

# Yountville Sun

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## Reunited at Last!

*Chef Greg Weiner of Estate Yountville and his best friend Bronson are together again after Bronson, at the advanced age of 14, ran off for a 20-day adventure around Mt. Veeder. Even though Weiner and Bronson are brand new residents of Yountville that didn't stop the community from rallying to the cause of tracking, searching and exchanging info on Bronson sightings. See stories below. (Photo by Devon Avery.)*

## Rector Dam Water Could Run Out in Aug.

A water shortage advisory for all of Yountville was issued Tuesday by an engineer for the State Water Resources Control Board.

In an email message sent to CalVet administrators and copied to Town of Yountville staffers, a civil engineer for the Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water stated, "I'm gathering information on the water situation for the Veterans Home. Based on lack of rain and historical low reservoir level for February, it is projected that the Veterans Home will not be able to divert water for treatment this coming summer."

Guy Schott, P.E., who works in the Santa Rosa office of the Water Resources Control Board, added, "It's estimated that the Rector Reservoir would reach Carryover Storage Capacity in 28 weeks or by late August 2018. The assumptions are little rain in forecast and little change in

reservoir demands. This is a conservative estimate as increase in evaporation and system demands and decrease in inflow to the reservoir are not included."

Town Manager Steve Rogers explained when water levels reach carryover storage capacity it is anticipated that the Veterans Home will not be able to divert water for treatment and delivery to its customers, including the Town of Yountville and the Veterans Home itself. This could result in the Town needing to activate its emergency well and purchase water from the City of Napa to address water supply needs.

Schott advised the Veterans Home "to immediately consider banking as much water as it can while water is available for purchase through the City of Napa."

The Town of Yountville was also encouraged to purchase water from Napa immediately.

Schott asked the Home to provide an immediate plan of action on its current water situation by Friday (February 16).

Rogers shared the advisory with the Town Council and commented, "Clearly this news is extremely concerning and represents the first time that the Town has been advised that there is the possibility of a water supply issue . . . Town staff will be reaching out to the Veterans Home staff to learn more about the situation, their plan and communications process."

Once more specific information is provided, staff will present a proposed response plan to the Town Council, Rogers added.

The Town has a \$2 million drought reserve fund.

To date Yountville has recorded slightly less than nine inches of rain this year. Last year, an especially wet one, the town had already recorded 40 inches of precipitation.

## Hearing on Rate Increases Is Tuesday

A public hearing on the controversial water and sewer rate increases proposed annually in Yountville over the next five years is the main item on Tuesday's (February 20) agenda of the Yountville Town Council. The hearing is set to begin at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

After a brief overview of the rate proposal, members of the public will have three to five minutes to state their opinions before the Council and for the public record.

The close of the hearing will mark the deadline for written protests to one or both of the increases under the terms of Prop. 218. At that time if it appears protests were submitted by 441 ratepayers or more (a majority), further

discussion will be halted until the protests can be verified. If, during the verification process, it is determined a majority protest was received the rate proposal will be declared defeated by protest.

If the number of protests at the end of Tuesday's hearing are outside of the range of a majority, the Council is expected to discuss and take action. The five members could approve the rates as proposed or make changes and modifications to either or both of the proposals as long as their actions do not increase the rates by more than the original proposal of seven percent for water and 12 percent for sewer.

## Army of Locals Tracks Canny, Old Canine for 20 Days

### Bronson's Tale

By Devon Avery

Estate Yountville got wind of Chef Greg's cooking fame  
So my dad and I packed and from Phoenix we came  
They set us up nicely with a room at the inn  
But soon I was longing for recent times when  
My backyard was handy with room to run free  
So I pushed the door open and went on a spree

I am 14 years old, quite long and quite low  
So for an adventure, it began rather slow  
I saw vineyards, chased chickens, made friends as I went  
A fox, a jackrabbit, a skunk and a hen  
It got dark, I was cold and was missing my dad  
And I didn't care much for the diet I had

Soon my instinct was sharpened and it became clear  
I must run from each stranger who dared to come near  
No matter how charming or sweet they discussed  
I felt sure only I was the one I could trust

In dog days I'd been gone now for almost four months  
Folks fed me and there's compost I found on my hunts.  
I was tired and lonely, and I missed my great dad  
My adventure had turned from quite fun to quite bad

One day I was wakened by a gal and her pup  
It seemed finally time to just stop and give up  
Life without dad, though, made my heart really sad  
Then from her car window, that's him, that's my dad

We're in a new home now with a porch and dog door  
And I'm wearing a tracker should I dare to explore  
But I'm not leaving home, not for any darn thing  
You'll find me right here at my dad's apron string

Meanwhile back in Yountville . . .

"It was our third day here, and I just went out for some dog food. When I came back to the room, Bronson was gone," chef Greg Weiner, new executive chef for Estate Yountville, told me. "I must not have pulled the door closed all the way."

Ralph Cautela and Sean Mayhew from the Vintage House transition team were in town and set out to help find Bronson. Neighbor Kristin Freund immediately got the word out on *Nextdoor Yountville*.

This pet-loving town responded in huge fashion. Mallory Uran McEligot from Silver Trident called her friend Laticia Sahs at Hope and Grace. Once a professional dog tracker, Sahs reached out to Weiner.

"A good sign campaign is so important, especially in the first 48 hours," she told me. So signs went up, and the first call came in. Bronson had been seen on Finnell Road. Several neighbors went out with leashes and food searching the area.

Five miserable days went by without another Bronson sighting until Cyndi Gates saw his "lost" poster at the golf course. She had seen him on Vineyard View but lost track of him.

"That's how we knew he had crossed Highway 29 and was headed west," Sahs said. New signs went up in that direction, and anxious volunteers followed.

After work each night, Weiner drove around where calls had come in, searching until at least midnight. Each new sighting helped Sahs track Bronson's pattern.

"The fact that he wore a blue harness helped to eliminate false sightings," Sahs said.

Mt. Veeder residents Paul Woodward and Joanne Oudegeest offered to let her set up humane traps and cameras on their property. And, yes, he was seen at a compost pile. Other neighbors, Isly and Red, reported sightings from their security cameras and loaned Weiner their ATV to search the property.

"Thankfully, since the fires,"

Red told me, "we've not seen any bobcats or mountain lions."

After 20 days, Sahs was repositioning her signs late one night up on Mt. Veeder. From the corner of her eye, she saw a skunk wandering down the road . . . with Bronson along side. Knowing how skittish he'd been, she laid herself down out ahead of him  
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sundial

	High	Low
Wednesday 2/7	77	46
Thursday	76	42
Friday	77	40
Saturday	71	40
Sunday	60	39
Monday	62	38
Tuesday	68	44
Precipitation =	nil	
Season Total =	8.67	
Last Year =	40.02	