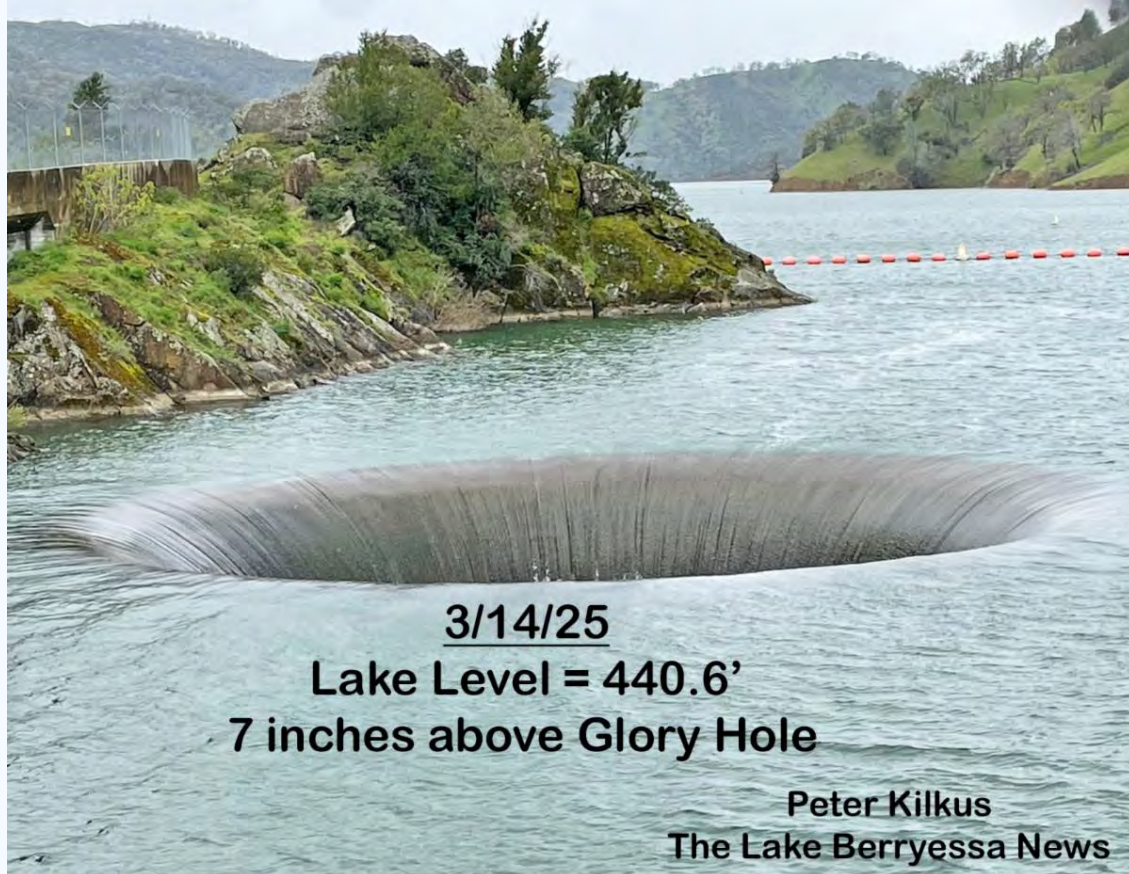
Lake capacity is at 1,562,951 A-F or 100.8%. Full Storage = 1,551,292 Acre Feet.

Lake Temperatures are slowly climbing like a monster crawling up out of the depths!

Lake Berryessa - Temperature

2025/03/13 19:15: **1Temp01**: 55.1 **1Temp05**: 54 **1Temp10**: 54.1 **1Temp40**: 53.8
1Temp70: 50.8





See Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole in photo above flowing at:

https://youtu.be/PnMDeZdoH_I

See Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole from inside with water flowing down (unknown date) at:

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BuP_NGqjqtI

Has the Fine Wine Investment Boom Gone Bust?

By Tim Carl

NAPA VALLEY FEATURES, MAR 15, 2025

See the full article at:

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/under-the-hood-wine-investment-volatility>

Wine has long been considered a relatively stable alternative investment, but recent events have shaken confidence in the sector. The fine-wine market is experiencing turbulence driven by corporate consolidations, economic instability and shifting consumer preferences.

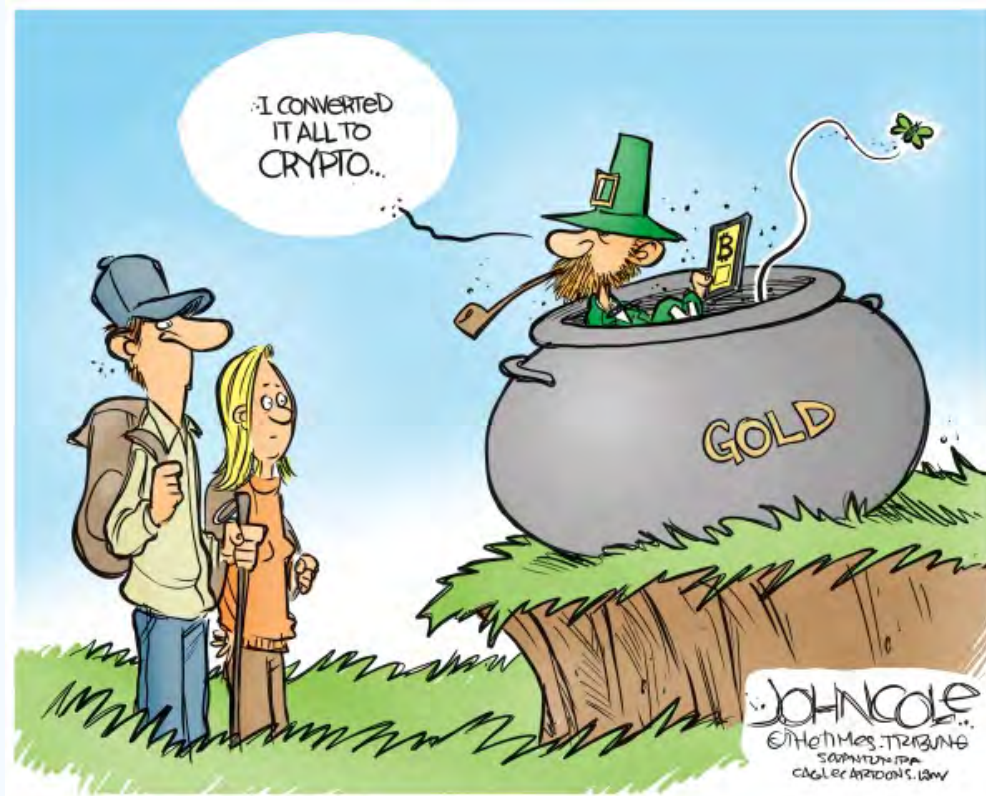
Beyond the Vine: Changing Consumer Trends

The struggles of the wine industry are not just about investment losses — they reflect deeper cultural shifts in alcohol consumption. Once a dominant force in premium wine sales, those over 55 are drinking less as they retire, while those under 55 are choosing different beverages entirely. The younger demographic is increasingly opting for low-alcohol and non-alcoholic alternatives, driven by concerns over high prices, health and wellness.

For Napa Valley, this shift is particularly concerning. Synonymous with luxury wine tourism, the region has seen multiple tasting room closures in the past year. High prices, economic pressures and shifting consumer habits are prompting questions about the long-term sustainability of Napa Valley's model, which relies heavily on high-end cabernet sauvignon to drive annual price increases.

The question remains whether premium wines will regain their allure as desirable alternative investments or if this marks a more profound shift away from fine-wine speculation. Given the current volatility, the coming months will likely continue to challenge the resilience of both wine producers and investors. As Tom Burchfield noted, "fine wine is not fungible"—unlike stocks or commodities, each bottle is unique, and its value is influenced by provenance, vintage variation and market sentiment. Moreover, wine has a finite shelf life, adding an inherent time sensitivity to investment decisions. However, unlike stocks, bonds, or even gold, wine can ultimately be enjoyed, offering a tangible return even when market conditions turn unfavorable.

(Lake Berryessa News Editor's Note: Individual ownership of each bottle of fine wine is similar to an NFT, a Non-Fungible Token, which is a unique digital asset stored on a blockchain that serves as a verifiable certificate of ownership for a digital or physical item, like artwork, music, or real estate. The blockchain record linked to an NFT provides a verifiable history and proof of authenticity, ensuring that the asset is not a duplicate or fake. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fungible_token)



The above story reminded me of an NFT April Fools Day story I wrote several years ago (see excerpt below) based on the Bitcoin craze. Believe it or not there was (and still is) a cryptocurrency named DOGEcoin created by software engineers Billy Markus and Jackson Palmer, who decided to create a payment system as a joke, making fun of the wild speculation in cryptocurrencies at the time. They launched the satirical cryptocurrency as a way to make fun of Bitcoin and the many other cryptocurrencies boasting grand plans to take over the world. Dogecoin features the face of Kabosu from the "doge" meme as its logo and namesake. The meme consists of a picture of a Shiba Inu dog, accompanied by text in the foreground. The text, representing a kind of internal monologue, is deliberately written in a form of broken English.



Fast forward to 2025. It sometimes feels as if we are living inside a Saturday Night Live sketch, where the inmates have taken over the asylum. The actors are real government officials, from the president on down, who clearly depict the sad state of the leadership of our country. And we now even have an agency named DOGE! And if it weren't so dangerous and destructive, this DOGE would actually make a good joke.

Speaking of jokes, there is also a new Trump NFT named "Official Trump":

<https://crypto.com/price/official-trump>

All it needs is a picture of Musk - oh! I missed it the first time I looked.

You'd probably be better off investing in a good bottle of wine.



BitCoin, DitzCoin, NFTs, BFDs: Crypto-Craze for Lake Berryessa Investors

The Lake Berryessa News (LBN) has entered into a partnership with the University of Lake Berryessa (ULB) to introduce series of Incredible Investment Instruments (III-pronounced aye-aye-ayes!) founded on a radical new cryptocurrency, DitzCoin, developed at ULB's Lake Berryessa campus located deep beneath Big Island.

DitzCoin (a Little Bit o' Bitcoin) refers to a new type a cryptocurrency designed by Professor Eduardo Ponzi of the Advanced Economics Department of the University of Lake Berryessa. While a bit more dodgy than "traditional" cryptos, i.e., with a lifetime of more than one year, which have exploded as investment options, DitzCoin is designed to appeal to the uber-risk takers seeking a new get rich quick (GRQ) scheme. GRQers practice an eclectic thought process once referred to as ditzy but now known to have created a class of millionaires trading financial instruments of no actual value.



HAPPY SPRING FROM THE LAKE BERRYESSA SENIOR CENTER!
WE HAVE MISSED YOU!

We just want to check in and say *Happy Spring*
and share a couple of events that are coming soon!

SATURDAY, 3/22, 9 AM

Yard clean up party! Come join us to do chores around the yard!
Blueberry pancakes, Mimosa's, and Bloody Mary's!

SATURDAY, 4/12, 5 PM

5PM-6PM SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 EASTER DINNER!

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!
Can't wait to see you all! More details to follow.

We also want to thank our valuable members.

With you and your support, LBSC can bring the community together.

You still can become a member! \$30 per person or \$50 for a twosome.

Let's make it a great 2025 at the Lake Berryessa Senior Center! ALL AGES are welcome!

Questions, suggestions or want to help out? Call or text Lisa 707 815 0330

Lake Berryessa Senior Center
4380 Spanish Flat Loop Road, Napa, CA 94558

Acres of Usable Land with Two Homes at Lake Berryessa

1061 Steele Canyon Road

<http://www.steelecanyonroad.com/>

\$1,395,000



Main House: 4BR | 2.5BA *** Guest House: 2BR | 2BA**

Beautifully updated with an oversized 2-car garage

Detached 1,200 sq. ft. Shop with 3 roll-top doors – perfect for hobbies or projects

Additional Features: Separate Office space, fully fenced, water storage tank, goat barn/chicken coop, greenhouse, olive trees, and filtered lake views.

5 minutes from Steele Canyon Recreation Area



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Cal Fire maps show increased Napa County fire hazards

Cal Fire creates its hazard maps using a computer model. The two key elements are the probability of an area burning and the expected fire behavior under extreme fuel and weather conditions. The factors considered in determining fire hazard within wildland areas is fire history, flame length, terrain, local weather and potential fuel over a 50-year period. These evaluations look at the long-term outlook. Insurance companies use fire risk models that, unlike the Cal Fire hazard maps, include fuel reduction steps. The Cal Fire maps don't reflect fuel reduction steps taken, given that vegetation grows back without maintenance. Cal Fire officials said these maps for counties across the state reflect underlying hazards, not current risks.

Local fire officials use the hazard maps to identify priority areas for fuel reduction and other steps to reduce wildfire risks. Cal Fire is placing parts of the Napa Valley floor between St. Helena and Calistoga in a very high wildfire hazard severity zone. The agency's statewide wildfire hazard maps have long shown much of the rural county as primed to burn. But the valley floor, with its vineyards, wineries and cities, has been outside the hazard zones.

Not so with an update of Cal Fire's 2008 map for the Napa County Local Responsibility Area, which the state fire protection agency released recently. The map shows areas where local governments are responsible for wildfire protection instead of the state.

The proposed update to the map depicts the Napa Valley floor and the south county, with Calistoga, St. Helena, Yountville, Napa and American Canyon in a line. It uses colors to depict degrees of wildfire hazard. Red indicates "very high" risk, orange "high" and yellow "moderate." Most of the Napa Valley floor and south county lack the hazard colors and are depicted in gray. But there are exceptions, especially Upvalley.

The 2020 Glass Fire burned across the Napa Valley floor at Dunaweal Lane, damaging such places as the now-renovated Sterling Vineyards winery. Given that and other wildfires, Napa County Fire Administrator David Shew said he isn't surprised by this Upvalley update.

"We've experienced these fires, so we knew these are the potentials for fire behavior in some of those areas," Shew said. "That isn't surprising. We've seen it." Also proposed for the red "very high hazard" zone is part of eastern Calistoga. The Upvalley "Welcome to Napa Valley" sign along Highway 29/128 between Calistoga and St. Helena is in an orange "high hazard" zone.

In the City of Napa, Alta Heights in yellow "moderate hazard" zones. Much of the city is in the gray, outside any areas with elevated hazards. The only red "very high hazard" zone in this vicinity of the Local Responsibility Area is a section of Silverado to the east of the city of Napa.

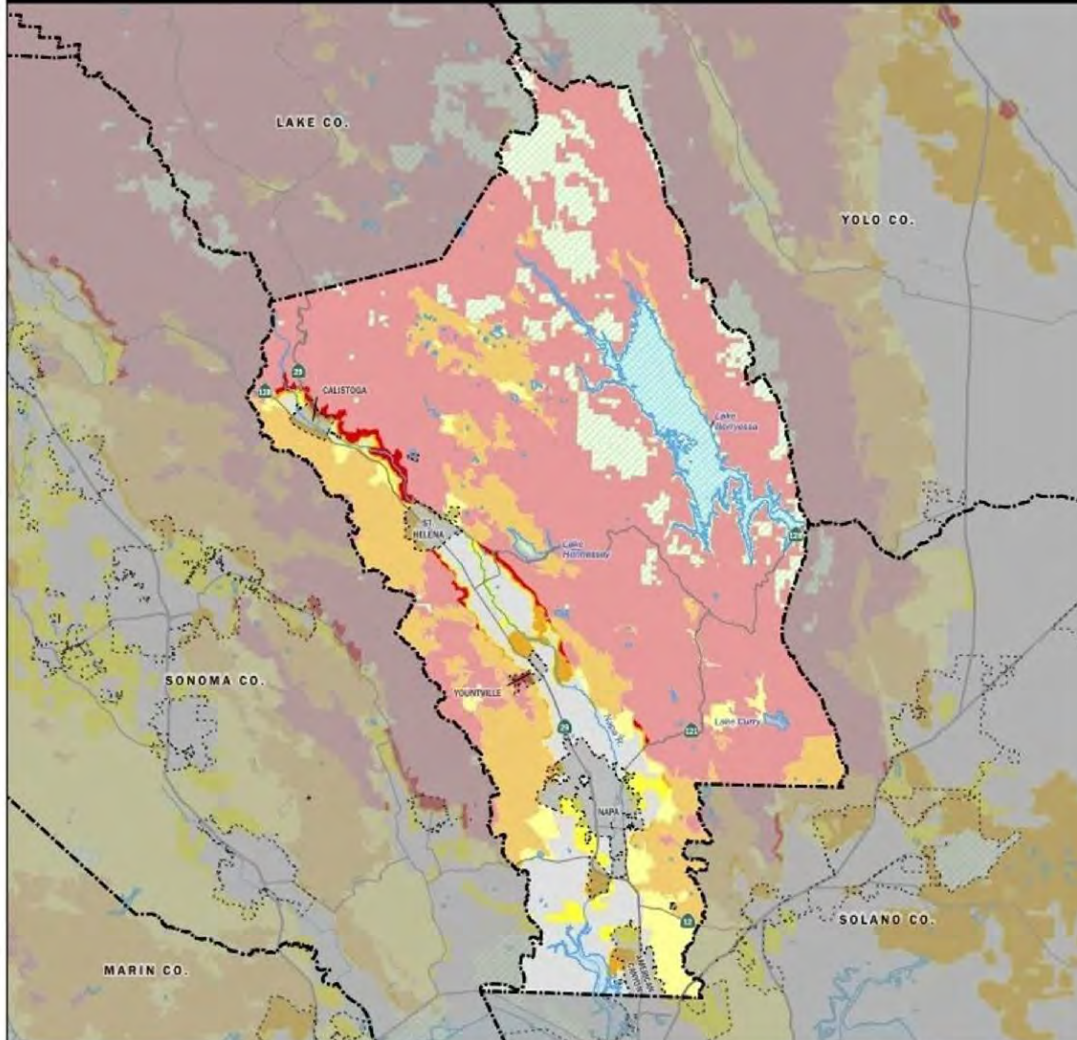
In Urban areas the model considers factors that might lead to buildings being threatened, including terrain, weather, urban vegetation cover, blowing embers, proximity to wildland, fire history, and fire hazard in nearby wildlands.



Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones

As Identified by the
State Fire Marshal

February 24, 2025



Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) In Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Very High High Moderate

Fire Hazard Severity Zones In State Responsibility Area (SRA), Effective April 1, 2024

Very High High Moderate

Mi 0 10 20
Km 0 10 20

Projection: NAD 83 California Teale Albers
Scale: 1:344,000 at 11" x 17"

Incorporated City Waterbody
Unzoned LRA Federal Responsibility Area (FRA)

Government Code section 51178 requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent

statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather,

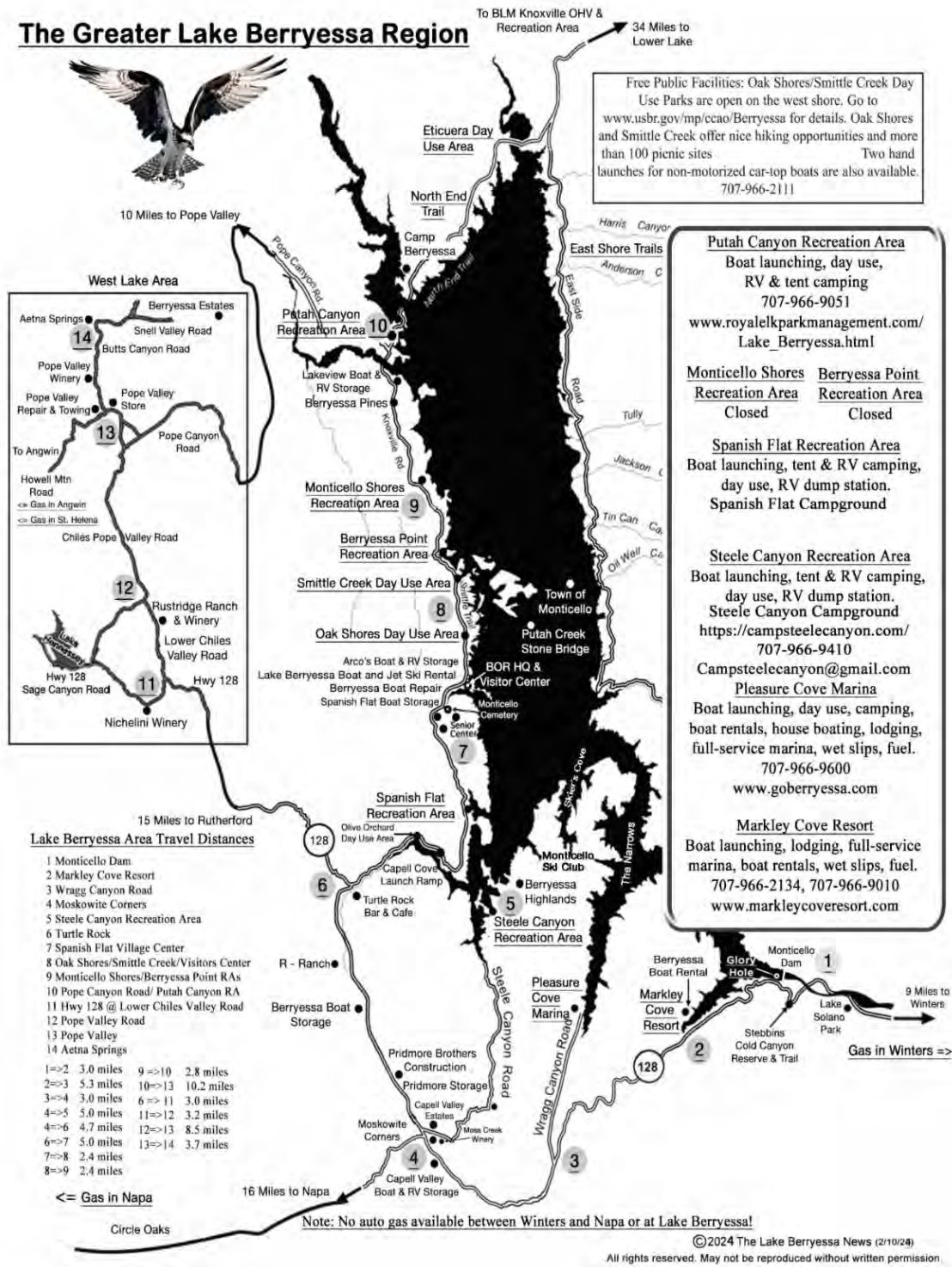
and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Garin Newsom, Governor, State of California
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, CA Natural Resources Agency
Joe Tyler, Director/Fire Chief, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Data Sources:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZSRA23_3, FHSZLRA_25_1)
CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA25_1)
City and County boundaries as of 10/22/24 (CA Board of Equalization)

The Greater Lake Berryessa Region



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Lake Berryessa News - March 23, 2025

Spring in Bloom!

Glory Hole, Wildflowers, and Rattlesnakes

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/23/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has remained stable at 441.0 feet, 1 foot above Glory Hole, for the last six days..

Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025.

Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet.

Days above Glory Hole = 47.

Rainfall is at 22.07 inches at Monticello Dam (about average). Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference in the future level of the lake.

Lake capacity is at 1,570,976 A-F or 101.27%.



Glory Hole Sprouts a Dock (or a Viewing Platform?)

When I got to Monticello Dam Wednesday for an interview with Brian Hackney of KPIX, I was surprised at how much Glory Hole had changed since my visit last week. There was an old, old dock trying to escape the recent violent storm winds at the lake by floating down Glory Hole to a safer place in Winters. The lake level was only one foot above the lip, so the dock was stuck. If the lake were at its highest point of 3 feet above the lip, the ancient structure would have simply floated over and down, enjoying its freedom rushing down lower Putah Creek.

The high winds from the last storm had obviously pushed it down from somewhere on the lake. But to the many folks who were there to see our famous Glory Hole, some first-timers, it looked as if it had been put there purposely - as an observation platform? It is stuck and will probably be removed by the Bureau of Reclamation or Solano County Water Agency when the lake level safely drops below the lip.

Our intrepid The Lake Berryessa News photographer, Evan Kilkus, believes the floats are concrete covered foam. Open cell blue styrofoam was banned from use at Lake Berryessa decades ago.

Interestingly, several visitors I talked to thought it might have been a viewing platform installed by the Solano County Water Agency!





Lake Berryessa implements fees for vessel decontamination

The Solano County Water Agency's Free Vessel Decontamination Program ends April 7

Beginning April 7, the Bureau of Reclamation announces that direct-managed concessions and the Solano County Water Agency will charge for vessel decontaminations for boaters seeking to launch at Lake Berryessa. Previously, the Solano County Water Agency had provided this service free of charge knowing that the expenses required for equipment and staffing could not be covered by the agency indefinitely.

Moving forward, boaters who seek to avoid a 30-day, mandatory quarantine to protect the reservoir from invasive mussels, will need to reach out to either the Solano County Water Agency, Markley Cove Resort, Pleasure Cove Marina, or Putah Canyon Recreation Area to arrange for a vessel decontamination for any motorized vessel or vessel launched from a trailer. Decontaminations are expected to range from \$35 for a fishing boat or jet ski to \$150 for a wake surf boat or ski boat with added ballast. Additional fees for live wells, multiple engines, generators, ballast tanks, and vessels over 30 feet may also apply.

Boaters may obtain decontamination services by first reserving an appointment with these providers:

- Markley Cove Resort: Services Coming Soon, 707-966-2134
- Pleasure Cove Marina: www.goberryessa.com
- Putah Canyon Recreation Area: 707-966-9051 or 707-756-2395 (voicemail)
- Solano County Water Agency: www.scwa2.com

All boaters are urged to plan ahead this summer. Reclamation reminds all boaters that decontaminations are not required for hand-launch and non-motorized vessels. Also, all motorized boaters may elect instead to visit a seal-installation site to have a free, 30-day quarantine seal installed. All boaters are urged to join approximately 5,000 boaters in obtaining seals prior to the busy summer season. To receive a seal, you may visit:

- Markley Cove Resort: 7521 State Route 128, Napa

- Pleasure Cove Marina: 6100 State Route 128, Napa
- Putah Canyon Recreation Area: 7600 Knoxville Road, Pope Valley
- Spanish Flat Recreation Area: 4290 Knoxville Road, Napa
- Steele Canyon Recreation Area: 1605 Steele Canyon Road, Napa
- Gone Fishin' Marine: 1880 N. Lincoln Street, Dixon; Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sweeney's Sports: 835 Lincoln Avenue, Napa; Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-5p.m
- A Small Fishing Boat: 11383 Pyrites Way, Rancho Cordova; Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Please call ahead at 916-737-2628)
- Jensen Marine: 1237 Fortna Ave, Woodland; Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Please call ahead at 530-662-7755)
- Solano County Water Agency Office Parking Lot: 810 Vaca Valley Pkwy #202, Vacaville; Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- A-Team Marine: Mobile, please call ahead at 530-304-5379
- Dufer Point Visitor Center, 5520 Knoxville Road, Napa; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays: 12-3 p.m. (Please call ahead at 707-905-9468)

If you would like more information, contact the Lake Berryessa Field Office at 707-905-7896.

An excerpt from another excellent article in Napa Valley Features.

The Lake Berryessa News is a paid subscriber.

Napa County in Bloom

By Kathleen Scavone

<https://napavalleyfocus.substack.com/p/sunday-e-dition-napa-valley-in-bloom>

(Editor's Note: On hikes in the hills around San Anselmo my neighbor taught me about miner's lettuce. We always picked some to take home, or ate it on the trail. It was good. But it always felt a bit strange to grab something growing on the side of the hill and throw it in your mouth.)



Verdant springtime in Napa County decorates mountains and valleys with glorious green,

but the aesthetics don't stop there. Nooks and crannies found in parks and along roadsides are pulsating with wildflowers tinted in delicate pinks, vivid yellows, vibrant reds and more. With spring's late rainfall there are sure to be wildflower viewing opportunities in abundance.

Napa County is blooming with a fireworks display of color found along lakes, roadsides, vineyards and myriad other landscape features. As the spring season progresses, a variety of eye candy will increasingly appear, including the California poppy, along with lupine, blue dicks, clover, tiger lilies and more.



Many blooms love the morning light, unfurling like little miracles to procure pollinators. Our state flower since March 2, 1903, the California poppy has carrot-colored petals that do just that as they open for business on sunny morns and close up shop each night or when it's windy or cold.

In his book "The Reason for Flowers, Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives," Stephen Buchmann explains that flowers are designed by nature to entice pollinators such as bees and birds and that flowers need to "reward" their visitors. They do so by providing perches for spiders to catch prey, offering nesting material for some critters or, depending on the flower and region, by providing energy via pollen, nectar, oils and sometimes even the fleshy food of their own petals.

The promotion that some flowers extend to pollinators would make any New York City Fifth Avenue advertising executive proud, as the flower's ability to entice insects and avian species to "come hither" with specialized scents and colors abounds. Through scent chemistry, a flower's fragrance has evolved to broadcast that it is ready for sex. Not all flowers need to utilize scent to attract pollinators though. Many plants pollinated by hummingbirds do not possess a scent and invite guests with color, shape or nectar guides.

Miner's lettuce, resembling a tiny water lily pad with its circular leaves displayed upon its slim stalk, can be found at elevations lower than 6,000 feet in shady areas from southern Alaska to Central America. Its leaves have been consumed both raw and cooked by Indigenous people as well as by gold and silver miners of the past. Enjoyed as a

nutritional powerhouse, miner's lettuce is high in vitamins C and A. Its miniscule black seeds, located at the bottom of the flower stalk, were once considered a delicacy when toasted.

Wildflowers, living treasures that garner such a positive response, are sure to draw you into their fascinating worlds, whether it's a walk you're seeking, pollinator views or simply to fulfill the floral rewards of their captivating colors.

Emerson said it best, "The earth laughs in flowers."



Napa County's spring wildflowers create a vivid natural masterpiece, from the delicate Henderson's shooting stars and wake robin to the nutrient-rich miner's lettuce. Checker lilies, Indian paintbrush, and Dutchman's pipe add striking contrast, while milkmaids, hazelnut catkins, and bowl-tubed iris complete the seasonal spectacle.
Kathleen Scavone Photos

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Spring is here , and so are the rattlesnakes. Here is part of the rattlesnake story I publish every year as a public service from The Lake Berryessa News. See the full story with more photos at: <https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/resources/Interesting-Stories/Rattlesnake-story-2025.pdf>

Rattlesnakes: Friend or Enemy – or just a primal fear?

By Peter Kilkus (2025)

Above the Berryessa Highlands, we've had several close encounters with rattlesnakes over the years during spring and summer - as have many of my neighbors. I had to kill one to protect my dog. There's nothing quite like walking down a trail and coming upon a coiled rattlesnake looking you in the eye – the cold flash of adrenaline you feel.

I chased away a 3-footer off my road once and it did something I'd never seen. When I threw a rock at it, it gave a loud (kind of scary) rattle, then jumped into the lower branches of some tightly packed bushes and zipped away without touching the ground as far as my eyes could follow it.

Rattlers have good vision to at least 15 feet away under moderate illumination. The eyes are set so far to the sides of the head that they have only a limited field of binocular (stereo) vision. This may result in their moving their head from side to side as they try to get a good picture of something. Rattlers are too slow to outrun or dodge even the slowest of their enemies, thus the need for good long-range vision.

Though rattlesnakes are dangerous if provoked, they are generally not aggressive, and they also provide humans with a tremendous service - they eat rodents, other reptiles, and insects, and are in turn eaten by other predators.

A friend sent me a photo of a king snake eating a rattlesnake on the deck of neighbor's house in Wragg Canyon. The king snake was tightly coiled around the rattler and half the rattlesnake was already inside the king snake.

The California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for more than 800 bites each year with only one to two deaths. About 25 percent of the bites are "dry," meaning no venom was injected, but the bites still require medical treatment.

Do's and don'ts in snake country:

Be aware that startled rattlesnakes may not rattle before striking defensively. There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of startling a rattlesnake.

Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through wild areas. Wear hiking boots.

When hiking, stick to well-used trails and wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.

Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.

Don't move planks, rocks or logs by hand - use a stick or crowbar until you can see under it. Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see, and avoid wandering around in the dark. Don't reach into holes in the ground, rocks or trees, woodpiles, even abandoned buckets and tires.

Step ON logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.

Never grab "sticks" or "branches" while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.

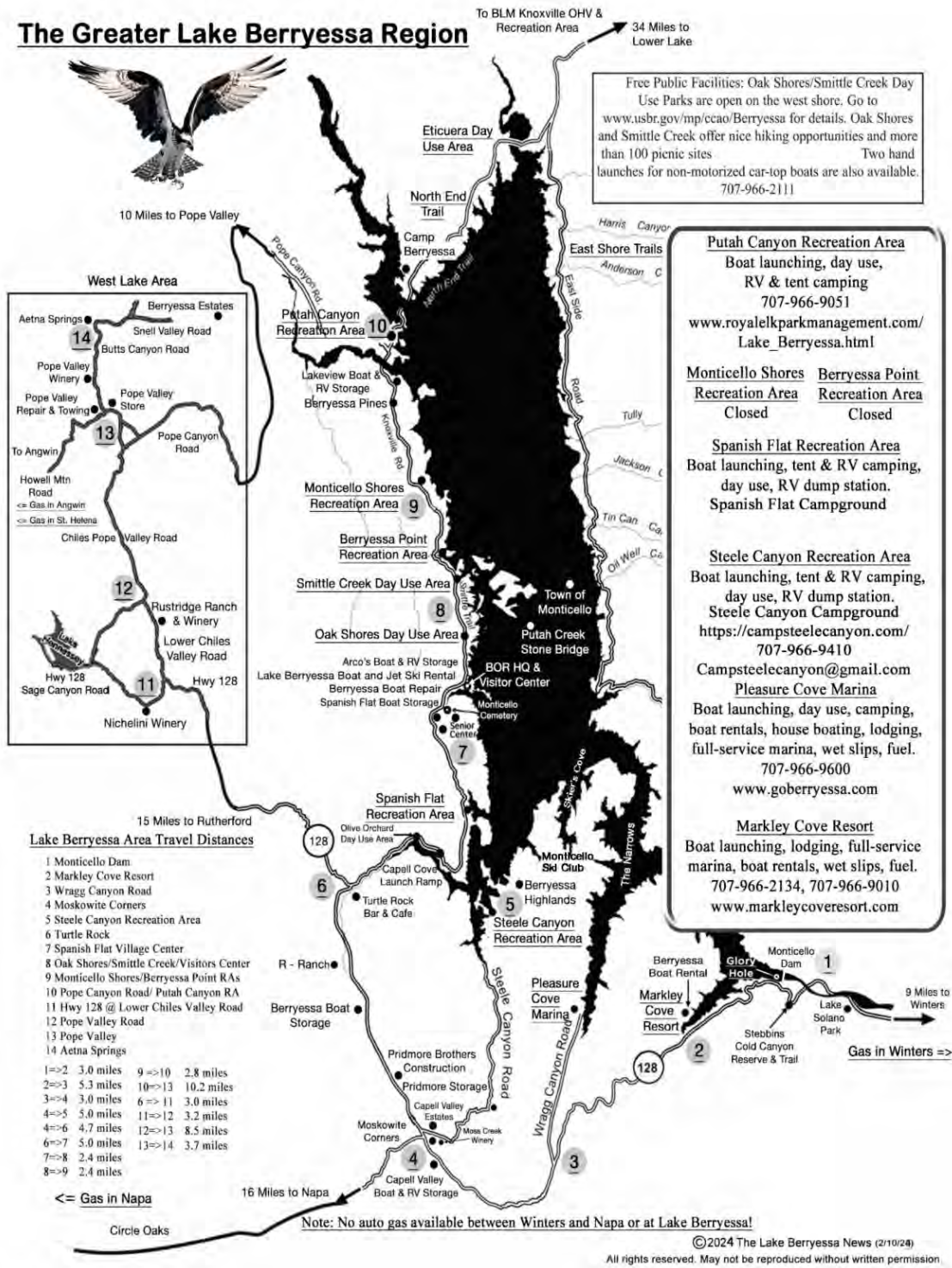
Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.

When you hear a rattle, freeze until you identify where the sound is coming from; you don't want to accidentally step on it when trying to flee. Once you have spotted it, give it time to move away. If it doesn't, move slowly straight away from it; don't walk to one side or the other as that could be perceived as threatening. Look behind you before you start to walk backwards - you don't want to trip over a rock, or another snake.

Don't handle a dead or injured snake. Dead snakes may not really be dead. Muscle contractions can still cause wounds, even when handling the decapitated head of a rattler.



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Lake Berryessa News
Special Glory Hole Edition, March 27, 2025

Glory Hole in the News

Just a short note to spread some additional publicity about Lake Berryessa.

I was interviewed last week about Glory Hole by KPIX's Brian Hackney.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffGI5ARnQ18>

Brian and I had last worked together in 2010!

He looks the same, but I have aged gracefully.

<https://youtu.be/nP9K8Ai0Lkc>



High water levels lead to activation of Lake Berryessa's Glory Hole spillway

By Brian Hackney

March 26, 2025 / 1:41 PM PDT / CBS San Francisco

The activation of the Lake Berryessa spillway is good news as far as Northern California's water supply. It means the winter in the North Bay has been wet enough for the lake to be filled to the brim.

A rare and mesmerizing scene is taking place in the North Bay as the round "glory hole"

spillway at Lake Berryessa is active for the first time in six years. An historian who helped make the spillway a global sensation told CBS News Bay Area it has become something of a local tourist attraction..

Peter Kilkus is a local historian, scientist, journalist and author who also runs the Lake Berryessa News website, which monitors the spillway.

<https://www.lakeberryessanews.com/>

"It's called a Morning Glory Spillway. That's really what the engineers called it, and we shortened it to Glory Hole," explained Kilkus. "Some people say, 'Oh, that's really beautiful.' Some people say, 'That's frightening.'"

Regardless of the reaction, the spillway really sucks people in.

"Yeah, it's a big tourist draw. In fact, on a heavy day on the weekend, you can't even park here," Kilkus said.

While most dams use traditional spillways, there wasn't room for them at the Monticello Reservoir. So, the water goes down the specialized 70-foot diameter drain before it makes a 90-degree turn and is dumped into the Putah Creek below. It is an unusual design.

"Yes, this is fairly rare. There are only two in California, and there are a couple others in Europe, but they're very rare," said Kilkus.

The activation of the spillway is also fairly rare, because the water doesn't overflow into it very often. The last time it was activated was 2019. Before that was in 2017.

"2017 was the first time it went over in 11 years," said Kilkus.

That was when a drone video by Evan Kilkus, associate editor and drone pilot for The Lake Berryessa News, posted on YouTube went viral.

"We had 62 million views around the world," remembered Kilkus. "After that, it really became an attraction around the world."

This year's wet winter has led to an extended activation of the spillway. The Glory Hole first spilled on February 4. The highest water level occurred on ten days later on Valentine's Day, when it rose to nearly 443 feet. The level has been above the glory hole for 46 days.

The dam was completed in 1957, creating Lake Berryessa while eliminating a small community in the process.

"Of course, it buried a town. There was a town here that was one of the great agricultural producers before 1958," said Kilkus.

The name of the town was Monticello, which became the namesake of the dam. Now the water goes to half a million people in Solano County. When the lake's level is low, the outflow pipe into Putah Creek becomes a mecca for skateboarders.

And when its high?

"It's really a circular waterfall. As a scientist, I love to watch the water flow, because I know the physics behind it," said Kilkus. "And as a normal human being, it's just beautiful."

Lake Berryessa Glory Hole stories have appeared this year in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and several other papers. There was also another short Glory Hole news video done a few weeks ago by KGO television. I had a very short comment in that one.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1348266036299527>

Glory Hole Watch 2025 (3/27/25)

The Lake Berryessa water level has remained stable at 441.0 feet, 1 foot above Glory Hole. Glory Hole spilled on February 4, 2025. Its highest level was on Valentine's Day, 2/14/25, at 442.97 feet. Days above Glory Hole = 50.

Rainfall is at 22.16 inches at Monticello Dam (about average). Glory Hole is still spilling at a low rate of 370 cfs. No normal amount of future rainfall in the Lake Berryessa watershed will make any real difference to the future level of the lake.

Lake capacity is at 1,567,372 A-F or 101%.

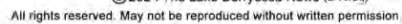
Lake Levels, water temperature, and lake capacity are available daily at:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

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