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The History of St. Patrick



By The DBI Staff Writer

Every March 17 people around the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day by dawning, eating or drinking something green. Often times, it's all of the above. Like many people, I try not to forget to wear my green because I really don't want to be pinched. I still have bad memories from my childhood of being pinched in grade school. As long as I've been aware of this holiday, I haven't really known much about the person that this holiday is named after.

St. Patrick was born in Roman-controlled Britain in 387 A.D. At about the age of fourteen he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend to sheep. At the time, Ireland was ruled by Druids and pagans. It was at this time that Patrick began to turn to God. He wrote in his memoir, "The Confession", "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain." Patrick was enslaved until he was twenty years old when he said that he had a dream in which God told him to leave Ireland by going to the coast. He did so and found some sailors who took him back to Britain and he was reunited with his family. After returning home and some years had gone by, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victorious, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: "The Voice of the Irish". As I began the letter, I imagined that in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea and they cried out, as with one voice: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us."

This event prompted the young Patrick to study to become a part the priesthood. He was later ordained by St. Germanus and eventually became a bishop at which point he was then sent to bring the gospel to Ireland. Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. According to one of the most repeated legends, St. Patrick met the Chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who attempted to kill Patrick. After an intervention by God, the chieftain was converted and believed in God and St. Patrick was then able to go about all of Ireland and preach the Gospel. Thousands eventually came to faith and St. Patrick began building churches all across the country. St. Patrick would often use shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

For over 40 years, Patrick preached the gospel in Ireland. At 74 years old, after years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, St. Patrick died at Saul on March 17, 461, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick where his grave was marked by a granite stone in 1990. The Church has written about the saint, "Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing—not even death." Now that you have all of the facts on St. Patrick you can be that guy or gal that brings history to bear at your next St. Patrick's gathering. Happy St. Patrick's Day 2016!

Happy Easter to you and your family from your **DBI** family.

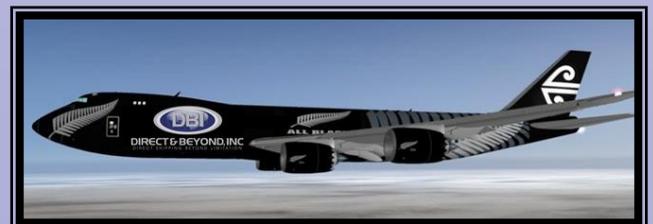
Don't forget Daylight Savings Time on 3/13/2016. Spring Forward!

US on Highway Diesel Fuel Prices for California:

01/25/16: \$2.459 per gallon
02/01/16: \$2.399 per gallon
02/08/16: \$2.369 per gallon

Change From:

1 Week ago: - 0.030 ↓
1 Year ago: - 0.692 ↓
Data as of 2/15/2016



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CES 2016: A Look Into The Future of Tech



The Ehang 184

By The DBI Staff Writer If many of attendees at CES 2016 were expecting huge game-changing reveals they may have been surprised to see that what they were looking at was much of what they had already seen in years past. And its not that nothing had the WOW factor. It's more that what they were looking at were previous reveals that had been more refined and improved upon. Normally, game-changing products like the VCR, Blu-Ray, CD or DVD took years to change the landscape. Right now, our society is right in the middle of one of those changes. Things like Virtual Reality, Drones, Smart-Fridges, Smart Watches, OLED TV's and Smart Phones have all seen their premier on the big stage at CES. What we saw this year is how far these technologies have come and more importantly to us (the consumer) - how much more affordable they are becoming. To be sure, some of this tech is still a ways off from becoming a regular everyday part of our lives, others are just around the corner. What may have surprised some folks is that this years CES was almost more of a car show than anything else. With tech becoming such an integral part of the automotive industry and driver experience, we're seeing this segment being promoted like never before.

If you haven't noticed, more and more vehicles are becoming increasingly electrically driven—even with gas prices coming down. People are concerned about the environment, so you can be sure that in our future roads will be flooded with electrical cars. Speaking of which, the up and coming Chevy Bolt (Not the Volt) will soon be in the 200 mile-per-charge range and available at under \$30,000.

Virtual Reality was also on show this year and its not just the gaming aspect of VR which is really cool in and of itself. There's the commercial aspect of VR's cousin—Augmented Reality (AR). AR can be used in any real-world work environments, for anything from to construction to manufacturing. Even the fitness world is being touched by VR with the Recon Jet Fitness Glasses that utilizes Google Glass to give you real-time stats for your bicycling or running event. Drones were also showing the huge leaps they're making. The Ehang 184 is a drone that can ferry a passenger 1,000 feet or more around town—yes, a flying car that you don't drive! The Jetsons are here! And refrigerators are getting so smart that they can now take a photo of your milk and send the photo to you so that you know how much is left. One of the items that is just around the corner is the Blaze by Fitbit. This smart watch is a competitor to the Apple Watch and it promises a 5 day battery life and a focus on fitness and notifications. The watch retails for \$200. Our future looks to be increasingly connected and even more convenient!

Durk Jorritsma Competes in His Fourth Marathon



By The DBI Staff Writer

Standing at the start line at 7am with 20,622 other people with him—Durk Jorritsma, President & CEO of Direct & Beyond, Inc.—kept thinking, “I’ve just got to finish”. And finish he did! The 31st Annual Los Angeles Marathon was Durk’s fourth and perhaps most challenging. Durk remembers thinking about the middle mark of the race, “I don’t remember it being so far”. It’s quite a feat to compete in a marathon. There are months and months of training and many “smaller” 10 to 13 mile runs to prepare your body and mind for the big day. For a guy like me that maxes out at 2 miles—running 10 miles would be a huge accomplishment. For runners like Durk, it’s just a warm up!

We all need encouragement to get us through and Durk’s came during the run in the form of his running buddy Ralph that he met back at his first Los Angeles Marathon. I know from my own experience that having a running buddy can give you a tremendous boost of encouragement and morale as you both run along together and not go at it alone.

As Durk crossed the finish line a few hours later, he remembers thinking, “Oh My Gosh!” Durk had made it through his fourth marathon and accomplished what the majority of people in their life will never do. But that won’t stop him from inspiring others to at least try and do what he has done.

You know, that’s one of the many things I love about Durk. He inspires me. Not only vocationally as I grow in my own career at DBI but also as I strive to take care of my own body. How can anyone not be inspired to take better care of themselves when you’re standing in front of someone who has run a marathon? And I should also mention that Durk has two other 1/2 marathons he has completed as well. So, I guess we can say that he has 5 marathons under his belt!

What is even more inspiring is that Durk took up running after he had turned 40. That’s an encouragement to me because I’m nearly 42 myself so if I even think about slowing down and not taking care of myself—we’ll I’ll just look over at Durk and get myself in gear! It’s never too late to begin exercising—even if you are not able to run a marathon, just a daily walking regimen will improve your health, give you more energy and prolong your life. So, whatever your preference for exercise is, just get out there and make it happen everyday! You won’t regret and what’s even better is that you’ll enjoy your life even more!

