Problems?

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 Catwalk 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 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.

Organic:

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

In 2013, when USG Corp. effectively closed the company town of Fly Ranch, 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 $11.5 million and plans to exploit its gypsum mine.
• The Burning Man Project bought Fly Ranch, a 1,000 parcel northwest of the Playa, for $6.5 million, according to the project’s blog. It features wetlands and an parcel northwest of the Playa, for $6.5 million, according to the project’s blog. It features wetlands and an
• Walker 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 several lots on a hock in Gerlach from the local real estate, gaming, dining, lodging, and transportation services (byron Bruno Selmi, for $187,000).

While gypsum mining may not directly affect burners, it should be a boost for local entities: the general store, the bars, and Selmi’s motel, gas station, and restaurant. The Bono-Guerty Journal reported there are no plans to reapply the gypsum tailings facility, which would result in more jobs that 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 Gardenhouse Partners LLC, is amenable to leasing the facility and has discussed reopening the town’s airport with representatives of Burning Man, the Guerty-Journal reported. Guertiero 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 fives with testimony from a May 2016 county zoning commission meeting about Bmorg’s plans for Black Rock Street. 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 (burningman.org) and the new Fly Ranch website (flyranch.burningman.org) lack specifics about what will actually be done with the property, though both sites said it will host Black Rock City as it did in 1997.

Long-time BCR project leader Garrett began his Burning Man career by designing the city that year. Garrett, who passed away in 2013, later created a development plan for the property that envisioned the geysers pooled surrounding a nature preserve, mineral baths, thermal power projects, 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 at Black Rock City. That makes it unlikely to be heading to Utah as rumored 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)
Sinking into the plush pillows and fuzzy-far blanket, music www in the air 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 San 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, 36 speakers throughout the room, and 130 fans to create cooling. The main event of this “eyes closed experience” comes from a PA box 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 the participants as they relaxed in a plastic chair. This progressed to a plush recliner. Next was a full living room set on a 12-foot trailer. “It took five years to get a model over 10 people to ‘play,’” Mike said. The harsh environment of Burning Man aside, “it was really hard to imagine people breaking shit so I was out every day with my soldering iron.” With the space completely self-contained. Despite its size, Mighty Mike said he still tours it around the playa via pedal power to avoid complications with Black Rock City’s vehicle licensing bureaucracy.

“The space was meant to be a multi-piece to be discovered,” 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 said, “until we run out of gas, customer or night.”

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

Sitting on 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 butcher, Hamhorne, had a compromise. He suggested using the bacon grease in place of lard or shortening in the pie crust. He also suggested remebering cooled bacon grease to soothe dry, playafied feet.

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

However, they haven’t made any pickled bacon – at least, not yet, said Chet and Chix.

Bacon and eggs often hang out together. Dress Code of the Eggs bar said he prefers bacon over pie because bacon is fat and sweet and hot sticky. However, the Eggs bar hasn’t taken a position on bacon or pie, which also often hangs out with eggs in quiche.

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, all are held to FCC standards of proficiency. For example, “shit” would not be allowed in conversation over the airwaves, but at Burning Man, staff members might be in an issue at “Camp Shitam” over the “art AS” (art support services) or “dust abatement” channels.

Some bits of one may not hear over the “comm” 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.

Fluffer-supervisor group that provides water and food to other working staff members.

It’s the noise that occurs when one tries to speak on a channel that’s already in use.

Captain Hook: a tow truck driver.

“Not a standard part of the service but very handy on the lots house Department of Public Works staff, according to the Gazette. The parcel is boxed by railroad tracks, a dirt street, West Sunrise Blvd. and East Sunset.”

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

Note of all, the real estate activity has taken place in relatively affluent Washoe County. Last year’s costs for buying property nightly from Bunner spending and cachet. The event itself takes place just over the border on federal land in Pershing, a real estate market 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 absorb the cost.

Curious Yellow Bike rider followed the ice man to Camp Blackout at 4:00 and Bonom. Inside Camp Blackout there were nine more yellow bikes, eight of which had bacon or pie hanging out on the handle bars. The bike crew secured the same until the farmer could come to remove the bikes. No one in attendance at Camp Blackout knows who was in charge of the camp nor who stealing the bike.

Bullsherry Berry 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 bikes to break down the bike, sand the paint, repaint it and put it back together.

Altering a yellow bike is theft prosecutionable in Nevada. If you see a yellow bike that has been altered, contact Burnie 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 9.

Correction:

In Sunday’s Gate Edition, we incorrectly reported the donation of Dragon’s Breath. Dragon’s Breath is free breathing. We apologize for the error.