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from the popular fishing lake northwest of Reno.

The blasting will target northern pike, a predatory fish that is spreading through Lake Davis and that biologists fear could become established in other lakes and streams. Tested at the lake last spring, blasting kills the fish by generating a low-level underwater shock wave.

During the past three years, nearly 25,000 pike have been removed from the lake under a management plan using such methods as netting and purse seining.

The fish, which officials say also threaten Lake Davis' popular trout fishery, were first noticed in the lake in 1994. A 1997 decision to poison the lake to rid it of pike sparked widespread controversy, bringing rifle-wielding police to the Portola area.

The pike survived the poisoning and were found flourishing two years later. Last year alone, 18,000 pike were pulled from the lake.

## INSIDE TODAY

### CARSON CITY

#### Flag to be retired

The C Hill flag, a touchstone for patriotism in Carson City following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, will be buried today in a retirement ceremony near the city landfill.  
**Details, 5C**

#### Government merger

Some Reno and Washoe County officials are clinging to hope for an enabling bill from the Legislature this session to merge their two governments.  
**Details, 8C**

### OBITUARIES 4C

Baker, Michael  
Thomas  
Brown, Clarence  
Daniels, Alan Dean  
Griffiths, Larry  
Iverson, Evelyn Oliver  
Jones Sr., Nova Don  
Mauwee, Rachel L.  
McGhauey, Elijah  
Vaughn  
Nichols, Joan Ellen  
Piccioni, Antonio  
Pickett, Pearl  
Stephenson, Corrine B.  
Such, Corrine Jane  
Wall, Louis V.

### FORUM

#### What's your view on latest survey?

**RGJ.com** Today's question: How long will U.S. forces need to take control of Iraq?  
**Yesterday's question:** Will Saddam Hussein leave Iraq as President Bush...

# Well woes in Lemmon Valley draining residents' patience

**Water supplies: Homeowners forced to sink wells deeper or drill new ones.**

By Susan Voyles  
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Lori Bushey returned to her Lemmon Valley home from a vacation in September to a nasty surprise — no water in her 293-foot-deep well — that ended up costing her much more than the trip.

Bushey and some of her neighbors blame a new municipal well put on line by Washoe County last summer for sucking their wells dry, forcing them to pay thousands of dollars to drill new wells or sink their wells deeper. Bushey had to drill her new one to 370 feet.

"They tell me that it's a coincidence," said Bushey, who lives in the Heppner subdivision. She has a list of 10 homeowners with similar well woes.

The Heppner subdivision is the latest trouble spot where residents are miffed at the county for drilling large municipal wells.

The well was an expense the Busheys could ill afford. They had to borrow more than \$20,000 for the drill work, a hardship that Bushey said will force her husband, Ed, a 67-year-old maintenance engineer, to postpone his retirement for years.

Bushey has filed a claim for \$21,322 with the county to cover the cost of the new well. In all, she estimates she has spent \$40,000 on wells.

But Dan Dragan, county supervising hydrogeologist, said the county's well two miles away is not the culprit. He said wells fail every year in Lemmon Valley because the water level there is dropping as more water is pumped out than nature restores.

In the Heppner subdivision, more than 125 wells have failed since 1984, when the state began to keep accurate records, Dragan said. Before that, he estimates another 100 wells went dry.

Dragan proposes to recharge the ground water of the Heppner subdivision's mini-hydrobasin. During winter months, Truckee River water leased from the University of Nevada, Reno would be pumped underground.

The solution would be similar to the recharge project at Golden Valley, which went on line in December.

With a nearby water line owned by Truckee Mead-



Liz Margerum/Reno Gazette-Journal

**IN LEMMON VALLEY:** Ed and Lori Bushey stand in front of the new well they drilled last fall. The Busheys say a new municipal well installed by Washoe County is sucking the neighborhood wells dry.

### MEETING

**What:** Sponsored by the Lemmon Valley Association, county water officials will discuss possible water recharge project for the Heppner subdivision.  
**When:** 7 p.m.

**Where:** Lemmon Valley Community Center, 325 W. Patrician Way, Lemmon Valley.

ows Water Authority already built, Dragan said a water line would be built to the top of the hill in the Heppner subdivision and three injection wells installed.

The project would cost about \$600,000 and each of the 511 lot owners to be served would pay about \$1,300 each.

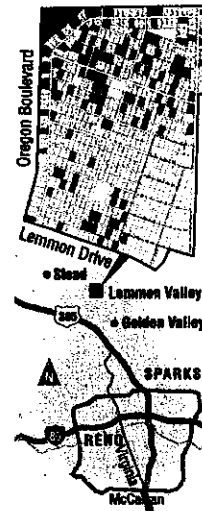
See **WELLS** on 4C

### Heppner subdivision water woes

More and more domestic water wells in the Heppner subdivision in the back end of Lemmon Valley are coming up dry. Residents are paying for wells to be drilled deeper or having new wells dug. Some residents claim a new county municipal well two miles away is responsible. County water officials contend the ground water table drops every year, creating the well problems. The red-colored parcels are ones where wells have been redrilled or new wells drilled. Many of them are located at the top of the hillside subdivision, where wells have to be drilled the deepest to reach water. The lots in the lower right-hand corner do not have domestic wells and are served by a county water system, an older municipal county well. As a solution, the county proposes to pump 100 acre-feet of Truckee River water a year into the aquifer to replenish the ground water.

■ Redrilled or new wells

Source: Reno Gazette-Journal research



Ree Odess/Reno Gazette-Journal

# Astronaut posthumously honored

By Lenita Powers  
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

An honorary doctorate is to be awarded posthumously today to Navy Cmdr. William McCool, one of the seven astronauts who perished in the explosion of the Columbia.

Also during the Board of Regents meeting, University of Nevada, Reno President John Lilley will discuss the university's six-year strategic plan, which includes a controversial reorganization proposal to split the College of Arts and Science into two colleges and place the Mackay School of Mines under the new College of Science.

The proposed reorganization prompted a protest on the campus last month by faculty, students and alumni. Reno Regent Howard Rosenberg said Lilley's presentation is for information and no action will be taken.

"It's going to cover the

# U.S. Forest OKs more to avert w

By Don Thompson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — The U.S. Forest Service will proceed with plans to double logging in the Sierra Nevada range to avert devastating wildfires like those that plagued the West last summer, California's chief forester announced Tuesday.

Environmental groups called Regional Forester Jack Blackwell's fire prevention argument a pretext for more logging, and said they might sue if 90 days of public comment this summer aren't enough to persuade the Forest Service to alter its plans.

Blackwell announced he will accept, with minimal revision, the sweeping changes his review team recommended two weeks ago to a plan approved in the waning days of the Clinton administration for managing 11.5 million acres of the Sierra.

"How many more wake-up calls do we need?" Blackwell said, citing fires in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and a fire in Southern California that threatened giant sequoias and California spotted owl habitat.

### ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

DATE: 3-21-03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT I

SUBMITTED BY: LORI BUSHEY

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# AARP offers free help w