



Christmas Care Packages Make the Holiday Bright

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Senator Gaines Continues Efforts To Carry Common-Sense Drone Legislation

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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

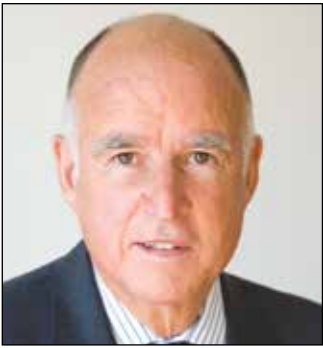
"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 10 • Issue 24

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

December 18, 2015

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POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp



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Lighting Up The Village



Above: A color guard heads the parade that made its way down the boulevard through Fair Oaks Village. At right: The River City Ukulele Orchestra entertains the crowds at Fair Oaks' Christmas in the Village.

Story and photos by Seraphim Winslow

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Children chase free-range chickens through leaf-strewn streets. The River City Ukulele Orchestra strikes up holiday harmonies. People in Santa hats sip chocolate. Families gather along the sides of the old-fashioned main street, down which teenagers expectantly look for the first car in the parade to appear. These were some of the scenes at the Fair Oaks Christmas in the Village, sponsored by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, which took place on Saturday, December 5th.

Though the evening was chilly and the sky overcast, this did not stop the hundreds of bundled-up revelers from enjoying an afternoon and evening of perusing the wares of the arts and craft vendors who set up shop along the village's main street, getting pictures of Santa with the kids, doing crafts at Santa's workshop, or browsing antiques and curios at Fair Oaks' many interesting shops. If attendees got cold, they could warm up with a cup of homemade chili or hot cider, which visitors sipped as they waited for the evening's highlight event: the Christmas parade. Just when it seemed as if

the remaining twilight would be swallowed up by the dark of night, the parade emcee announced, "I see lights!" All heads turned and all eyes squinted to catch the first glimpse of the head of the parade. The

slow-moving line of classic cars, convertibles carrying local beauty queens, fire engines, trailers pulling wheeled coffee shacks, jazz dancers, dogs illuminated

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A Holiday Kick

Martial Artists Offer A Belt For Socks This Holiday Season

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - The hard kicking self-defense style of Taekwondo depends on the feet. Keeping feet warm, dry, and healthy is good for everyone, especially hard kicking martial artists, so this holiday the Black Belts at regional Robinson's Taekwondo (RTKD) schools are giving three free lessons for one pair of warm socks to donate to local charity programs in our area. Drop-off socks and step into your first white belt lessons free. RTKD school says: "Go ahead and 'sock it to us!'"

RTKD Black Belts will open their doors to show you basic self-defense in three free individual class sessions, one to one. One pair of socks, three free lessons for you!

Socks take a beating when you can't change them often enough and the feet are the foundation of our body. Help those in need stay healthy, warm and dry this holiday season by dropping by one of the participating Robinson's Taekwondo locations near you and make a donation before Dec. 31st. We can schedule your three free lessons at any time in the next three months when you donate and receive our Special VIP Pass. Visit <http://www.robinsonstktd.com> to find a regional location near your home. Call (888) 249-7853. Now stockings are a holiday icon but can we talk about belts...black belts that is!

Source: Rick Reed



Capitol Pops Concludes 18th Season at Christ the King

Story and photos by Seraphim Winslow

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Under the baton of Director Kurt Pearsall, the Capitol Pops Concert Band wrapped up its 18th season at an open concert featuring a dozen of the season's most popular tunes. The sanctuary at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Orangevale, where the band performed its last set of the season, was filled with folks in a music-loving holiday mood on Thursday, December 10th at 7 p.m.

The one-hour performance featured three traditional Christmas hymns, "Away in a Manger," "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "Silent Night," as well as some winter songs like "Frosty the Snowman" and "White Christmas." Soloist Susan Skinner was on-hand to wow the crowd with her silky vocal accompaniment to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

Founded in 1997, the Capitol Pops Concert Band has performed a rich variety of musical favorites. Thousands of music lovers throughout Northern California have enjoyed this lively and talented group, based in Citrus Heights. They are a self-supporting, not-for-profit musical community consisting of about 65 musicians from a wide cross-section of the Sacramento region.

One of the most creative performances of the evening at Christ the King was Mark Glover's recitation of Clement Clark Moore's famous poem, "'Twas the Night



The bassist and saxophone player of the Capitol Pops Concert Band performed holiday hits at Christ the King Lutheran in Orangevale.

Before Christmas," the words of which the band interspersed with samples of tunes humorously fitting the

gist of each verse. For example, when Glover recited the famous line naming each of the "eight tiny reindeer," the band chimed in with the melody of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!" Only the savviest name-that-tune fans in the audience could catch every musical reference, and this obviously delighted Pearsall, who led the band with a wink and a nod.

Toward the end of the concert, a truly good time was had by all when the church's pastor, Scott Guemmer, and Susan Skinner led the crowd in rousing sing-along to a Christmas medley, which ended with the pastor and the

Continued on page 3

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An Educational Feast

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Christmas Care Packages Make the Holiday Bright



Proud Blue Star Moms pose with their banner during their final CARE package packing party of 2015. The event took place at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall. Photo by Henry Sanchez

By Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- It's a family affair and a community affair. The Sacramento Blue Star Moms' tri-annual "packing parties," such as the one held in November that brought together hundreds of packers and other participants from Sacramento and South Placer counties, fill CARE packages with a taste of home for men and women serving in combat overseas.

The 400 Christmas CARE packages prepared at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall included essential personal hygiene items along with little added "hugs" like a warm scarf, a good book, and popular

snacks and candies. Each box also included a greeting from the Sacramento Blue Star Moms and a personal message written by grateful men, women, and children here at home.

The day was a family affair. Children and parents waited together in line to fill their boxes, learning about volunteerism and patriotism from being an active part of the event. Area teens from the Del Campo High School Key Club in Fair Oaks worked together as a team. Other participants spent time writing heartfelt letters of thanks to unknown military members.

Members of Sacramento Blue Star Moms were recognized for their service, as were sponsors and supporters in the community

who collaborate throughout the year to aid Sacramento Blue Star Moms in their work. Immediate past and present board members were presented with a flag that flew over Washington D.C. and a letter of appreciation from their respective assembly member. Past First Vice President Heidi Bacon received a resolution from Senator Nielsen's office for her four years of service to Sacramento Blue Star Moms.

Gold Star parents Tom and Patty Shumacher from Granite Bay were honored, along with their son USMC Pfc. Victor Dew. At 20 years old, Dew was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 during Operation Enduring Freedom. The Shumachers are active with the Sacramento Blue Star Moms.

Robert "Cowboy Bob" Rogers, known for supplying military flags for all Sacramento Blue Star Moms events and other military events throughout the region, was presented with a flag flown over Kuwait and a certificate of appreciation.

Blue Star Moms are proud mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians living in South Placer county and Sacramento county who have children serving in the military, guard, or reserves or have children who are veterans. Members and friends also volunteer at

VA hospitals and help out at other veteran outreach programs including Stand Down, Wounded Warriors, and Homes for our Troops. They also work with veteran organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Throughout the year, Blue Star Moms collect items and fundraise to pay for postage to mail the CARE packages. Postage is about \$13.80 for each box.

Packing parties in 2016 are scheduled for Feb. 27th, June 18th, and Nov. 19th at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall at 110 Park Drive, Roseville.

The Sacramento Blue Star Moms depend solely on donations to complete their mission. There are no paid positions; participants are all volunteers. You



"Cowboy" Bob Rodgers was given a flag flown over Kuwait and certificate for all he does for Sacramento Blue Star Moms. He puts flags up at every event they have. Photo by Henry Sanchez

can help them support our military by donating items for CARE packages, making a tax-deductible financial donation, attending their events and fundraisers, writing letters to the troops, and participating in CARE package packing parties. Speakers are available to speak to your organization.

To volunteer or donate, contact Tabitha Gomez at (916) 206-6467 or sacramentobsm@gmail.com.

Source: Sacramento Blue Star Moms

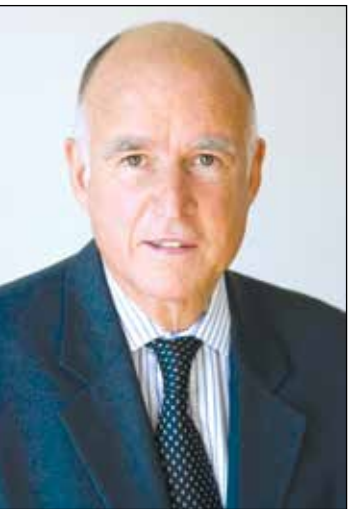
"The Gift: Nativity" Special Church Event

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Join Christ the King Lutheran Church in Orangevale for a very special event called "The Gift: Nativity." On December 18th, 19th and 20th at 7, 7:45, and 8:30 p.m., come and join the church as they celebrate the birth of Christ through words, drama, lights, and music. During this free event, there will be holiday treats and arts and crafts

with lots of free hot chocolate. Christ the King Lutheran Church is located at 5811 Walnut Ave., Orangevale, 95662. For more information about Christ the King Lutheran Church's "The Gift: Nativity," please contact the church at (916) 988-2484 or go online to ChristTheKingOV.com.

Source: Christ the King Lutheran Church

Governor Brown Announces Appointment



FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Lynn Sadler, 63, of Fair Oaks, has been appointed deputy director of the Division of Boating and Waterways at the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Sadler has been director of the California Public Utilities Commission, Office of Governmental Affairs since

2012. She was assistant public advisor for the California Energy Commission from 2010 to 2012, president and chief executive officer at the Mountain Lion Foundation from 1996 to 2010, and natural resources director at the Planning and Conservation League from 1989 to 1996. Sadler was a legislative consultant for the California State Senate Joint Committee on Science and Technology from 1986 to 1987, assistant director for information and policy coordination at the California Department of Personnel Administration from 1981 to 1982, and a staff member in the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. from 1980 to 1981. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$122,796. Sadler is a Democrat.

Source: Governor Brown's Office

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Blue Star Mom Betty Brady, Brysom Nussbaum, Grandma Heidi Bacon, and Jacob Nussbaum. Photo by Deanna Nussbaum

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BloodSource Announces Merger with Blood Centers of the Pacific



The joined organizations now form the largest blood supplier in Northern and Central California.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - BloodSource is merging operations with San Francisco-based Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP) and will be a part of Blood Systems, a Scottsdale-based nonprofit organization. Blood Systems, a leader in transfusion medicine services, operates blood centers that serve more than 700 hospitals in 24 states. The joined organizations now form the largest blood supplier in Northern and Central California. The transaction is targeted to close by year end.

As hospitals form regional, state, and national systems, they often seek one blood service provider. As one organization supported by the national resources of Blood Systems, BloodSource, and BCP are poised to respond to larger hospital system opportunities.

“Our organizations share a common mission and commitment to both donors and patients,” said Rob Van Tuyle, BloodSource CEO. “We are extremely excited about our collaboration with BCP and Blood Systems, access to the vast resources of these organizations and how together, we can better serve our community.”

“BloodSource is a natural fit for Blood Systems,” said Dan Connor, Blood Systems President

and CEO. “Our organizations have already worked together for a number of years and we look forward to expanding our relationship.”

BloodSource was founded in 1948 by the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society (SSVMS). BloodSource is committed to the medical needs of our community and will continue to support the SSVMS.

BloodSource and BCP will continue to utilize their respective names and serve their existing communities in Northern and Central California. Van Tuyle will be the executive in charge of the two merged organizations. Current BCP CEO and President Dr. Nora Hirschler will retire in spring 2016 as she has planned.

About BloodSource: Since 1948, BloodSource® has saved countless lives through the generosity of its passionate volunteer donor base. Established as a not-for-profit community blood bank, BloodSource® provides blood and medical expertise to hospitals throughout Northern and Central California, and around the world. Donors can save lives in many ways at BloodSource®, through source plasma, platelets, transfusable plasma or whole blood donations. www.bloodsource.org

About Blood Centers of the Pacific: Blood Centers of the Pacific operates Shasta Blood Center in Redding, California. Blood Centers of the Pacific is a nonprofit, community based organization that provides blood components to hospitals, physicians and patients throughout Northern California. Blood Centers of the Pacific also houses the Blood Systems Research Institute which conducts medical research to improve blood safety and patient care. Blood Centers of the Pacific, including the Shasta Blood Center, helps 50,000 patients every year with blood donated by community volunteers. www.bloodcenters.org

About Blood Systems: Blood Systems, one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit community blood services providers – operates community blood centers serving more than 700 hospitals in 24 states, biological products distribution services, a quality consulting group and a world-renowned transfusion medicine research institute, and is a partner in the operation of high-volume donor testing laboratories. www.bloodsystems.org

Source: BloodSource and Blood Centers of the Pacific ★

Capitol Pops Concludes 18th Season at Christ the King

Continued from page 1

vocalist dancing in the aisle. When eight o'clock rolled around, no one wanted the fun to end, so the band responded with a welcome encore.

Concert-goers were encouraged to donate new or gently used coats as part of a national clothing drive called One Warm Coat. This

San Francisco-based organization provides warm clothes to the needy throughout Northern California. It has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating more than 4 million of them since then and supporting 3,000 coats drives each year.



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***The Annual Percentage Yield is accurate as of 12/4/15 and may change at anytime without prior notice. The APY applies to a Liquid Certificate of Deposit (Liquid CD) with a 12 month term. The minimum balance to obtain the stated APY is \$10,000. Additional deposits in amounts of \$500 or greater may be allowed until 7 days before maturity date. Withdrawals of principal before maturity may be allowed, in amounts of \$500 or greater without penalty after the first six days of deposit (or after the first six days following any partial withdrawal) as long as the minimum balance of \$10,000 is maintained. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal if the minimum balance is not maintained.

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“Splash Brothers” Promote Water Conservation

CSN Bay Area, the Golden State Warriors, and Save Our Water Team Up to Raise Awareness During California’s Historic Drought

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - CSN Bay Area (@CSNAuthentic), the exclusive television home for Golden State Warriors games in Northern California, has partnered with the team and Save Our Water (@saveourwater), California’s official statewide conservation program, to produce a public service announcement featuring the “Splash Brothers”—reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry and All-Star guard Klay Thompson of the NBA Champion Warriors.

As California prepares for a fifth year of drought, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently issued an executive order that calls for additional actions to build on the state’s ongoing response to record dry conditions, including an extension of a mandatory statewide 25 percent water use reduction if drought conditions persist in January 2016. Even as California moves into what is likely to be a wet winter, Save Our Water is urging Californians move beyond short-term water saving solutions and make permanent changes to conserve.

“Splash Brothers” Stephen Curry & Klay Thompson PSA: <http://www.csnbayarea.com/warriors/splash-brothers-psa-save-our-water>.

“We know California is in a serious drought and our hope with this PSA is to help raise awareness to encourage more Californians to conserve water,” said Thompson. “As a community we all need to do our part to help the cause.”

Regarded as one of the best shooting backcourt duos in the NBA, Curry and Thompson got the nickname “Splash Brothers” for their ability to shoot the basketball and “splash” the net from long-range, particularly from beyond the three-point line.

During the 2014-15 championship season, Curry broke his own NBA record for the most three-pointers in one season with 286, Thompson finished second in the league with 239, and the “Splash Brothers” became the league’s most prolific three-point duo with a record 525 threes.

“We appreciate the support of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and the NBA champion Warriors and thank them for their efforts to raise awareness of the Golden State’s unprecedented drought and to encourage Californians to conserve water,” said Ted Griggs, president and general manager of CSN Bay Area and CSN California.

“We are thrilled the Splash Brothers have joined the growing chorus of Californians spreading the word of the need to save water, even during a wet winter,” said Jennifer Persike, deputy executive director of External Affairs and Member Services of the Association of California Water Agencies. “Save Our Water thanks the Golden State Warriors and Comcast SportsNet for their contribution in raising awareness that in this drought regular conservation isn’t enough—we must take extraordinary measures to save water.”

Save Our Water’s website is available in both English and Spanish and is filled with tips, tools, and inspiration to help every Californian find new and creative ways to conserve. From tips on how to keep trees healthy during the drought to an interactive section allowing users to visually explore how they can save water both inside and outside the home, Save Our Water can help everyone easily conserve at home and at work, every day. Save Our Water connects with Californians on its

Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

About Save Our Water: Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has directed the first-ever statewide mandatory water reductions in California, calling on all Californians to reduce their water use by 25 percent and prevent water waste. Save Our Water is a partnership between the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources.

About CSN Bay Area: CSN Bay Area and CSN California, both part of NBC Sports Regional Networks, serve more than four million households in Northern California, Nevada, Southern Oregon and Hawaii. CSN Bay Area, the television home of MLB’s San Francisco Giants, NBA’s Golden State Warriors, and the official regional sports network of the San Francisco 49ers, also features a robust lineup of Emmy Award-winning news, analysis and original programming. CSN California offers live coverage of MLB’s Oakland Athletics, NBA’s Sacramento Kings, NHL’s San Jose Sharks, MLS’s San Jose Earthquakes and is the official regional sports network of the Oakland Raiders. Collectively, these networks deliver more than 600 live sporting events per year, over 1,500 live studio shows, including SportsNet Central, SportsTalk Live, Pregame Live, Postgame Live, Press Conference Live, as well as compelling digital content, up-to-the-minute scores, highlights and breaking news via www.CSNBayArea.com and www.CSNCalifornia.com. Follow both networks on Twitter via @CSNAuthentic.

Source: DWR Public Affairs Office

Senator Gaines Continues Efforts to Carry Common-Sense Drone Legislation

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) announced plans to introduce a package of six urgently needed and important bills that will protect citizens, property, and emergency responders from drone interference.

“Privacy and public safety issues, including today’s heightened threat of terrorism, are among the most important policy issues facing Californians,” said Senator Gaines. “We must protect the public’s right to privacy and more importantly, their safety, from inappropriate drone use. I attempted to address this new reality with several drone-related bills last session and I vow to continue tackling this problem that impacts the lives of all Californians.”

Last session, Senator Gaines introduced a series of drone bills that received unanimous, bi-partisan support from the legislature; however, they were vetoed by Governor Brown. Senator Gaines will be reintroducing those bills as



Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) announced plans to introduce a package of six urgently needed and important bills that will protect citizens, property, and emergency responders from drone interference. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

part of his drone-related legislative package, in addition to several others, including the following:

- **Drones over Emergency Zones**—Increases the fines for drone interference with firefighting and emergency response activities.
- **Drones and Immunity for Emergency Responders**—Grants civil immunity to any emergency responder who damages a drone in the course of firefighting, air ambulance, or search-and-rescue operations.

- **Drones over Schools**—Bans drones from flying over public schools grades K-12, while school is in session.
- **Drones over Prisons**—Prohibits drones from flying over prisons and delivering contraband.
- **Drones over Critical Infrastructure**—Restricts drones from flying over critical infrastructure.
- **Drone Stalking**—Disallows an individual from using drones to violate a restraining order.

“The problem of drone interference will likely be far worse this coming year because one million new drones are expected to be given as holiday gifts,” said Senator Gaines. “Drone operators need to understand all air safety laws and use common sense. But if they ignore the law and expose everyone to direct and unnecessary risk, they should be punished. My package of bills will do just that.”

Source: Senator Ted Gaines’ Office

Coalition and Legislators Partner for Funding of Disability Services

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Families, healthcare providers, and supporters marched to the State Capitol recently to highlight the lack of state funding for California’s most vulnerable and voiceless population, those with developmental disabilities.

“Increased access to care should be a budget priority,” said Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber). “Nearly 50 years ago, the state made a promise through the Lanterman Act that children and adults with developmental disabilities would be cared for. This promise should be kept.”

In July, Governor Brown called for a Special Session of the Legislature to address health care. In response, Senator Nielsen along with Senator Jeff Stone (R-Murrieta), introduced a legislative proposal to help the developmental services community achieve additional funding.

Specifically, their measure, Senate Bill X2-4, would provide the Department of Developmental

Services with the means to fund targeted rate increases for regional centers and providers through any General Fund surplus revenues. It would also pay the same for Medi-Cal providers through funding from the Department of Health Care Services with these increases being made retroactive to July 1, 2015.

The Legislature denied a public hearing for SBX2-4, preventing it from being debated. This roadblock deprived funding for the developmental services community.

Providers have endured a decade of rate cuts and freezes.

The state is projected to receive an additional \$3.6 billion in unanticipated tax revenue according to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst.

Senator Nielsen and his colleagues continue their push in support of funding for the developmental disability community.

“State revenues are strong. Helping Californians with

developmental disabilities must be the first item discussed in this year’s budget before anything else,” said Senate Republican Leader Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield).

Michael Ziegler, PRIDE Industries President/CEO said, “We appreciate the leadership of Senators Nielsen and Stone in championing critical funding for services supporting individuals with intellectual and development disabilities.

“We support any initiative that can restore and ensure community-based programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens.”

Senator Jim Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. To contact Senator Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov.

Source: Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Appear like a chick
6. Unit of electrical resistance
9. "____ the word"
13. Convex molding
14. Honey maker
15. Japanese-American
16. Russian author of "Dead Souls"
17. "C'____ la vie!"
18. English county
19. *Students' winter delight?
21. *Apres-ski site
23. Goose egg
24. *Snow ____
25. Olden-day aerosol can propellant
28. Post WWII military alliance
30. Lorraine's neighbor
35. Word of mouth
37. Drug smuggler
39. "____ a high note"
40. Orange traffic controller
41. Parting words
43. Bookie's quote
44. Like draft beer
46. Apiece
47. 7 days
48. Made amends
50. Clarified butter
52. Like martini or humor
53. Justice's garb
55. A late time of life
57. *He stole Christmas
60. *Frosty, e.g.
64. ____ profundo
65. Tropical American cuckoo
67. Index and middle fingers extended
68. Furiously angry
69. Container for liquids
70. Island off Manhattan
71. "Lights out" signal
72. Weary traveler's destination
73. *Toboggans

DOWN

1. The ____, Washington's offensive line, 1980s-90s
2. Shakespeare's hometown river
3. A meal order for takeout
4. Pierrot or Harlequin, e.g.
5. ____, as in breath
6. Be obedient
7. "For ____ a jolly..."
8. Subway in Paris
9. Japanese soup
10. Brezhnev's country
11. Track event
12. Half dozen
15. Get cozy
20. Remember this battle site!
22. Baseball stat
24. Autumn attraction
25. *Popular hot winter beverage
26. Can be hot or cold, according to meteorologists

27. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
29. "Donut-shaped" sled
31. *Chionophobia is fear or dislike of this
32. Supplemented
33. Computer programmer
34. Glorify
36. With little fat
38. Make a sketch
42. "Two and a Half Men" star
45. Popular anise-flavored liqueur
49. *He's busy during cold and flu season
51. Runs off
54. Indian vegetable fritter
56. Inhabit
57. Greek personification of Earth
58. Invitation request
59. a.k.a. The Islamic State
60. *Capricorn or Aquarius
61. Tom, not Tabby
62. Battery fluid
63. Famed loch
64. Club alternative
66. Mother Teresa, e.g.

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7						9
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9		1		5		
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1		6		2	9	

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Solutions on Page 5

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 4

H	A	T	C	H		O	H	M			M	U	M	S
O	V	O	L	O		B	E	E			N	I	S	E
G	O	G	O	L		E	S	T			E	S	S	E
S	N	O	W	D	A	Y		R	E	S	O	R	T	
			N	I	L			F	O	R	T			
C	F	C			N	A	T	O			A	L	S	A
O	R	A	L			M	U	L	E		E	N	D	O
C	O	N	E		O	B	I	T	S		O	D	D	S
O	N	T	A	P		E	A	C	H		W	E	E	K
A	T	O	N	E	D		G	H	E	E		D	R	Y
						R	O	B	E		E	L	D	
			G	R	I	N	C	H		S	N	O	W	M
B	A	S	S	O			A	N	I		P	E	A	C
L	I	V	I	D			J	U	G		E	L	L	I
T	A	P	S				I	N	N		S	L	E	D

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 4

4	1	5		3	8	7	9	2	6
8	9	3		4	6	2	7	1	5
6	2	7		9	5	1	8	4	3
7	5	1		2	3	4	6	8	9
2	3	8		6	9	5	1	7	4
9	6	4		1	7	8	5	3	2
3	8	2		5	1	6	4	9	7
5	7	9		8	4	3	2	6	1
1	4	6		7	2	9	3	5	8

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

God has given me a supernatural ability to see or discern the future potential a person can have when they seek His will for their life. There was a time recently when I could sense a deep hurt in a young woman seated in front of me. As a gentleman sang a beautiful song, I felt led to put my hands on her shoulders to let her know someone cared. When the song was finished, she turned around and began to share her heartfelt pain. She shared the depth of her personal pain with me for several minutes. Then, God spoke words of

Future Potential

comfort and faith as tears flowed from her eyes. I asked if I might pray with her and she agreed. The words of my prayer were words I believed God was speaking directly to her to encourage her heart and help her believe that God cares deeply about what she was going through. Sometimes, we just know we are in a time of God's appointment and this was certainly one of those times for me. God wants everyone to know how precious they are to Him.

When one submits to be living in the will of God for their lives, He will bring about events to help others and for us it will be a time of fulfillment of happiness, joy, and peace beyond anything one has ever enjoyed.

When one listens to the awesome voice of God and is obedient, He will bless everyone in the process. Our calling to function with God is often missed by a person's disobedience, because they are thinking about self rather than honoring the God they claim to pray and worship on Sundays. All rejection and disobedience actually

dishonors the one they claim to love with their heart and soul.

God is not the author of confusion! (1 Cor. 14:33) He is the God of love and peace, which extends to the hearts of those who truly know and love Him. The genuine love of God is active and pierces like a double-edged sword, cutting away the evil sin the devil invades into every life from the beginning of creation.

Listen—God may be speaking to you! Then, have faith and act on what God says. Submission and obedience are important if you want to be used of the Holy Spirit to be in God's perfect will for your life. Then, honor him and bring Him Glory for what He does in your life! Bless someone's life every single day you live on this earth. Prove your love to be like the love of Jesus Christ by working with Him when He speaks to you.

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at Marlysjn@gmail.com. ★



A Film Review by Tim Riley

KRAMPUS (Rated PG-13)

For the first scene of "Krampus," don't be fooled by Bing Crosby's classic holiday song, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," blaring in the background of a big box story opening its doors to Christmas shoppers on Black Friday.

Based on ancient folklore traced back through centuries of European culture, a horned beast named Krampus captured disobedient children during the Christmas season.

You could say that the nasty demon with cloven-hooves was the anti-Santa Claus.

It is also possible to think that Krampus might find Black Friday his favorite day of the year, if the European myth should somehow take hold over here. After all, the frenzied scene of deranged shoppers mauling each other for toys would be fertile ground for the demon's mayhem.

Somewhere in snowy Pennsylvania, the Engel family is only days away from Christmas. Patriarch Tom (Adam Scott), a workaholic, constantly travels or stays on the phone.

His wife Sarah (Toni Collette), a harried mom, strives for Martha Stewart-like perfection.

Teenager Beth (Stefania LaVie Owen) is looking for ways to escape the family to spend time with her boyfriend.

The pre-adolescent yet sensitive Max (Emjay Anthony) wants to believe in Santa Claus but has become disillusioned after too much squabbling with family members.

The Christmas spirit at the Engel household is about to be crushed with the arrival of dreaded houseguests,

Riley Reviews

DARKLY COMIC TONE FOR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN "KRAMPUS"

namely Sarah's sister Linda (Allison Tolman) and her extended family.

A loutish brute, Uncle Howard (David Koechner, always ready for this type of role) is perpetually loud and obnoxious. It might have something to do with the fact that he's a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, though being a Philadelphia Eagles fan would do just as well.

Howard and Linda's brood of three bratty children are equally abrasive and insufferable. The chubby Howard Jr. (Maverick Flack) just might eat everything in sight. His sisters Stevie and Jordan (Lolo Owen and Queenie Samuel) dress like tomboys and lack good manners.

But the icing on the cake is taken by the clan's Aunt Dorothy (Conchata Ferrell), a politically incorrect, hard-drinking naysayer who makes it clear she didn't even like children when she was one. It doesn't take long for the cranky Dorothy to complain about the food and decorations.

Tensions flare at the first family dinner when Max's cousins make fun of his letter to Santa Claus, causing him to bolt to his room. Tearing up the letter, he tosses it into the wind outside his bedroom window.

Of course, this is a big mistake. A freakish blizzard soon arrives to cut off electricity and heat. Cell phones and the Internet get no service. The suburban neighborhood becomes a ghost town. And then ominous snowmen appear in the front yard.

A delivery man shows up with strange packages.

Against common sense and everyone's wishes, Beth decides to go looking for her boyfriend. When she fails to return, Tom and Howard set out as a search party, only to encounter true menace in a subterranean monster.

Retreating back to the Engel home, Tom and Howard warn

the others of what becomes readily apparent. Strange, unexplained events are leading to palpable fear that something has gone terribly wrong. Soon enough, the house is under attack from the weird minions of Krampus.

Only Max's immigrant grandmother Omi (Krista Stadler), who speaks German most of the time, is able to explain that the chaos is caused by the mythical Krampus, who comes to punish the naughty and unleash darkness and mayhem.

All hell breaks loose as the twisted doppelgangers of beloved holiday icons, from frost-bitten snowmen and cherubs, taken on a monstrous life of their own, laying siege to the fractured family's home and forcing them to fight for survival.

Cuddly teddy bears turn feral and cute little dolls become satanic creatures bent on killing. Even tasty little gingerbread men come alive, gleefully using a nail gun as a nasty weapon. A jack-in-the-box stages a real fright.

Touted as a horror-comedy, "Krampus" lives up to its billing, with some amusing humor interspersed with the family quarrels and the need to take caution with certain holiday baked goods. The horror part is nicely delivered by the imaginative use of making toys deadly dangerous.

But the siege by demonic cookies and toys is just a prelude to bigger things to come.

As if to signal Armageddon, the house is invaded by evil elves bent on a deadly mission. And then, Krampus, a hulking beast, finally makes his presence known.

"Krampus" aspires to be a dark and subversive alternative to traditional classic holiday fare, and it does have something to offer if you are game for some twisted holiday fun.

Yet, "Krampus" is not likely to be a holiday classic in its own right, and it certainly is not the type of family-friendly entertainment designed for the enjoyment of younger children.

After seeing "Krampus," I am taking no chances. A letter to Santa Claus is in the mail as soon as I find a stamp. And I am not asking for anything for myself, for fear of a strange package showing up at my door. ★

Christmas in Fair Oaks Village

Continued from page 1

in strands of colored lights and, of course, Santa Claus, made its way slowly up the boulevard and past the little shops lined up along the homey town square reminiscent of Main Street, U.S.A. Beating out time for the event was the award-winning Bella Vista High School marching band. There was a radiant nativity scene on wheels, presented by the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, featuring live actors representing Mary, Joseph, and other holy figures from that mystical night of nights.

Even the local tattoo parlor celebrated the coming of Christ with a hot blast of fire from its tailpipe. Nearly every group of marchers threw out candy and treats to admiring crowds of children who watched it all with glee from the sidelines.

After the celebratory procession, the magical moment came for the lighting of the Fair Oaks Christmas tree, which rose majestically from the center of the town square. It was a fitting consummation of an event that this community obviously knows how to do in style, marking the festive start of this little town's favorite holiday. ★



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POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

eye movement, the lightest stage of our sleep cycle where the most vividly recalled dreams occur. The longer we sleep, the longer this level lasts.

3) Always be ready. While easy to have, dreams are hard to remember, fleeing from our memory seconds after we wake. Keep that journal handy turning to them even before turning on a light. Justina even writes in the dark. You can connect the notes later.

4) Don't move. When waking up, it only takes a slight movement to jolt you miles from your dream.

5) Daydream. You can dream during the day as much as you dream at night. Your dreams are really thoughts or images.

6) Explore meanings. Rather than assume the worst in a dream, find out how else they could be viewed.

7) Look for symbols. Only a few jotted remembrances of each dream will begin to tell a story about the dreamer.

8) Trust yourself. It's important to not rely solely on dream dictionaries when decoding them. A more reliable source is you. Ask yourself what the dream means to you.

9) Lose control. Some people spend years mastering the skill

of lucid dreaming, the ability to control one's dreams. Justina would rather relax and have her subconscious write the script without the disruption of any music or sleeping drug.

So what about those symbols that come up in dreams? Want some of the symbols and what they might mean? Animals represent primitive aspects of yourself, including raw desires and sexual nature. Babies can signify innocence, warmth, new beginnings or the desire to have a baby. Demons can actually indicate denied emotions and the need to change your behavior for the better. Money alone usually means self-worth. Exchanging money in your dream may convey anticipation for life changes. Roads may indicate your direction in life and a need to reflect on your current path. Teeth, or more specifically losing teeth, may commonly reflect a hidden fear of getting old and being seen as unattractive.

According to Lasley, dreams contain the truths we need for healthy living. They contain the reality of our human existence... interweaving our past, present, and future. Check out www.dreamsynergy.org for more exciting facts about dreams and Justina Lasley. Sweet dreams!★

Wake Up To Your Dreams

Can you harness the power of your dreams to influence your awake times? Are your dreams like a world theatre that reflects your life...sometimes in strange ways? Justina Lasley says you are the director. She actually looks forward to sleeping. She claims you can make a difference in your own life with "Wake Up To Your Dreams." Lal is founder and director of the Institute for Dream Studies in South Carolina. "Dreams are God's answers to our prayers," according to Lasley. "We're praying for things and sleeping right through it." So she shared some tips on how to capture the power of your dreams.

1) Get serious. Dreams are elusive. Those who can't remember dreams may not want to or care to. If you are serious, get a journal to log your dreams and a pencil.

2) Get sleep. It takes about three hours of sleep to achieve rapid

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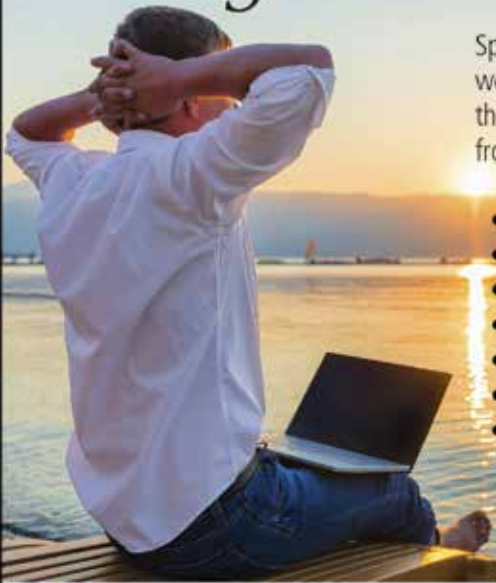
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Game Plots

Star Wars Battlefront: Not the Game You Are Looking For

By Noah Howard

In the past few decades, “Star Wars” has easily become the biggest popular culture sensation since Mickey Mouse. Despite the lack of legitimately excellent “Star Wars” films since the release of “Return of the Jedi,” the brand has been kept alive and thriving by a robust culture of comics, television, books, and of course, video games. “Star Wars” video games were once so prolific that they had an entire studio dedicated to their creation, LucasArts, which has since been acquired by Disney. But because the release of a new “Star Wars” on December 18th is arguably one of the biggest popular culture events in years, it only made sense for the new contractor of the “Star Wars” license, Electronic Arts, to release the game that everyone has been waiting for.

That game is “Star Wars Battlefront,” a game that aims to scratch the fantasy itch of wanting to participate in the vast and glorious battles of the “Star Wars” universe. The new game comes more than a decade after the release of two preceding “Battlefront” titles in 2004 and 2005. Despite their age, those two games are still considered the best “Star Wars” video games ever, and their PC versions still have a dedicated following.

With the release of this new “Battlefront” game, it looks like the thrones of those older



Game reviewer Noah Howard said, “That game is “Star Wars Battlefront,” a game that aims to scratch the fantasy itch of wanting to participate in the vast and glorious battles of the “Star Wars” universe.”

titles will not be usurped. In the new “Battlefront,” EA studio DICE seems to have crafted an expensive cash-in, exploiting the fantasies and excitement of “Star Wars” fans directly preceding the new film. It is by no means a bad game; in fact most of the time it is—no pun intended—an absolute blast.

Yet “Battlefront” clearly sees the player as little more than a source of income, giving only part of a game for the \$60 price tag and expecting players to dig into their wallets quite a bit more (about \$50 more) if they want the full experience. Most of “Battlefront” seems to have been deliberately withheld from players to sell to them separately later on. “Battlefront’s” business model does not revolve around moving units, but around selling extra downloadable content (DLC) to people who already own the base game. If the base game was sufficient, this wouldn’t be a problem. The original two “Battlefront” games, especially, are some of the most content-rich games ever made. But with only four maps, six special “hero”

characters, and little in terms of solo or local play modes available at launch, the new “Battlefront” doesn’t seem like a full-priced retail title. It doesn’t even seem finished.

And it very well might not be. Obviously “Battlefront” had to release within the tight window of the new “Star Wars” movie. So, with this limited amount of time, the focus of “Battlefront” had to be on what would look the most impressive in “Battlefront’s” explosive gameplay trailers: graphics. It forced “Battlefront” to aim for style over substance.

Don’t get me wrong; most people playing it right now are undeniably having fun. But EA needs to learn to treat its customers as more than just their bank accounts. We’ve been seeing more and more games this past year that trust the player, treating them with intelligence and respect (“Fallout 4” comes to mind). “Battlefront’s” strategy is a jarring contrast that has begun to turn some heads the other way.

To respond to Noah’s articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com ★



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DA Reports

Recent cases of interest



CASE: Lonnie Glenn Schmidt
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Dean Archibald, Real Estate Fraud Unit

Seventy-one-year-old Lonnie Glenn Schmidt was convicted by jury of 30 felony real estate fraud charges involving foreclosure consultant fraud, recording false documents, unauthorized use of personal identifying information, second-degree burglary, perjury, grand theft, and attempted grand theft. The jury also found true out-on-bail, white-collar crime, and property loss enhancements.

Between 2009 and 2013, Schmidt falsely promised homeowners facing foreclosure that he would save their homes by eliminating their mortgage. Desperate to believe Schmidt's promises, homeowners who signed up for his program gave Schmidt control over their properties. Schmidt then tried to use those properties as collateral for personal loans or tried to sell them outright for his own profit – all the while charging the victims “rent” to continue living in what had been their own homes.

Schmidt has four prior 1990 federal felony convictions for a tax scam involving conspiracy to impair and impede the IRS, witness tampering, aiding and abetting witness tampering, and conspiracy.

Schmidt faces a sentence of more than 20 years in prison. Sentencing is set for January 8, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 14 before the Honorable Donald Currier.

This case was investigated and prosecuted by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit.

CASE: Ernest Polk
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Kristen Ilharreguy, Targeting Armed Recidivist Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET)

The Honorable Lawrence Brown sentenced 27-year-old Ernest Polk to 7 years, 8 months in prison. On November 13, 2015, a jury convicted Polk of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of heroin and methamphetamine for sale while armed with a firearm. The jury also found true allegations that Polk committed the offenses for

the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On March 24, 2015, Polk attempted to discard a loaded firearm when he was contacted by law enforcement. After Polk was arrested, he was searched at the jail where officers found heroin and methamphetamine on him.

Polk, a member within the East Side Piru criminal street gang, was on felony probation at the time of this offense for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

CASE: Waylon Douglas Pitchford & Jayson William Weaver
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney A.J. Pongratz, Prison Crimes Unit

Thirty-eight-year-old Waylon Pitchford and 38-year-old Jayson Weaver have been charged for the murder of 71-year-old Hugo Pinell. Both face the special circumstance of having previous murder convictions, and Weaver faces the allegation he used a deadly weapon. Pitchford and Weaver have also been charged with assault by a life prisoner. Weaver faces a third charge of custodial possession of a weapon.

Hugo Pinell was an inmate along with Pitchford and Weaver at the California State Prison – Sacramento. On August 12, 2015, Pitchford and Weaver assaulted Pinell with an inmate manufactured weapon. Weaver stabbed Pinell 19 times while Pitchford held Pinell down. Pinell was unconscious when he arrived in the infirmary. Despite attempts to save his life, he died from his injuries. This attack provoked a fight involving as many as 70 inmates.

Pitchford has a 2013 pending case for stabbing another inmate with an inmate manufactured weapon. He has a prior 2003 murder conviction in Tehama County, and a 2012 assault by a state prisoner with a deadly weapon conviction in Sacramento County.

Weaver has a prior 1994 murder conviction in San Diego County, and a 2006 assault by a life prisoner with a deadly weapon conviction in Sacramento County.

Arraignment for both defendants is scheduled for March 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. by video conference in Department 9 of the Sacramento Superior Court. ★



Lisa West
Community Outreach Director



Memorial Parks
Mortuaries & Crematory

Pets Are Family Members Too

By Lisa West

I've seen many family members experience tremendous grief when a loved one passes away. But, those who also grieve quite severely are the ones who lose a beloved pet.

Pets are family members too. They are loved and cherished and sadly they do not live near as long as humans. This often means that within your lifetime you could experience the death of several pets.

Pets are also highly valuable in every day life. Service animals help people in a variety of ways, from being a calming influence, to guiding the blind, and doing household chores for those who are wheelchair bound.

Our K9 police officers and military war dogs – even the family guard dog protect us and have often given their lives in the line of duty.

When you lose a pet there are as many options for memorializing them as there is for their human counterpart. Some states allow your pet to be buried with you but that is not the case in California.

California does, however, allow a pet cemetery and a human cemetery to sit side by side on the adjoining

property so your pet can be buried in close proximity to you. You can even “pre-arrange” your pets funeral needs in advance at the same time you take care of your own funeral pre-arrangements.

Cremation is a popular choice among pet owners. Where I work, we have East Lawn Pet Loss Center and Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery. We perform pet cremations and our cemetery is dedicated property that will never be used for any other purpose except pet burials. More than 1,500 pets have been interred there since its inception in the early 1990's. In addition there are more than 45 K9 police officers buried in a special section called Garden of Honor.

East Lawn offers presentations and tours for children from schools and churches of the Pet Loss Center and Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery. It can be a good introduction for children into the concept of death and dying.

Lisa West is the community outreach director for East Lawn and her column appears monthly. You can reach her at lisaw@eastlawn.com or (916)732-2020. For previous articles, please visit www.EastLawn.com. ★


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FD#1242

The House that Miladin Built

By Seraphim Winslow

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - From Sunrise to Sunset Avenue, heading west along one of those gorgeous, tree-lined streets that you find all throughout the cozy community of Fair Oaks, look to your right after passing the sign for the cemetery. Turn your gaze upward toward the heavens. You will suddenly gasp as you see one of the most impressive and elegant examples of Eastern Orthodox Church architecture that you’ve ever seen on the West Coast. You will behold the house that Miladin built.



Fr. Dane Popovic and Fr. Miladin Garic at a recent Serbian cultural festival. Photo courtesy of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Fair Oaks

Since he arrived in 1960, Fr. Miladin Garic was the spiritual force behind the Serbian Orthodox community in the east Sacramento region. Fr. Miladin fell asleep in the Lord on Nov. 24th, 2015, and now lies next to his beloved wife, Nina, in a churchyard on a peaceful hillside facing the very first Serbian Orthodox Church in America, in Jackson, where he also served as priest for several years. Such was the life of this dynamic churchman, affectionately called “Proto Garic” by his flock, that Jesus’ words immediately come to mind: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Miladin Garic was born in Serbia on the first day of the year 1921.



The house that Miladin built, the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Serbian Orthodox Church in Fair Oaks. Photo courtesy of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Fair Oaks

As if mysteriously anticipating the formal title of “stavrofor” (cross-bearer) that would be conferred upon him by the Serbian Orthodox Church late in life, young Miladin would be charged with so many heavy crosses of trial and suffering that he was made truly worthy an honorific that many Orthodox clergy take for granted.

When World War II exploded across Europe, Miladin was forced to finish his theological studies in a camp for displaced persons in Italy, where a group of fellow displaced persons, who also happened to be uprooted Orthodox clerics and theologians, got together to help Miladin complete his studies. It was a propitious start to what would turn out to be a long and heroic life in service to God and his fellow man.

In 1941, when the Axis powers headed by the Nazis carved up Serbia, Miladin joined a resistance army committed to oust the occupiers of his motherland. In this capacity, Miladin was twice wounded in action. He

was decorated with the national Medal for Bravery. His godson, Fr. William Weir, said, “Proto Garic experienced the full extent of tragedies that accompanied the war alongside all of the Serbian people.” This became most poignantly true in October 1944, when the fascist Ustashi burned down the house containing Miladin’s nearest and dearest: his mother, grandmother, sisters, and two brothers. All died in the fire.

Miladin escaped to Austria with the rise of communism in Serbia. No longer a resistance fighter, he found his way to England in 1948 where he would take up the burden of manual labor, toiling in factories, hospitals and—like so many other displaced Serbs in other countries—in the mines. It was also in England where he would meet his wife, Nina. They married in July of 1948.

In June of 1953, Miladin became Father Deacon Miladin. Less than a month later, a pious and energetic Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church with an affinity

for Serbia and the Serbs ordained Fr. Miladin to the priesthood. That Archbishop was the glorified saint who is now known throughout the whole Orthodox world as St. John Maximovich of Shanghai and San Francisco. The newly ordained Fr. Miladin, having been made an

Orthodox priest by one of the holiest men of his time, was assigned to minister to a parish Vancouver, Canada. He served that community for seven years, and people there who remember him do so fondly.


After 32 years serving the Christians of Fair Oaks—administering the sacraments, serving liturgies, visiting the sick, conducting funerals, and organizing festivals—Fr. Miladin would eventually oversee what was perhaps his greatest accomplishment: the design and construction of the beautiful, brick Church on Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; an impressive and elegant example of traditional Orthodox church architecture.

Orthodox Christians often observe that the death of a holy person will occur auspiciously; that is, a sign of God’s approval will accompany the passing of those whose lives have been pleasing to Him. Fr. Miladin died less than a week before one of the most momentous events in the history of the Serbian Church in America: the translation of the relics of St. Sebastian to San Francisco and Jackson. This newly canonized saint was the founder of the parish of the little white church in the Sierra foothills. So, at the exact

moment when St. Sebastian was returning triumphantly to the spiritual community that both he and Fr. Miladin nurtured and loved, the soil was still fresh—the flowers still fragrant—on that spot of Earth from which St. Sebastian, Proto Garic, and Protonica Nina will be called forth by the Light to arise and greet a glorious and never-ending day. The Orthodox would call this divine favor.

Fr. William Weir, who now serves as a priest alongside Fr. Dane Popovic at the church that Fr. Miladin built in Fair Oaks, described a dinner that took place in Fr. Miladin’s honor shortly after his passing. “We turned off all the lights. As emcee, I asked all those who had been baptized by Proto Garic to light the candle on the table in front of them. Next, those whom he married; then, those whose children he baptized; then, those family members for whom he served a funeral, and so on. In a short time, every candle was lit, and the hall was brilliant with the light of the Lord and work of the Lord by our dear, departed Proto Stavrophor Miladin.”

May the memory of Protopresbyter Stavrofor Miladin Garic be eternal! ★



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Where:  (Collection booth will be inside)

6041 Sunrise Mall,
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When: Saturday, December 19, 2015 12PM - 5PM

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