

The Judas factor

So now in this Easter season we find out that Judas Iscariot, one of history's great villains, was really a good guy. A recently published text written about 1,700 years ago and discovered in Egypt says that Jesus ordered the Apostle Judas to betray him to fulfill God's will.

In other words, Jesus wanted Judas to deliver him to his enemies and Judas did that as a friend.

Well, I believe my third-grade teacher at St. Brigid's School, Sister Mary Lurana, would not be having any of this.

The good sister understood that the Gospels were teaching tools, not history, and that the story of Judas was consistent with one of Jesus' central messages: Don't sell out what you believe in for money.



The O'Reilly Factor

BILL O'REILLY

coveries of this kind are "exploding the myth of a monolithic Christianity ..."

Sister Lurana would have definitely scolded that professor in no uncertain terms.

The good sister would likely say that the Judas tract explodes nothing.

Author's viewpoint

It is simply another early Christian writing explaining an author's viewpoint on this particular Apostle and his relationship with Jesus. Again, the Scriptures are not history; they were written to instruct people as to how Jesus lived and what his message was.

Whether Judas was a traitor or not is really not important. What is imperative to those who want to follow in the footsteps of Christ is to understand that hurting another person for money is not acceptable. Got it? I'm glad.

Anything to do with religion in America is touchy these days, so I fully expect one of Judas's descendants to get a lawyer and demand restitution for all Judas has

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suffered over the years. I mean there are a myriad of damages in play here.

By some accounts, Judas hung himself after he realized what a scoundrel he was. Wrongful death suit?

And what exactly happened to those 30 pieces of silver he was paid to betray Jesus? Compounded over the centuries, that would be a major stake today. Surely, Judas would want the money in the hands of his people, would he not?

Also, don't even bring up the subject of libel. How many kids are named "Judas"? Do Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have any traceable assets the libel lawyers can go after?

Not that money has anything to do with all this, no, there's a principle in play here. And, as any good lawyer will tell you, that principle can only be illustrated by the payment of money to the aggrieved estate of Judas Iscariot. God bless him.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" © 2006 BillOReilly.com.

Working It Out



"Sorry, Jamison. I probably should have yelled 'fore.'"

Troubling issues with 18-unit development

Guest Comment

By Doris Schatz

This is the text of an e-mail which I mailed to the office of Ray Carroll, our representative on the Pima County Board of Supervisors, on March 29.

"It has come to my attention through some angry homeowners (and clients) that a proposed development in Green Valley will probably change the character of the oldest neighborhood in our community!

That is the 18-unit townhome development proposed for the medium-sized wash near La Cañada & Esperanza.

There are a number of troubling issues, besides changing the character of a community where thousands of retirees have found peace and contentment in the final stages of their lives.

Issue - the builder has informed angry homeowners that this will be a non-age restricted community. This is outrageous in the middle of Green Valley, often rated one of the best places to retire in the nation.

Issue - the builder began bulldozing on Aug. 22, I'm told without displaying a building permit. He called off his crew and left when confronted by a number of residents who were shocked at the activity in what they consider a wash and nature area.

Issue - a real estate agent representing the builder confronted all the homeowners and after angry words on both sides, passed out her business cards and represented herself as working with West Realty, a Tucson firm.

When this company was called, they were informed that this agent was definitely no longer working for them. A check with the Arizona Department of Real Estate revealed that she was working for a limited service brokerage.

Issue - no public report is available and it is my understanding that

it will not be available for quite some time. How is the builder able to start construction without a public report?

Issue - No access will be possible to this subdivision except through Paseo Tierra, which is directly past hundreds of condominiums owned by retirees in an age-restricted neighborhood, many of whom reside here only in the winter months. There is a great deal of concern for the safety of their property.

Issue - Flooding questions. The townhomes are to be located directly in an area which was submerged in 1983. The water reached the patios of townhomes on Paseo Corto.

Indeed, this entire area is age-restricted. Affected subdivisions are: Encanto Estates, Portillo Hills, Madera Vista Townhomes, Villas West, Villas East, and Townhouses IV. ALL these areas are concerned about the proposed development and the general behavior of the builder, Windrose Construction, and his representative, Linda Witte.....

Mr. Carroll - I'm not an anti-development person, but the character of Green Valley should not be changed to allow an 18-unit development.

As I said, this is the HEART of Green Valley, in the oldest part. It's our only History!

I'm not sure what would happen to property values in this booming area if we lose our "happy retirement" status.....

Please help us keep Green Valley a desirable retirement destination!

Donna Schatz is an Associate Broker with Coldwell Banker in Green Valley. The opinions expressed above are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.

Lottery Results

Pick 3—April 17, 2006

Winning Numbers:

1-3-6

Pick 3—April 15, 2006

Winning Numbers:

0-1-6

Next drawing: Tuesday, April 18, 2006—not available at press time.

Fantasy 5—April 17, 2006

Winning Numbers:

1-4-7-17-19

Fantasy 5—April 15, 2006

Winning Numbers:

10-11-19-21-31

Next drawing: Tuesday, April 18, 2006—not available at press time.

The Pick—April 15, 2006

Winning Numbers:

9-13-15-20-26-38

Bonus Ball: 32

Next estimated jackpot: \$1.7 million

Next drawing: Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Powerball—April 15, 2006

Winning Numbers:

13-18-23-28-46

Powerball: 33

Power Play: 03

Next estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Next drawing: Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Bicycle advocates urge yes vote on RTA plan

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plans include many important projects to improve bicycling and pedestrian safety and the quality of life in the Santa Cruz Valley region.

This RTA plan is on the May ballot, and we encourage voters to vote YES on BOTH Questions #1 & #2.

We are a volunteer citizen's advocate committee working to add bike lanes or paved shoulders for the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists in the Santa Cruz Valley.

Additional bike lanes are needed to fill the gaps in the current bike lane systems because of the drastically increased population in the region.

Over the past two years, our committee has successfully convinced Pima County to add bike lanes in Green Valley, and have assisted Pima County and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to win Transportation Enhancement Grants of over \$1M to add bike lanes and shared use paths both within Green Valley and the Santa Cruz Valley.

The committee is an out growth of the "Green Valley Community Coordinating Council's Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee," that with the encouragement of the GVC-CC has been expanded to better address the regional concerns, and the name has been changed to the "Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advisory Committee."

Safer conditions

Our goal is to achieve safer bicycling conditions in the region from Tucson, through Green Valley/Sahuarita, to Tubac, and Ari-

Guest Comment

By Bill Adamson and Jim Jordan

This is a plan that incorporates alternative transportation, mass transit, roadway improvements, and important bike and pedestrian safety improvements.

vacua.

The RTA plan contains many projects of interest to bicyclists and pedestrians.

The following projects will greatly improve safety for all users of the road in our region:

- New bike lanes to fill gaps in existing bike lane systems:
- Old Nogales Highway
- Continental Road (La Cañada to Duval Mine Road);
- Duval Mine Road (La Cañada to Continental Road);
- East Frontage Road (Continental Road to Canoa Interchange);
- Houghton Road;
- Sahuarita Road (Houghton to SR 83)
- Sahuarita Road (La Villita to Country Club)
- Wilmot Road
- Hughes Access
- Alvernon
- Mission Road (San Xavier

Road to Drexel)

- San Xavier Road
- New sidewalks
- Continental Road (La Cañada to Pima Community College)
- Camino del Sol (Continental to Calle Tres)
- Sahuarita Road (La Villita to Country Club)
- Houghton Road
- New shared use paths
- Santa Cruz River Park (Pima Mine Rd to Sahuarita Rd)
- Express bus to Tucson plus neighborhood circulator bus
- Bike racks on the buses. Ride the bus part way and commute by bike the rest.

Many other road and transportation improvements through out Pima County are also included in the RTA plans.

These will improve mobility and safety of travel to and thru Tucson. Members of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee participated in drafting the RTA plan, and our recommendation to vote for RTA is based on the plan's overall balanced transportation benefits for Pima County.

This is not a plan just for Tucson, or just for roads, or trolleys, or bike lanes.

This is a plan that incorporates alternative transportation, mass transit, roadway improvements, and important bike and pedestrian safety improvements.

Voting yes on both RTA Questions #1 & #2 will help keep Pima County a place we all want to live.

Bill Adamson and Jim Jordan are co-chairs of the Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee. The opinions expressed above are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.

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Cancellation:

An \$8.50 processing fee is levied on cancellation. All refunds are paid by check and mailed within 10 working days. No refunds under \$1.

Postmaster:

Send all address changes to Green Valley News and Sun, P.O. Box 567, Green Valley, AZ 85622

Postage:

Periodical postage paid at Green Valley, AZ, and an additional office (U.S.P.S. Publication No. 228-440)