

# Black Rock Beacon

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## MAN PROBLEMS?

BY ALEX BREGER

Some of you might have noticed something a tad askew in the middle of the city.

The Man and his structure were supposed to be open by Sunday, when this year's Burn officially opened, but as of Tuesday afternoon, he was still somewhat sideways and missing his head. According to a Man Watch crew member, some weather issues, as well as a broken U-joint, delayed construction. Multiple crews were hard at work on Monday and Tuesday trying to get the Man in working order.

Both the Temple and the Catacomb of Veils suffered similar delays.

This year the Man is atop a building, with DaVinci inspired gears to transfer kinetic energy from the people on the

Playa to the Man, making it an interactive sculpture. A number of people will power the gears from below and make the Man move, hopefully.

The Guilds were set up in Medici Court within the Man Base Pavilion by Tuesday evening. Check the back of your What Where When for a schedule of performances and gatherings from the Arts, Humanities, and Sciences. On Tuesday afternoon, crewpeople were working on top of the Pavilion roof, despite high winds, to get the Man upright so that the head could be attached.

The chain link fences came down Tuesday afternoon. Medici Court is open. No matter what happens, we can expect the Man to burn on Saturday night, barring the highest of winds. 🐞



## WHILE YOU WERE OUT: ORG REAL ESTATE ACQUISITIONS

BY MITCH

Four big real estate changes have gone down in the Playa's environs down since last we Burned. They spell a revival for the local economy and carry long-range implications for those who call Black Rock Country their year-round home.

In 2011, when USG Corp. effectively closed the company town of Empire, it seemed as if the Black Rock City-area economy was doomed, with too few people to support the region's scant businesses. All of a sudden, Nowhere is back on the map.

Here's a recap of recent developments:

- The newly incorporated Empire Mining Co. bought Empire for about \$11.4 million and plans to exploit its gypsum mine.
- The Burning Man Project bought Fly Ranch, a 3,800 parcel northwest of the Playa, for \$6.5 million, according to the project's blog. It features wetlands and an accidental man-made geyser.
- Washoe County gave tentative approval to a wide-

ranging plan for the existing 200-acre work ranch known as Black Rock Station. It includes guest facilities and might be meant to work in conjunction with a project at nearby Fly Ranch.

- Burning Man purchased seven lots on a block in Gerlach from the local real estate, gaming, dining, lodging, and transportation-services tycoon Bruno Selmi, for \$170,000.

While gypsum mining may not directly affect Burners, it should be a boost for local retailers: the general store, the bars, and Selmi's motel, gas station, and restaurant. The Reno Gazette-Journal reported there are no plans to reopen the gypsum wallboard factory, which would result in more jobs than the 40 that might come from the mine. About 100 people worked in Empire before the 2011 closure.

USG has already reopened the mine, according to the paper.

Empire Mining, apparently controlled by a private-equity firm called Gatehouse Partners LLC, is amenable to leasing the factory and has discussed reopening the town's airport with representatives of Burning Man, the Gazette-

Journal reported. Gatehouse did not respond to a phone message from the Beacon seeking comment.

An airport would make sense in light of Fly Ranch and the zoning change for Black Rock Station, both of which seem aimed at developing year-round sites near the Playa for cultural purposes of the Burner variety. Such plans have been hinted at before: In 2008, at a news conference and later in an interview with the Beacon, Black Rock City co-founder Larry Harvey — now styled president of the Burning Man Project — spoke of a research institute on unspecified nearby grounds:

"I'm not talking about an ivory tower. I want a place where people can live in trailers, people can live in tents, and people can live in a conference center."

That jibes with testimony from a May 2016 county zoning commission meeting about Bmorg's plans for Black Rock Station. In the minutes, Washoe Senior Planner Eric Young cited long-range plans for "a significant amount of commercial use with the potential for restaurants, lodging and a large commercial campground." For now, the Bmorg has only sought permission to use the space as a staging area for Black Rock City, though that includes "civic, agricultural, industrial and residential uses on the

property."

Bmorg used a lot of words to announce the purchase of Fly Ranch, but statements on its blog (journal.burningman.org) and the new Fly Ranch website (flyranch.burningman.org) lacked specifics about what will actually be done with the property, though both sites said it will not host Black Rock City as it did in 1997.

Long-time BRC planner Rod Garrett began his Burning Man career by designing the city that year. Garrett, who passed away in 2011, later created a development plan for the property that envisioned the geyser pools surrounded by a nature preserve, mineral baths, thermal power projects, paths, and a wildlife corridor. Also contemplated were housing developments, one reserved for Bmorg insiders, a lodge, conference center, campground, and an amphitheater. It remains to be seen if the Bmorg will follow this plan.

The Gerlach properties seem to be Burning Man doubling down on Black Rock Country. That makes it unlikely to be heading to Utah as mooted by Chief Executive Officer Marian Goodell last year, following Nevada's decision to levy a 9 percent ticket tax on Burners.

(Continued on other side)

## The Periodic Table of Generosity

BY DR. JACK L. LOPES

Science has yet to fully comprehend the powerful pataphysical forces unleashed by the Principles of Gifting and Decommodification, but some day we will have a convenient infographic to give us the illusion that we understand. In the meantime, I offer these preliminary observations on the elements that might make up such a table.

### Obtainium

One of the more common elements on the playa, obtainium occurs naturally in dumpsters, curbside collection points, and abandoned industrial facilities.

### Acquirium

Acquirium is obtainium of uncertain provenance. Chemically similar to stealium.

### Serendipitum

The unexpected and delightful gift of that one

thing you forgot to bring but really, really need now that you're out here in the dirt. Like a pair of AAAAA batteries.

### Scorium

Items unintentionally gifted through forgetfulness, clumsiness, windstorms, or other phenomena that separate people from their stuff. Also known as ground score.

### Swagium

Complementary food, cocktails, or other gifts obtained by visitors to a theme camp.

### Trinketium

Worthless junk passed off as a gift. See also: unsatisfactium, unwantedium.

### Commodicum

Promotional item passed off as a gift.

### Allevium

Booze or other goods generously gifted by friends departing before you.

### Leavium

Unstable isotope of allevium. Items left in your camp without your knowledge, often when you are sleeping, by "friends" departing before you. Also known as dumpium.

### Stealium

An item left in a public place, such as a fake street sign affixed to a road marker, that one hopes will be taken by a stranger. A gift disguised as an act of larceny.

### Loanium

A loaned item misperceived as a gift, or converted to one by entropic forces. When loanium is not returned or reclaimed, it decays into a gift over

time.

### Keepium

Stabilized form of loanium, after its generosity half-life has expired.

### Usurium

An isotope of loanium, usurium carries a reverse-generosity field that converts it to expectium.

### Expectium

A gift given under social duress. Typically created by powerful anti-generosity or reverse-generosity fields.

### Demandium

Unstable isotope of expectium. As in, "where my gift at, bitches?" 🐞



"Pie or bacon?"  
"Oh, \*definitely\* bacon!"

# BLACK ROCK BACON

"Aren't you a vegetarian?"

## LOUNGE THE LIGHT FANTASTIC!

BY REECY PONTIFF

Sinking into the plush pillows and faux-fur blanket, music swirls around you and a vibrant light show jolts to life behind your eyelids. It's not the drugs kicking in -- it's the Electric Lazy Lounge.

The Lounge is the creation of Mighty Mike the Fluffer King from Salt Lake City. Inside the small, mobile room is just enough space for six participants to recline on a giant mattress. It's a multi-sensory experience that includes 48 motors powering vibrators beneath the bed, an essential oil infuser and air conditioning. The main event of this "eyes closed experience" comes from a beefy PA and an LED light system on a rail above the heads of the participants.

This year, Mighty Mike has a number of different "experiences" set to the music of artists like Pink Floyd, Aphex Twin and Orbital.

The first incarnation of the Electric Lazy Lounge in 2008 was a pair of glasses with LEDs worn by participants as they relaxed in a plastic chair. This progressed in to a

plush recliner. Next was a full living room set on a 12-foot trailer.

"It took five years to get a model that survived the playa," Mighty Mike said. The harsh environment of Burning Man aside, "it was really hard to run because people break shit so I was out every day with my soldering iron."

Now the unit is completely self contained. Despite its size, Mighty Mike said he still tows it around the playa via pedal power to avoid complications with Black Rock City's vehicle licensing bureaucracy.

"It was always meant to be a mobile piece to be discovered," Mighty Mike said. He began by parking the Lounge close to the Esplanade, and over the course of the week, he took it progressively further out into the playa. Every night of its run he goes "until we run out of gas, customer or night."

Outside Black Rock City, Mighty Mike takes his piece to as many regional events as possible. The Electric Lazy Lounge has been to 19 Burning Man-related events, including five this year so far. 🐷

the question in reverse, more people preferred bacon, 58 for bacon to 43 for pie.

Some people said it depended on the type of pie. Others said they would want a bacon pie. Still others said bacon is overrated.

One burner, Hambone, had a compromise. He suggested using the bacon grease in place of lard or shortening in the pie crust. He also recommended using cooled bacon grease to soothe dry, playafied feet.

A local pickle joint, the Pickle Joint, took an official position in favor of bacon.

Fluffer: support crew that provides water and food to other working staff members

Bonk: the noise that occurs when one tries to speak on a channel that's already in use

Captain Hook: a tow truck

Turd Burglar: porta-potty services 🐷

 **The Black Rock Beacon**  
10 Years Ago

Thursday, August 31, 2006

Fear Edition

Will Black Rock City Ever Host 250,000? asked a banner headline. Larry Harvey, the Burning Man co-founder, side-stepped the question. "Please don't say I said that," he said in reply to a press conference query. But why not? "The only cap acceptable is if the city ceases to do what it is designed to do." 🐷

In a letter to the editor, Eric S. of the Black Rock Boutique said he was "saddened" by the previous day's article "glorifying" the practice of shirt-cocking. 🐷

However, they haven't made any pickled bacon -- at least, not yet, said Chx! and Chex.

Bacon and eggs often hang out together. Dress Code of the Eggs bar said he prefers

*Real Estate*  
(Continued from other side)

Washoe real estate records show the new Burning Man holdings in Gerlach consist of single-family housing and vacant lots. Trailers on the lots house Department of Public Works staffers, according to the Gazette-Journal. The parcel is bounded by railroad tracks, Fir Street, West Sunset Blvd. and Elm Street.

The Burning Man Project, contacted by email about the purchases on Aug. 15, grumbled about being asked to answer questions so close to the event, but promised a reply. So far, none received.

Of note, all of the real estate activity has taken place in relatively affluent Washoe County. This jurisdiction includes Reno and profits mightily from Burner spending and cachet. The event itself takes place just over the border on federal land in Pershing, a rural county that must coordinate safety and other issues each year. Almost all of the potential economic benefits of the real estate boom will accrue to Washoe, leaving Pershing to look forlornly, or perhaps angrily, from its side of the line. 🐷

In a letter to the editor, Eric S. of the Black Rock Boutique said he was "saddened" by the previous day's article "glorifying" the practice of shirt-cocking. 🐷

bacon over pie because bacon is fat and sweet and not sticky. However, the Eggs bar hasn't taken a position on bacon or pie, which also often hangs out with eggs in quiche. 🐷

### Yellow Bike Theft

By: durgy

Brock Lee of BRC Yellow Bikes spotted someone riding a bike holding bags of ice. The person was riding a yellow bike that had been painted with cheap paint. Any alteration of a yellow bike, or locking it or bringing it into your camp, is grounds to have a yellow bike repossessed. Brock repoed the yellow bike and the person continued on foot with ice in hand.

Curious Yellow Bike crew followed the ice man to Camp Blackout at 4:00 and Botticelli. Inside Camp Blackout there were nine more yellow bikes, eight of which had been painted or covered with tape. The bike crew secured the scene until a vehicle could come to remove the bikes. No one in attendance at Camp Blackout knew who was in charge of the camp nor which thieving asshole(s) "decorated" the bikes.

Ballyhoo Betty of the Yellow Bike program said that the bikes recovered from Camp Blackout would not be back in service this year. Depending on the extent of alterations, it takes between 4 and 12 hours to break down the bike, sand the paint, repaint it and put it back together.

Altering a yellow bike is theft prosecutable in Nevada. If you see a yellow bike that has been altered or chained up, contact Yellow Bikes through DPW or a Ranger and ask assistance to recover the bike. You can also return broken or altered bikes to the Yellow Bike shop at 5:30 and A. 🐷

BRAINTEASERS BY DURGY																			
1A	2L	3V	4M		5X	6D		7M	8S	9B	10R	11H	12X		13L	14C	15F	16W	17J
18R		19K	20B	21U		22G	23V		24H	25L	26W	27N		28C	29O	30Q	31T	32L	
	33U	34Y	35F	36H		37X	38E	39F	40I	41Q			42N	43F	44O	45V		46H	47R
48G	49N	50T			51A	52Z	53R		54B	55U		56B	57C	58P	59X		60O	61X	
62P	63K	64J	65T		66N	67W	68F	69G	70A			71G	72V		73J	74A		75E	76R
77C	78P	79Y		80D	81Q	82S			83E	84P	85Y	86V	87H	88O		89Q	90M	91S	92W
93K	94Z	95L		96Z	97Y	98R	99H		100S	101B			102U	103N	104V	105D		106I	107Z
108A		109Q	110K		111L	112T	113M	114E	115Y	116F	117O	118G	119C		120H	121O	122I	123N	
	124J	125Z	126O		127U	128M	129D	130V	131E		132S	133H		134F	135W	136P		137R	138N
139M	140S	141X		142Z	143H	144J	145C	146R	147O	148I	149K	150N		151H	152I	153U	154B		

Clues	Answers
A. Healthy	1 108 70 74 51
B. Showed feeling	154 56 20 101 9 54
C. Wild parties	57 77 119 14 145 28
D. Cocoa bean bits	105 129 80 6
E. Got up	38 75 83 131 114
F. Joke punctuator	68 39 15 35 116 43 134
G. Imbibe	22 48 71 118 69
H. Bivalve dish (2 wds.)	143 99 24 11 151 87 133 36 120 46
I. Foolish	122 148 152 40 106

J. Dravidian language	124 64 144 73 17
K. Cracker	63 110 149 93 19
L. Turn into bone	25 111 13 2 32 95
M. Sport Judge	90 113 7 139 128 4
N. Freak event (2 wds.)	150 123 27 49 42 103 138 66
O. Most ugly	147 60 44 126 121 117 45 88 29
P. Bootie Dance	84 62 136 58 78
Q. Calamari	41 89 30 81 109
R. Said no (2 wds.)	47 98 146 18 137 76 53 10

S. Sushi offering	140 91 82 132 8 100
T. Squishy	50 112 31 65
U. Greatest	21 102 33 55 153 127
V. Java	130 23 3 72 86 104
W. Bite	92 135 67 26 16
X. Statue	59 61 37 5 141 12
Y. Plant runner	79 85 34 97 115
Z. Grammar or high	142 96 125 107 52 94

## BACON VS PIE

By: Suzanne and Shep

There's always room for pie.

In an extremely informal poll, when asked to choose between the crusted delicacy and another longtime playa favorite, bacon, Center Camp visitors very slightly favored pie, 133 to 125.

When asked whether they preferred bacon or pie, people more often said they preferred pie, 63 for pie to 45 for bacon. When asked

## Radio Chatter

BY: REECY PONTIFF

You're bound to hear the crackle of a radio from the shoulder of a ranger or DPW member during your time in Black Rock City.

Just like any large mobile infrastructure, radio communications are key to Burning Man. Like other organizations using radio communication, staff are held to FCC standards of profanity. For example, "shit" would not be allowed in conversation over the airwaves, but at Burning Man, staff members might call in an issue at "Camp Shitstain" over the "art ASS" (art support services) or "dust abatement" channels.

Other bits of lingo one may not hear over the "comms" of your local emergency services include:

Crocodile: response to an unnecessary or long conversation that should be moved to another channel

Blow Job: blowing out the engine block of a vehicle with compressed air

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## COSMIC REPORT

Nighttime illumination is pretty much not coming from above this year. The Moon will offer scant light late nights at the start of the week, then the double-whammy of a new phase and rising and setting during the day will take it out of the game.

On top of that, if you navigate by the Pole Star, the Big Dipper will be out of sight most of the week, making it harder than usual to get your bearings. Polaris is at the end of the Little Dipper's handle, and it will be the brightest thing low in the Northern Sky. If you can find Cassiopeia, which looks like a big W, the top of the letter faces the North Star.

Among the planets, Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter will all be in the western sky at sunset, a little south of the sun itself, which should make them mostly invisible during the week.

Saturn and Mars will put in an early appearance low in the southern Sky right at sunset and disappearing into the southwest after a couple of hours.

On Wednesday night, there's a movement to darken the city between 11 and midnight. It's voluntary, but still, that might be your opportunity to stargaze. Almost directly overhead, a little to the west there's a constellation that looks like a cross, that's Cygnus, the swan. It is headed northeast, in the direction of Cassiopeia, and to the North is a constellation that looks like a schoolhouse. That's Cepheus, Cassie's husband. Just to the north is the Little Dipper.

Correction:

In Sunday's Gate Edition, we incorrectly reported the definition of Dragon's Breath. Dragon's Breath is fire-breathing. We apologize for the error. 🐷