



Fair Oaks Launches Co-housing Neighborhood

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PLUS: Free Car Show to Benefit Animal Control

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Second Edition for March 2014

Pennies for Patients



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A Man and His Faithful Dog Rescued Together



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Financial Literacy Makes Good "Cents" For Children



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Dad's Kitchen Celebrates New Location With Festivities

Story and Photos by Bill Martin

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - February 28th started a ten - day celebration of Craft Micro Brewers across the region for Sacramento Beer Week. For Dad's Kitchens' newest location right here in Fair Oaks, a different event and Craft Beers featured ever day, running from February 28th - March 9th, there is sure to be something for ever taste and preference.

Although we received a much-needed few days of a torrential downpour, the drastic change in weather did cause concern for the Dad's Kitchen crew planning a multitude of events, the largest planned for outdoors. After months of planning Owners Julio Peix and Christine Collins held out hope and were rewarded with fine weather for a wonderful kick off to Beer Week and an introduction of what a Dad's Kitchen special event is all about. Those of you who attended can attest, the opening day of the Brew Circus to kick off Beer Week was high and dry, for the weather, but not the beer! We assume the Rain Gods talked with the Beer Gods and made a deal to give everyone a beautiful sunny day of fun, entertainment, and of course, beer! Although the event was to highlight many of the local micro-breweries in our area, it was also the introduction to the public of the newest



Happy and Exhausted Owner Julio Peix, Dad's Kitchen Manager Ryan Tubbs, Partner Sukhy Collins and Supporting Partner Proudly wearing his VFW Post 6158 Poppy Chris Haney (above). Micro Brew aficionados Brandon Fuller and Kayla Anderson of Carmichael (right).

location of Dad's Kitchen, at 8928 Sunset Avenue, in Fair Oaks.

Readers might know the restaurant through their very successful original location on Freeport Blvd. and featured in 2010 on Guy Fieri's Food Network Cable program, Dinner's, Drive Inns and Dives. According to Dad's Kitchen supportive partner Chris

Haney, "We already had a developing and loyal customer base before the program appeared on the air, but things really got super busy after such great on-camera accolades by Guy in his program. It was really quite exciting to have him and the crew here, and we

were thrilled that he enjoyed our food as much as our regular patrons do. Guy really made our Dad's Burger famous!" (The video of Guy Fieri's visit to Dad's Kitchen can be viewed at

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Hook A Trout; Win A Prize Rancho Seco Recreational Area To Host Fishing Derby

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A lake full of trout is up for grabs at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) annual trout derby at Rancho Seco Recreational Area on March 29 and 30. Anglers reeling in the heaviest trout will be awarded cash and prizes, including a grand prize for the biggest trout caught—a fishing kayak provided by The Fish Sniffer magazine.

The fishing event has become a tradition for many and has attracted thousands of local anglers since starting in 1993.

Specifics:

Date: Saturday, March 29 and Sunday, March 30

Time: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (rain or shine)

Location: Rancho Seco Recreational Area 14440 Twin Cities Road, Herald, CA 95638

Background: Anglers can cast a line into the 160-acre lake from the shoreline or one of six fishing



Gates open at 6 a.m. and close at 5 p.m., rain or shine. Derby tickets are \$5 per person plus a daily park fee available at the park gate both days.

piers. Small boats with electric motors are also allowed (no gas motors). In addition to trout, the freshwater lake is home to bass, bluegill, red-ear sunfish, crappie

and catfish. In preparation for the derby, Rancho Seco Lake was recently stocked with thousands of pounds of catchable trout. Additionally, hundreds

of pounds of trophy size trout will be stocked for the derby weekend.

Gates open at 6 a.m. and close

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Fair Oaks Launches Co-housing Neighborhood

By Elise Spleiss

“Cohousing makes life more convenient, practical, and fun.”

Charles Durrett, author and architect

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Local residents have secured a 3.5-acre property in Fair Oaks for a 30-home cohousing neighborhood. The Fair Oaks property is located at 4025 New York Avenue and offers close proximity to the American River Parkway and its miles of bike paths, as well as Fair Oaks Village, Bannister Park, Sacramento Waldorf School, and Rudolph Steiner College. Cohousing provides social, environmental and economic benefits for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Cohousing combines privately owned homes with extensive community facilities to create neighborhoods that address the needs of working parents and seniors. Homes are clustered around shared open space and common facilities. A “common house” typically includes a dining room, kitchen, lounge, workshop space, kid’s playroom, and guest rooms; it is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of other activities. Cars are kept to the edge of the site making the neighborhood pedestrian-friendly and safe for children. Future residents are involved in the design and development so that it reflects their needs and priorities, creating a truly custom neighborhood. There are now more than 130 cohousing communities in the U.S. and Canada, including 40 in California.



On February 22, 2014 eleven prospective residents visited the site of a new cohousing neighborhood being planned in Fair Oaks. Marty Maskell (3rd from the left), founder of Fair Oaks EcoHousing holds the civil engineer’s aerial shot of the site.

The use of this unique housing concept has been the vision of Fair Oaks EcoHousing founder Marty Maskall since 2005. After searching for a suitable property in over 100 different locations, it was exciting to finally be able to begin making plans to build. Maskall says, “We are excited to have secured such a great property for our community, with its easy access to the American River Parkway and Fair Oaks Village. We look forward to designing a beautiful neighborhood that will fit in well with the surroundings.”

The Fair Oaks community will be working with married couple Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant, both international cohousing experts and architects. They introduced cohousing to North America in the 1980s with their seminal book,

Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves, after studying the movement in Denmark. Together McCamant and Durrett have worked on over 50 cohousing projects with their firms McCamant & Durrett Architects and Cohousing Partners. They now live in Nevada City Cohousing. Durrett grew up in Sacramento

As part of the kick off for the new community, Durrett—who will be the architect for the new community--will be giving a public presentation about these socially and environmentally sustainable neighborhoods. The presentation will provide an overview of the cohousing movement with examples of communities that have built around the country over the last two decades including Southside Park

in Sacramento, Nevada City Cohousing, and Wolf Creek Lodge in Grass Valley, a recently completed community designed for pro-active adults. The presentation will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 7 pm at the Fair Oaks Library, 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd. Admission is free.

Environmental sustainability is a core value in these neighborhoods with smaller homes, green building attributes and renewable energy systems made possible by combined efforts and shared resources. On-site activities and companionship enable residents to socialize close to home

and reduce the need to drive as much for day-to-day activities.

McCamant and Durrett have won numerous awards for their cohousing designs and implementations including the Governor’s Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership in 2011 for Wolf Creek Lodge, a 30-unit senior cohousing community located in Grass Valley, CA. www.wolfcreeklodge.org. For more information on cohousing see: www.FairOaksEcoHousing.org and www.cohousingco.com.

★



Plans are to model a new Fair Oaks Cohousing neighborhood after this Nevada City, CA site completed in 2006.

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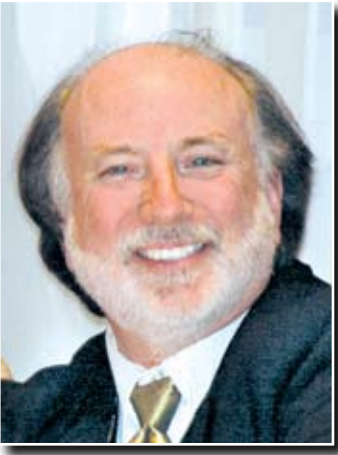
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
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Pennies for Patients “Your Small Change Can Make a Big Change in the Lives of Others”

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The motto, “Your small change can make a big change in the lives of others,” was the incentive to encourage the 450 students of Northridge Elementary School in Fair Oaks to experience giving from the heart to help others.

The program, “Pennies for Patients,” is run through the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. It encourages students to bring in their spare change to illustrate how small amounts of change can quickly add up to make a big difference in the lives of others. Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle and high school students throughout the country. The funds, collected during a three-week period, benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Pennies for Patients campaign began in the society’s North Carolina Chapter in 1995.

Each student in Northridge’s 14 classrooms was given a small colorful donation box to take home and fill with coins. Students made posters to advertise the project, and classrooms used a large poster board thermometer to chart their progress for three weeks. Spare change came from students, family members, friends and relatives – anywhere it could be found. On Valentine’s Day, February 14, coins from individual boxes were dumped into to the large classroom boxes to be counted. The grand total was announced to the students the next school day.

In 2013 the school’s goal of \$500 was not only met, but nearly tripled, for a total of close to \$1,500. This year’s goal was to match the \$1,500, but with additional donations from the



Students at Northridge Elementary School in Fair Oaks display their collection boxes to be used to collect spare change for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Pennies for Patients fundraiser. The project ran for three weeks, ending on Valentine’s Day. Almost \$1,800 was raised. Photo courtesy San Juan Unified School District.

workplaces of teacher’s spouses, that target was exceeded with slightly over \$1,800 raised!

The inspiration to bring this program to Northridge School came from 6th grade teacher Julie Garrett. Years earlier a chain of events had helped Garrett realize how one person can help many others. At age 15, Trevor, the son of a good friend had been diagnosed with cancer. He survived and at one point had told his mother he knew he had gotten cancer at such a young age, “so he could help someone else get through it.” Little did the families know then that less than 15 months later

Trevor would indeed be helping Garrett’s husband and family deal with a brain tumor which would take his life a year later in May of 2011. This experience moved Garrett to introduce the Pennies for Patients program to the school.

While the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society provides small pennants to those classes that meet the \$100, \$200, and \$300 goals, Northridge did not provide additional incentives to raise this money, as Garrett felt that “it takes away from the whole idea of giving something for others that have less than you do.” ★

Dad’s Kitchen Celebrates

Continued from Page 1
ILoveDadsKitchen.com).

Are you familiar with the saying, “If you build it - they will come”? In the case of Dad’s Kitchen and kick off of Brew Week, it’s absolutely true. By the time the doors opened to the public the first morning of Sacramento Beer Week, the long line of excited attendees filed through the door. Craft beer enthusiasts as well as just the curious, were greeted by tent after tent of local Micro Brewers pouring the most delicious specialty beers imaginable. The names of these Craft beer producers may not be household names to the masses yet, but if the response to the first day of tastings is any indication of demand to come, there will be new specialty beers on your shopping list. Among those pouring for the public, there were Laguntas Brewing Company, Track 7, Bike Dogs, Berryessa Brewing Company, New Helvetia, Sudwerks and Hertic, just to mention a few.

In addition to the great variety of Craft beers on hand, the bright sunny skies shared the ambiance with waves of wood smoke coming along with the mouthwatering smells of barbecued turkey drum sticks and the ever crowd-pleasing original Dad’s Burger.

The event planners pulled out all the stops on the entertainment for the kick-off day. Eli, an incredible one-man band, got the crowd going with his electrified Blues sounds. Eli accompanied himself on guitar, by using both of his feet on drums to the keep the beat moving. As a very talented performer, I’m sure we’re going to see much more of Eli at more events around our area. At least we hope so!

As the well-fed crowd began to gather together in front of the stage, the Brew Circus performers didn’t disappoint. The Yoga Seed Collective preformed the crowd-pleasing Acro Yoga. This amounted to these talented performers building human pyramids of balance, and counter



Dad’s Kitchen donated a percentage of the Door from the event to VFW Post 6158, Sinor Vis. Commander Matt Ellis and Chris Haney of Dad’s Kitchen.

balance, while twisting and turning into moving shapes. We likened the performance to that of a human mobile moving amongst each other forming unique patterns. What an incredible unique sight to see.



The Obsidian Butterfly Fire Dancers put on a brilliant display.

Then the Ladies of Exotic Burlesque commanded the crowd’s attention due to their interruptive dance numbers. While the crowd was hypnotized

by the dancers, along came the Carnival Side Show. Sword-swallowers and other amazing feats of danger made members of the crowd shutter with goose bumps.

Not be outdone, next up was the Obsidian Butterfly Fire Dancers. Moving amongst the crowd spinning and twirling in what looked like a hula hoop on fire. They too were another crowd-pleaser.

The generous and community-minded partners of Dad’s Kitchen, donated a portion of the day’s proceeds to the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6158.

Now, aren’t you sorry you missed Sacramento Beer week at Dad’s Kitchen? Well than here is what you need to do. Go to ILoveDadsKitchen.com for more information about upcoming events happening all year long, or stop by either location of Dad’s Kitchen, either at 8928 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks, 916-241-9365 or their original location at 2968 Freeport Blvd. 916-447-3237 in Land Park. ★

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California Lottery Joins Problem Gambling Awareness Month Effort

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Lottery joins other state and national organizations to recognize the month of March as California Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The goal is to educate and raise public awareness that problem gambling affects people from all segments of society, and it can negatively influence the gambler's family, friends, employer and community.

The Lottery annually participates in National Problem Gambling Awareness Month in partnership with statewide communications efforts that promote the 1-800-GAMBLER Hotline. The Hotline is featured on all draw game tickets, Hot Spot monitors and electronic point of sale advertising display devices. Additionally, the Lottery website, www.calottery.com, and social media pages will have a special banner and messaging to connect visitors to the Office of Problem Gambling website.

In past years, the Lottery has produced and distributed a dozen television public service announcements in six languages promoting the 1-800-GAMBLER Hotline. Those PSAs are in the process of being updated once again. The PSAs, seen here and produced in coordination with the California Office of Problem Gambling,

will air throughout the state during Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The PSAs will continue airing throughout the year. The Lottery will also distribute responsible gaming guidelines to retail locations across the state.

Responsible gambling in California provides entertainment for many people, it's a source of revenue for state and local governments and it creates many jobs for our residents. Most Californians are able to gamble responsibly, however, almost four percent of the state's adult population experience significant difficulties as a result of their gambling addiction.

To combat the problem, the Lottery has joined forces with several state and private agencies to promote Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Agencies include the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the California Gambling Control Commission, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Gambling Control, the California Council on Problem Gambling, and card rooms and tribal gaming organizations.

As always, the California Lottery would like to remind players that gambling should be fun. Borrowing money to play, spending above a person's budget or using money intended for other purposes can ultimately lead to

significant problems for players and their families. If a player recognizes that they have a gambling problem or if someone knows of someone who may have a problem, the Lottery recommends calling the Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.

For more information on how to play responsibly, please click on the following link: <http://www.calottery.com/secondarynav/play-responsibly>. For more information on the Lottery's Responsible Gaming efforts and Corporate Social Responsibility program please visit www.californialottery.com.

The mission of the California Lottery is to provide supplemental funding to California schools while simultaneously supporting local communities. More than 95 cents of every dollar spent by our players goes back to local communities in the form of contributions to public schools and colleges, prizes and retail compensation. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem, or know someone who does, you can get help at 1-800-GAMBLER. ★

Source: www.calottery.com



By Pastor Ray Dare

The Bible says that the storms of life happen to good people and bad people. Storms are impartial. When good things happen, that's called grace. When bad things happen, that's called life! We live in an imperfect world. This is not Heaven. God has not promised us a problem free life, but He has promised a purpose beyond every problem. I don't care whether you caused it, somebody else caused it, the devil caused it. I don't care who caused it; every problem has a purpose. What is that purpose? It's to make me like Jesus Christ, to build character in my life.

The movie, Son of God is currently in movie theaters. Jesus was betrayed. He was ridiculed, falsely accused, misjudged and horrifically abused. God allowed Jesus to go through those things. Do you think He's going to spare you from life's troubles and hardships? If God is going to develop my character, then He's going to take me through some situations that Jesus went through. Romans 8:17, *"We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If*

Why Am I Having So Many Problems?

we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him." (Msg) God is not the author of evil. God does not cause evil things. God uses them. Jesus went through many troubles and trials in His life, but His greatest was the night before

He was crucified, because He knew what He was going to have to face the next day. He was going to take the sin of the world on Him. He was going to die a horrible death by crucifixion and the real question would be, **"Would He trust God?"** Would He trust God to know what's best, even if it meant an extremely painful death? That's what He had to struggle with.

Notice how Jesus responded, *"Father everything is possible for You. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet, I want Your will, not Mine!"* (Mark 14:36).

If you're going to experience God's peace and purpose beyond your problems, this is the first lesson you're going to have to learn. When you go through trouble, it's okay to say to God,

"God I don't like this", "God I want you to take it away", "God I know it's possible for you to take it away". "Yet, Your will be done in my life". It's the point of surrender. You've got to learn to trust God completely, even when things look terrible, when things are falling apart, when you don't

understand it, when you don't know where it's leading, when you don't know why it's happening to you. You're going to have to learn to trust God completely just the way Jesus did.

I don't know what you're going through right now. But I do know how God wants you to respond to it, regardless of what you're going through. You cannot choose what is going to happen to you next week, next month, next year. But you can choose how you're going to respond, how you're going to react -- whether it's going to make you or break you, whether you're going to be bitter or better. I am confident of how God wants you to respond. *"Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete."* James 1:2-4 (LB) When you respond positively, God's promise is patience and character, strong and ready for anything.. Pastor Ray ★

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Ose Wins RRC Endorsement Again

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Carl Burton, Chairman of the largest Republican volunteer club in Sacramento County, released the results of the club's February mail-in ballot poll. Former Congressman Doug Ose, who is running for congress in the 7th Congressional District, won with 88% of the vote.

Burton said it was no surprise to him when the members of RRC once again voted to endorse Doug in his effort to return to Congress. Burton had reminded members when Doug Ose spoke to the group in January that when Doug was running for Congress back in 1998 for the first time he was introduced to the members by the late State Senator Dave Cox.

He also reminded members that Ose was one of the few members of Congress to honor his pledge of serving no more than three terms and didn't run for reelection in 2006.

While in Congress Ose served on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Financial Services Committee. He was named a "Hero of the Taxpayers" by Americans for Tax Reform, a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National

Federation of Independent Business and earned a "Tax Fighter" award from the National Tax Limitation Committee.

Burton, Past Executive Director of the Sacramento County Taxpayer League told the members of RRC that Ose voted for a \$1.35 trillion tax reform package that ended the marriage penalty tax, lowered the estate tax and increased child tax credits for American families.

And while in Congress Ose voted to use new technology and additional agents to secure America's borders, and fought the Democrats efforts to block construction of a border fence. Ose also authored a resolution in keeping the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and he supported legislation against defiling the American flag.

Ose told the members of RRC that his first action if elected this time will be to protect our local water supply by slowing the discharge of water from Lake Folsom to the ocean and secondly to help stop Governor Browns big pipe dream to send more of our water to the LA area. Ose said we need to protect local water for future

generations of California's and build more water storage.

Ose said, "If Obamacare truly provided better healthcare at a lower cost, big business, big labor and all members of Congress would not demand exemptions that treat them differently than average American citizens." And "the laws Congress passes should also apply to members of Congress too."

Ose was born and raised in Sacramento. He attended Rio Americano High School and received a degree in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a developer and businessman in Sacramento.

Doug is married to Lynda and they have two daughters, Erika and Emily.

RRC is the largest volunteer membership organization in the county; we are a year-round Republican organization focused on registering Republicans to vote, recruiting and endorsing candidates, helping grass roots volunteers and actively communicating our endorsed list of candidates to RRC membership and fellow Republicans <http://www.rregop.org> ★



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Rancho Seco Recreational Area to Host Fishing Derby

Continued from Page 1

at 5 p.m., rain or shine. Derby tickets are \$5 per person plus a daily park fee available at the park gate both days. A valid California state fishing license is required for those 16 or older. Anglers hoping to win a cash prize must check in their fish before 5 p.m. on the day of the catch. Cash prizes will be awarded to those catching the heaviest fish in three separate categories – adult, youth and kids.

The 400-acre Rancho Seco Recreational Area offers more than just fishing. The full-service facility offers picnicking facilities, RV and tent camping sites, and beach and swimming areas. Kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards and fishing boats are available to rent.

Rancho Seco Recreational Area is 35 miles south of Sacramento, approximately 15 minutes east of Highway 99 on Twin Cities Road. Admission to the park is \$10 per car (\$8 for seniors). For more information about the derby or camping, visit smud.org/ranchoseco or call (916) 732-4913 or (209) 748-2318. ★


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ACROSS
1. "Haste makes waste," e.g.
6. Helicopter landing
9. Deadly slitherers
13. Bad car
14. Pub offering
15. Do this or forever hold your peace
16. Say pretty please
17. Junior's junior
18. Down and out
19. *Sweet number in March
21. *Point and shooting players
23. Coltrane's woodwind
24. Not in favor of
25. Final, abbr.
28. Essen basin
30. Firstborn
35. Story part
37. Plenty
39. 6 in 1/6
40. Fill to satisfaction
41. Pisa attraction
43. Not far
44. Correct
46. Japanese stringed instrument
47. Any of several languages of Celts
48. It's to be brushed off
50. Invitation letters
52. England's favorite drink in French
53. Exclamation of disgust
55. Diamond stat
57. Gluteus, pl.
60. *Grid
64. Grassy plain
65. *What teams do
67. Brownish gray
68. Fluorescent red dye
69. Down with the flu
70. Blew it
71. Wild goat
72. Red Cross bed
73. Midway attractions
DOWN
1. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
2. Koshier establishment
3. Unacceptable to some merchants
4. *As opposed to heroes
5. Ingratiate
6. Sacrificed for gain?
7. Formerly Cassius Clay
8. Condescend
9. Copycat
10. *One of basketball sixteen
11. Stationer's stock
12. *NCAA's Big ___ Conference
15. Escargot
20. Feel like a champ
22. Shoshonean
24. MOMA display
25. *A #16 over a #1, e.g.
26. Andean pack animal
27. Luggage handler, e.g.
29. *Kind of shot down low
31. Eat
32. Make an effort
33. Money under mattress
34. *Value outside the arc
36. Backpacker's shelter
38. Best of 5 of these in men's tennis
42. Red ___
45. *Opening round locale in OH
49. To feel regret
51. Chatterbox
54. Kind of duty
56. Ticks and mites and such
57. Lump
58. Function as a laser
59. Computer operating system, not Windows
60. Aaron Rodgers' mimed accessory
61. Kurdistan native
62. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

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3	8	1	5	9	4	6	7	2
7	6	8	3	5	1	9	2	4
5	9	4	8	2	6	3	1	7
1	2	3	4	7	9	5	6	8
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By Ronnie McBrayer

The year was 387. The place was Kilpatrick in ancient Scotland. Their names were Calpurnius and Conchessa, Roman citizens living at the edge of the Roman Empire. These young Britons were gifted with a new born son. They named him Maewyn.

Maewyn was a rambunctious, unruly boy who spurned his parents’ instructions and their Christian faith. He romped the Scottish hills with other Brit, Scot, Pict, and Roman boys, and it was on one of these romps that young Maewyn ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

A roving band of Irish pirates was plundering the coast of Scotland, and in the process, captured Maewyn and carried them back to Ireland. There Maewyn became a slave. And there, Maewyn’s faith was reborn. He began to talk to God, and as the story goes, God began talking to him.

God instructed Maewyn to wander toward the coast. So he did, secretly, and found a boat bound for Scotland. He returned home and was reunited with his family after many years. Then God spoke again, coming to Maewyn in his dreams. God wanted him to return to Ireland.

Maewyn entered theological training, and at the conclusion of

The End of the World as We Know It

his studies, was sent as the first Christian missionary to Ireland. At his ordination he took the Latin name, Patricius; in Gaelic it was Padraig. In modern English we know him as Saint Patrick.

With Nicholas and Valentine, St. Patrick rounds out the trio of best known Christian saints outside of the Apostles. They are celebrated and venerated by the world – but none more so than St. Patrick. He has found his way into our hearts, and while drinking Guinness or Jameson is part of his appeal, that is hardly the beginning. Patrick, more than most, meets people where they are – and that is his lasting contribution.

When Patrick arrived in Ireland as a Christian missionary he had a decision to make about how to do his work. This was the early 400s. The Roman Emperor Constantine had “converted” to Christianity 100 years earlier, and the cross was now used, not as the suffering symbol of a Galilean carpenter, but as a crusading tool of conquest.

It was the custom of Christian missionaries – then and for the next 1500 years – not to introduce others to Jesus, but to make them citizens of the Empire. A culture was “Christianized” not when it conformed to the words and ways of Jesus, but when it submitted to the rule of the Roman Caesar or the conquering king. The local culture was eradicated, replaced by that of the conquerors, and Christianity was used as an instrument in that process.

But rather than imposing an imperial faith on the Irish

people, Patrick met them where they were and let faith erupt naturally. He did not overpower, he obliged. He did not impose, he invited.

He did not attack, he adapted. He came in humility and simplicity, attempting to foster faith, not force it.

We still have much to learn from old Patrick, for his way of sharing faith could heal today’s world. Vulnerability. Service. Humility. Meeting people where they are. Treating neighbors with dignity and respect. Honoring the lives and stories of those we encounter – plain civility – may be the only way to keep a society from devouring itself.

When we live with a no-compromise, never give-an-inch, militant attitude, and meet every person outside our circle with distrust, it creates a divisive, violent, negative, attack-based culture with an atmosphere of hateful rhetoric and suspicion. It destroys a community.

So we who are living today have a choice put before us: We will take the path of suspicion, violence, stubbornness, divisiveness, and imposition and we will witness the end of the world as we know it. Or we will we imitate Patrick by taking the way of peace, love for our neighbors, welcome and inclusion. Living this way will end of the world as we know it as well – but it might be the kind of end that gives rebirth to the world. ★

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is “The Gospel According to Waffle House.” You can read more at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.

To Be PC or Not to be PC, That is the Confusion

Dr. James L. Snyder

I have long ago given up trying to keep up with the Joneses, and not just because they have moved away. I have a hard enough time trying to keep up with myself, let alone trying to figure out what somebody else is doing so I can top them at it.

One aspect of trying to keep up with the Joneses is being on top of what is referred to as being Politically Correct. As far as I know, I do not have a political bone in my body. I do have a bone to pick with some politicians, but that is another story.

Everybody is so afraid they are going to break some PC rule and offend somebody. Most people today are so easily offended that it is virtually impossible not to offend somebody. I do not want to intentionally offend anybody and I try my best not to. However, for the life of me, I am not able to keep up with all of this political correctness that seems to be domineering in our country today. Because, as soon as you figure it out somebody changes the rules and another word or phrase has been deemed not politically correct.

What was politically correct yesterday may be politically incorrect today. If you get your days mixed up and confused, you are not going to know what is politically correct. I think a book should be published every year listing all of the things that are politically correct and politically incorrect. Nobody is allowed to change any, at least for a year. Then, when they come to change it there has to be a national election to vote the political correctness in.

Some people believe it to be un-American to use phrases that are politically incorrect. I for one, have a hard time keeping a list of all of these politically correct and incorrect words and phrases.

I had some business with an

attorney and once we finished our business, we had a few moments and were chatting together. I could tell from his chatting that he was rather politically correct in everything he does. I guess that is what comes to being an attorney. Somebody once said that sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can never hurt you. Whoever said that was so wrong we need to take that phrase and make it politically incorrect.

“This is America,” he pontificated with me, “and we have freedom of speech. Everybody is free to have their opinion and to express it. That is what America’s all about.” He went on and on about this matter of freedom of speech.

Then, I am not quite sure how it happened, but we got on some rather indelicate subject that was positively politically incorrect.

With the majority of people, freedom of speech does not really mean that the other person is free to speak. It simply means I have the freedom to speak.

“So,” I said rather delicately trying to feel my way through this subject, “you believe everybody has the freedom to express their opinion?”

“Yes, sir,” he said very emphatically. Then he went off on another pontificating spree asserting the rights of all Americans to express their opinion.

I knew which side of the issue, he was on and so I broached it this way. “You then believe,” I said weighing each and every word and syllable, “that you have the right to say a certain thing is right.” I mentioned what the thing was but I do not need to include it here.

“Not only do I believe it,” he said on another pontificating spree, “but I practice it every day of my life. Nobody has the right to tell me what I can and cannot believe!”

“Let me get this right, you

have the freedom to say that this,” and I mentioned what it was, “is perfectly right.”

He nodded and smiled very broadly and then I continued my thought. “Do I have any rights in this area?” He nodded and indicated I could continue speaking. “You have the right to believe that this certain thing is right, but do I have the right to believe that it is wrong?”

Well, you might have hit him with a double-barreled shotgun. He never thought of it that way. All he thought of was what his opinion was and that he had the complete freedom to express that opinion. Anybody who had a different opinion did not have the same right as he did to express it.

“I never thought of it that way,” he stammered as he stared at me. “I’m going to have to give that some more thought.”

Somebody who believes something is right has the complete freedom to say so. On the other side of the track, the person who believes it is wrong has just as much right to think and say that it is wrong.

It is hard to keep up with a world that is constantly changing, especially in this area. That is why I love the Bible so much. That is why I am a follower of Jesus Christ because neither one ever changes. I take great refuge in what the Bible says. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever,” (Hebrews 13:8).

Today I rest in the unchanging grace and character of the God who loves me and provided for my salvation. And, tomorrow will be the same. ★

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, P.O. Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris,
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God’s Holy Spirit never stops nudging, poking or speaking until a person has completely refused to listen and rejected His pull on their life. God who never gives up hope until rejection tells Him it is totally “useless” to try again. God is hoping beyond hope that the person will finally be aware He is calling them and will listen to Him. *God never rejects anyone*, but humankind is allowed to do it and even reject their Creator/God. They seem to think they are smarter and more intelligent than God, much like His enemy did in heaven - when God

God Knocks at the Door of your Heart

cast him and his angels (demons) upon the earth. These people create their own eternal hell! Truth is they love to sin, miss God’s blessings, and refuse to give it up!

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Scripture puts everything into proper perspective. All of us have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God and we cannot enter heaven as our eternal home in that condition. God sent

His Only Beloved Son to earth to perform the task of reuniting and reconciling all who accept His death, thereby cleansing sinful man by the “shed blood of His perfect Son” when He died on the cross. Scripture clearly states “There is no remission from sin without the shedding of blood”. When Jesus Christ willingly died for mankind, no longer were animal sacrifices required or needed. And it ceased. However, man must accept the sacrifice of God’s Beloved Son and His sacrifice for them. He’s knocking at your heart’s door today! Invite Him in and be changed, transformed and “free” from guilt in the twinkling of an eye! ★

*Christian Author, Speaker, Teacher
Pat Boone recommends her book “Recipes for a Happier Marriage”
Contact me: Marlysjn@gmail.com*

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Free Car Show to Benefit Citrus Heights Animal Control



Mark your calendar now for March 22nd from 11:00am-4:00pm for 1st Choice Realty's FREE CAR SHOW; a fundraiser to benefit Citrus Heights Animal Control. Come on out and say hello to a few of the four-legged hosts who will be on hand to greet you. In addition to a few snuggles and kisses, you can also get helpful information on your pet's health and wellbeing. In addition to the enjoyment of the great food and family fun, will be the viewing of some incredible automobiles in the free Car Show. Check out the one-of-a-kind vintage vehicles, alongside some Detroit-made Muscle Cars of a bygone era. Then there's nothing like the heart-pounding feeling one gets from seeing all those beautiful Corvettes all lined up and looking, oh so cool. K-9's, Cats and Cars are all part of 1st Choice Realty's first charitable event of the year. This event will be benefitting Citrus Heights Animal Control. To top things off, get up close and personal with another amazingly-beautiful, high performance car. You know the one; the one that sparks one's imagination for triple-digit speed - while just standing still. The one and only exotic Ferrari! 1st Choice Realty's first charitable fundraiser of the year to benefit Citrus Heights Animal Control will be held on Saturday March 22nd from 11:00am-4:00pm located at 7622 Auburn Blvd. For more information, please call 916722-7400.



By Noah Howard

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Irrational Games has been one of the most creative developers in the industry for the 17 years it's been in business. Irrational has transported us to worlds that not only immersed us in their stories and gameplay, but have delivered moral and political messages in a way rarely attempted by big-budget developers. Most famous for its Bioshock and System Shock series, Irrational had a major success last year with its exquisite Bioshock Infinite.

So it came as a huge shock when, on February 18, Ken Levine, co-founder of Irrational Games, suddenly announced that he was shutting the studio down.

He said in a statement on the Irrational Games website that his motivations don't come from any financial or legal problems, rather that Levine, who is

Irrational Games Closure

also creative director of the studio, is simply done with that chapter in his life. He says that his "passion has turned to making a different type of game," one that is made with a smaller team for a more core gaming audience. Levine said that all but 15 Irrational employees will be laid off, and that Irrational's publisher, 2K Games, will try to find new positions for the ex-employees.

It's always sad to see a developer go, but this surprising turn could be for the best for the average game consumer. Ken Levine is an extremely creative person, who combines unexpected locations and motifs with unique gameplay (he's now writing the script for a new Logan's Run movie), and he'll be able to work more freely without the constant pressure to chase the dollar that comes from big-budget development. It's possible that this shift was partly motivated by Bioshock's success. If Levine seems done with the series, he doesn't want to be forced into making new entries just to generate revenue.

On the other hand, it's hard to justify laying off hundreds of people based on the desires of

just one man (it seems almost "irrational"). Levine could have accomplished so much with the pool of talent, funds, and already-existing franchises available to Irrational Games, but will now have to start more or less from scratch. If he really wants to do smaller projects, he could have developed them as a side project to bigger games. It seems a shame to let so many talented people go. Even if Levine succeeds in finding new jobs for his employees, it's regrettable that he chose to turn their lives upside-down based only on his creative whims.

So what's going to happen to Irrational as we know it? Well, chances are we won't be hearing from Levine for a while. He said that he was going to "need a long period of design" for his next project, and, as of now, the Bioshock license has been turned over to 2K Games. Even though it's a shame to see so many Irrational employees out of work for the moment, Levine's newfound freedom will allow him to explore his passion to bring us more surprising worlds that we love to experience. Hopefully, he knows what he's doing. ★

SCOE Accepting Entries for \$500 Scholarship Program

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is accepting submissions for an essay contest designed to honor local military veterans. The winning high school student will receive a \$500 college scholarship courtesy of SAFE Credit Union.

Every year, SCOE honors the many contributions of local veterans who left high school to serve in the U.S. military during World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War through the Operation Recognition program. Qualifying veterans who received an honorable discharge may contact SCOE to receive their high school diplomas. Diplomas are also presented to

Japanese American citizens who were forced to leave high school due to WW II internment.

The 2014 Operation Recognition Scholarship essay theme is "How Our Veterans Exemplify Courage and Sacrifice."

Contestants must be high school juniors or seniors who are currently attending public high schools in Sacramento County. The completed 500 word essay, with a cover letter, must be received by the Sacramento County Office of Education by April 25, 2014.

Essays will be judged on how well the student understood, developed and presented the theme. The winning entrant must

be able to attend the Operation Recognition diploma ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on May 20, 2014 to read his or her essay, join in honoring the diploma recipients, and receive the scholarship award from a SAFE Credit Union representative.

Contestants must send submissions to:
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For more information, contact Tim Herrera, SCOE Communications Director, at (916) 228-2713 or therrera@scoe.net. ★



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Environmental Leaders are Looking More Like Scam Artists these Days

**Commentary By
Drew Johnson**

It's getting tough to take environmentalists seriously. More and more, the leaders of the environmental movement -- the "Kings of Green" -- are emerging as a pathetic mix of liars, frauds, hucksters and hypocrites who are more concerned with lining their pockets off environmental hysteria than actually protecting Mother Nature.

Few would care if their dirty deeds didn't impact others, but unfortunately, they do.

Schemes and fibs by environmental extremists like Al Gore, Tom Steyer and leaders at Google are killing jobs, increasing the price of energy, devouring tax dollars and threatening America's energy independence -- all in an effort to make a quick buck.

It's hard to imagine that Al Gore, the most famous environmentalist of all, has any credibility left after many of his predictions have proven false and he has been unwilling to reduce his own carbon footprint. In his movie "An Inconvenient Truth," the

former Vice President erroneously warned that Arctic polar ice caps would disappear by 2013. This year, Arctic ice coverage spanned more than 2,000 cubic miles -- an increase of more than 50 percent from just a year ago.

Several years ago, I uncovered that Gore is more than happy to talk the talk when it comes to environmentalism, but appears unwilling to walk the walk. Public records proved that Gore devoured as much as 20 times more electricity at his Nashville estate than the average American household.

Despite his hypocrisy and poor record of environmental fortune-telling, Gore continues to push for a carbon tax, a sinister scheme that would cost tens of thousands of American jobs and squeeze the poorest Americans most as a result of price hikes to most every good and service imaginable.

Not that Gore is worried about the little people. He managed to cash in on the wave of global warming hysteria that he created, amassing a fortune of more than \$200 million.

Gore isn't alone in attempting

to exploit environmental concerns for selfish reasons.

Tom Steyer, a billionaire hedge fund manager who made much of his fortune by investing in fossil fuels, now spends his days attacking the Keystone XL pipeline in hopes of blocking its construction. While Steyer claims that his opposition to Keystone is environmentally related -- he has funded a series of dubious ads claiming as much - the reality is that the environmental charlatan is heavily invested in a competing pipeline and stands to make a mint if his pipeline doesn't face competition from Keystone XL.

There is one big difference between Keystone XL and the TransMountain oil sands pipeline in which Steyer is invested: Most of the petroleum produced as a result of Keystone would be utilized by the U.S. and Canada, while much of the oil sands carried by the Transmountain scheme would be shipped to China.

Allowing the completion of the Keystone XL pipeline would produce lower gas and energy prices for Americans, create tens

of thousands of new jobs, generate millions in new tax dollars and reduce American petroleum imports from unstable and unfriendly nations by 40 percent -- not that Tom Steyer cares about any of that.

Another leading player in the environmental movement is Google. The search engine giant heavily lobbies government to encourage risky and irresponsible environmental ploys like cap and trade policies, and believes the federal government should take money from America's taxpayers to fund unproven gambles on green energy. Google has even authored an initiative hoping to shutter coal-powered electricity production facilities and dictate what types of cars Americans can drive.

Google is proud of its perceived environmental-friendliness. After all, it translates into dollars from customers who share the company's supposed concern for the

environment. Beneath Google's green facade, however, the company's executives are hiding a dirty secret. Google maintains a fleet of fuel-devouring planes that company officials use to fly to far-flung vacation hotspots such as Hawaii, Belize, Tahiti, Key West, Milan and Paris. Since the beginning of 2010, the planes owned by Google's executives have burned through an average of 100,000 gallons of jet fuel every month.

To make matters worse, the planes have been housed at a taxpayer-funded NASA hangar and filled up with government-purchased jet fuel, saving the company millions of dollars in the process.

Al Gore, Tom Steyer and Google have all figured out how to exploit environmentalism for power and money, and they're not alone. Plenty of companies and individuals have figured out ways who manipulate the public's legitimate concern for the environment

to make a quick buck, improve public perception, increase market share and lure lawmakers into passing legislation that benefits them.

The next time you find out that a business or individual professes to do something for environmental reasons, take a closer look; there's a good chance that what's best for the environment is the last thing on their mind.

Drew Johnson is a senior fellow at the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA), a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to a smaller, more responsible government. Visit TPA online at www.protectingtaxpayers.org.

Below, Drew Johnson takes a close look at these supposed environmentalists to understand their true motivation.

Once you've had a moment to look over the article, would you mind letting me know if you might be able to use it? ★



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