The Pershing County Sheriff’s representative reported Friday morning that the Burning Man gate was closed because the population had reached its limit of 68,000. New attendees were only being admitted when a Burner left. As of Friday morning there were 190 vehicles waiting to enter BRC.

BMORG is expecting 11–12 hour delays at Exodus. “It’s a big city and only a two-laned road,” said Megan Miller, public relations manager. If you absolutely have to be somewhere on Monday, you are advised to leave immediately, before the man burns.

Harvey Hints at Permanent Venue

Larry Harvey, founder of Burning Man, was deliberately cryptic and brief about one topic in the Black Rock City press conference this year: Your local Black Rock Beacon has staffed and by the end of the conference pounced, as no one in the international media present had touched it. Harvey had stated that, “We may have the opportunity in the future to create another venue. It would be something that would be rather wonderful that lasts…unlike Black Rock City.”

The Beacon asked, “Were you talking about buying a piece of property and land so it can live somewhere? You’re skirting around something, a permanent structure?”

“I don’t want to talk about real estate negotiations while we’re in the process,” Harvey answered, smiling.

“People say, ‘wouldn’t it be great to live Burning Man all year long’—literally? I don’t advise it!” he joked. “I think it can live all year long as the place is internalized. It’s pulsing with the things applied to daily situations—but not manic states of celebration.”

Harvey said that “we could find venues for producing the kind of immersive experience over longer periods of time, and that we’re looking at, to enlarge the ‘center…’we’re centralizing as fast as we can. We’re also decentralizing as fast as we can. We’re doing everything we can to promote the growth of regional events.”

“Is the site you’re talking about located in Pershing County, Nevada?” the Beacon asked.

“Not quite. I’m not at liberty to say…” he hedged, grinning. “If we ever do it it’ll be delightful. Well love, love to have it,” Harvey replied. (“Ed: We’ve been hearing inklings of a year-round cultural center for years—a place that could have workshops, artist residencies, classes, and such.”)

Also present on the panel were Burning Man Project treasurer Jennifer Raiser—who provided updates on the Project’s artistic, civic, and educational activities locally and around the globe—and Jennifer Raiser—founder Harley Dubois.

Dubois mentioned one of the largest issues BMorg is dealing with are turnkey camps and their impact on burner culture. “Lots of CEOs are coming now, and these are people who can make an impact when they return. But if they come in a cushioned environment, that may prevent them from getting the authentic experience.”

How big can the event grow and still work? What about long waits at Gate? “No one ever said Burning Man was convenient,” Harvey said. Access to traffic engineers sped it up this year, he said. In any case, Bimorg gets to tweak the City each time: “We have the ability to do something urban planners would kill for,” said Harvey, “We get to reinvent the City every year.”

Showing no signs of letting up on his mission, Harvey said, “Our purpose does sounds grandiose—we want to bend the arc of the 21st century. And the only way to do that is get help from your friends.”

BLM Rangers Honor Late Colleague

On Thursday at 5:00p.m., Bureau of Land Management Rangers held a memorial procession for a fallen comrade.

Bolinger briefly spoke, “My husband graduated from Pershing County High School, and it’s important that we honor the fallen.”

Rangers were standing at attention when the procession reached the temple, as a capacity crowd clapped in applause.

Bolinger described himself as a family man and close family and friends in the back. The widow of BLM ranger Michael Bolinger placed a plaque at the Temple in his honor.

“Ranger Bolinger was a true public servant who relished his career, Ranger Bolinger briefly spoke, “My husband graduated from Pershing County High School, and it’s important that we honor the fallen.”

Rangers were standing at attention when the procession reached the temple, as a capacity crowd clapped in applause.

Bolinger described himself as a family man and close family and friends in the back. The widow of BLM ranger Michael Bolinger placed a plaque at the Temple in his honor.

A man who described himself as a co-worker of Ranger Bolinger briefly spoke, “Ranger Bolinger, if you knew him, you would have loved him.”

When the procession reached the temple, the BLM rangers heard the crowd cheering, and they turned heads to give them a standing ovation. “Great to live Burning Man all year long as the place is internalized. It’s pulsing with the things applied to daily situations—but not manic states of celebration.”

Harvey answered, “We’re centralizing as fast as we can. We’re also decentralizing as fast as we can. We’re doing everything we can to promote the growth of regional events.”

“Is the site you’re talking about located in Pershing County, Nevada?” the Beacon asked.

“Not quite. I’m not at liberty to say…” he hedged, grinning. “If we ever do it it’ll be delightful. We need to reinvent ways of communicating, interacting with one another that will give rise to creative acts, inspire people, ultimately fill people with the reality of their own being, the being of those around them. Connection perhaps is something transcendent that’s greater than all of us,” he said.

Dubois mentioned one of the largest issues BMorg is dealing with are turnkey camps and their impact on burner culture. “Lots of CEOs are coming now, and these are people who can make an impact when they return. But if they come in a cushioned environment, that may prevent them from getting the authentic experience.”

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Police & Medical Beat

On Thursday, there was one arrest for a sexual assault committed in Black Rock City.

In medical news, Rampart reports that Thursday was “pretty benign.” In addition to the usual number of soft tissue injuries, they treated one fracture at Rampart and transported one patient off-Playa for a non-Burning Man related medical issue.

A High EMS Rescue representative reported that Burners are being treated at a rate consistent with previous years. While the number has increased due to the larger population, it is the same percentage of the population as in previous years.
When I grow up, I want to be an inventor. First I will invent a time machine. Then I’ll come back to yesterday and take myself to tomorrow and skip this dumb assignment.

—Calvin in Calvin & Hobbes, Bill Watterson

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