

CAMPGROUND

INDUSTRY E-NEWS

NEW JERSEY CAMPGROUNDS OPEN FOR THE 2018 SEASON

COVER STORY P11

AZ ARVC HOLDS ITS SPRING CONVENTION AND TRADESHOW

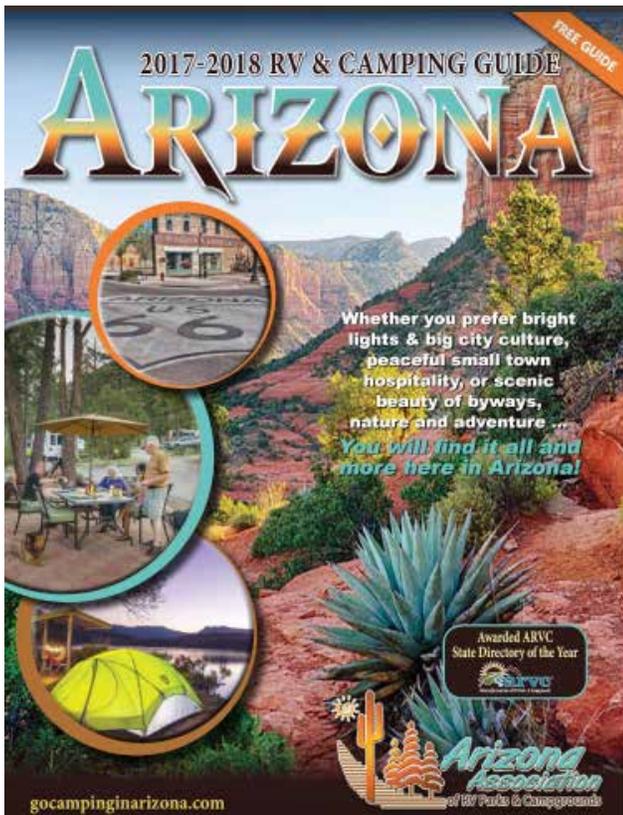
STORY P2

THE PCOA WORKS HARD TO PROMOTE CAMPING IN PENNSYLVANIA

STORY P13



AZ ARVC holds its Spring Convention and Tradeshow



ABOUT 65 park operators, vendors and industry officials attended the Spring Convention of the Arizona Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (Arizona ARVC).

"We had a very good convention and great attendance," Arizona ARVC Executive Director Jo Ann Mickelson said of the event, which took place April 26 at the Vee Quiva Resort & Casino in Laveen, Ariz.

"Some parks brought three

or four people."

The convention included a seminar by Roxi Baxley of Port Angeles, Wash.-based Strait Web Solutions titled, "What could go wrong?"

John Sheedy of San Diego, Calif.-based Park Brokerage, Inc. led a seminar on buying and selling an RV park, while Melissa Parham of Williams, Zinman & Parham, P.C. in Scottsdale provided an update on current legislative issues affecting Arizona park

operators.

New board members were also announced, including Danny O'Leary of Rincon Country RV Resorts in Tucson, Ariz.; Aroul Ramadoss, who owns Covered Wagon RV Park in Phoenix; and Jeff Crider, a longtime campground industry writer and publicist with Palm Desert, Calif.-based Crider Public Relations, Inc.

The convention also included Arizona ARVC's annual awards competition. Winners included:

- Monte Vista Village RV Resort, Mesa, Mega Park of the Year
 - La Hacienda RV Resort, Apache Junction, Large Park of the Year
 - Gila Bend KOA, Gila Bend, Medium Size Park of the Year
 - Barbara Stafford owner of Apache Palms RV Park in Tempe received the Jack Denton Memorial Award.
 - Roxi Baxley, Strait Web Solutions, Supplier of the Year
- Arizona ARVC also presented its first ever Lifetime Honorary Membership Award to Dr. Sandra Bryn, who sold her park, Desert's Edge RV, in Phoenix a little over a year ago. Dr. Bryn has served on the Arizona ARVC Board of Directors since 2002.

-Arizona ARVC's convention

was preceded by an evening crackerbarrel session led by Harvey Mickelson. The Mickelsons own and operate J & H RV Park in Flagstaff.

-Sixteen vendors participated in the association's tradeshow, including Crowley, Texas-based AGS /Texas Advertising; Coin & Professional Equipment Co., with offices in Phoenix and Tucson; Mt. Juliet, Tenn.-based Campground Automation Systems; Gerber Manufacturing Ltd.; Good Sam Network, based in Oxnard, Calif.; Niagara Falls, Ont.-based Mission Management Information Systems; Austin, Texas-based Rowley Insurance; Dallas, Texas-based ReserveAmerica; Tucson-based SCS Communications; Plantation, Fla.-based Southeast Publications, Austin, Texas-based TengolInternet; and Kingston, Wash.-based Utility Supply Group.

Later this month, Arizona ARVC plans to release its 2018/19 Official Arizona RV and Campground Guide. Its 2017/18 Guide is available in digital format at www.GoCampingInArizona.com.

Source: Press Release

KOA's Big Weekend set to benefit Care Camps



KAMPGROUNDS of Americas Inc. (KOA) Care Camps' Big Weekend is set to take place this coming weekend, May 11-12.

KOA announced at the end of April that advanced reservations for the weekend were up compared to 2017.

"The Care Camps Big Weekend has been the official start to our summer camping season for the past 14 years," said KOA President

Toby O'Rourke. "It's simply a wonderful way to offer our guests a way to start their camping a bit earlier than they might have otherwise considered and at the same time raise funds for the Care Camps charity for kids with cancer."

KOA Care Camps for children with cancer now provides funding for more than 125 independent summer camps for children with cancer and their siblings. Each year, thousands of kids receive a free week of summer camp at their specialized camps.

This year, a total of 402 KOA locations in North America are

participating in Care Camps Big Weekend. Campers that stay as paying guests at a participating KOA on Friday, May 11 receive a night of camping on Saturday, May 12 for \$20.

The entire \$20 amount is provided to the KOA Care Camps charity.

For a complete list of participating KOAs, go to koa.com/national-events/care-camps-big-weekend/

For more information on the KOA Care Camps charity, go to koacarecamps.org.

Source: Press Release

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An Ohio camping resort goes high tech to reach campers



NEW PARIS, Ohio - Camping has gone mainstream with over 6 million new campers in North America since 2014. This next generation of camper is demanding a different experience when it comes to finding their next vacation destination. Natural Springs Resort in Ohio is being proactive in providing the information these guests desire with an updated website, video tour and 360 interactive videos.

"We have seen a dramatic change in what our potential guests ask us when considering our park," stated Steve Adams, general manager of Natural Springs Resort. "They are not content with printed directory information. Instead they want

“OUR SPRING FED LAKE IS INCREDIBLY POPULAR WITH SCUBA DIVERS



Sharing the Adventure

to see, interact with and pick their experience at booking." Natural Springs Resort has enabled this experience by integrating the latest technologies in digital marketing.

Natural Springs Resort is an early adopter in the rapidly changing landscape of outdoor destination marketing. Digital marketing technologies such as mobile friendly websites, professionally produced video tours and 360 virtual video

tours are combining to reduce the uncertainty inherent in travel and make the consumer traveler experience more enjoyable.

"We have seen client online reservations increase by as much as 107% after they implemented our digital marketing tools," added Mark Koep, founder and CEO of CampgroundViews.com.

"Natural Springs Resort is already showing massive early gains with their website visits up 36 percent in the first 2 weeks alone."

Natural Springs Resort is a unique location that most guests need to see to believe.

Adams added, "Our spring fed lake is incredibly popular with scuba divers who can train, certify and practice right here in Ohio." In addition the resort has a swim beach and water play features open to guests to enjoy. "We find that even locals are shocked at everything we have to offer. By making it easier for travelers to find, see and book a visit to our park we are reaching that next generation of camper," he added.

The updated website, video teaser and 360 virtual video tour can be found on the company's website using the following <https://www.naturalspringsresort.com/>

Source: Press Release



Wildfires in Manitoba put dark cloud on start of camping season

WARMER weather is usually the signal for many Manitobans to start heading to the lake and campsites, but the wildfire risk is putting a damper on those plans for some campers.

Most provincial camping spots open Friday, May 11 and most will also include fire limitations, such as fires in approved pits only, according to a provincial spokesperson.

Elisabeth Ostrop, Manager of Recreation and Education Services for Manitoba Parks said the bans are always looked at on a day-by-day basis.

“Right now they’re doing



an initial assessment and then just before the May Long Weekend, another big assessment will be done and

they’ll look at the conditions,” Ostrop said.

“Maybe some regions will

have received some rain by then.”

That could put a stop to weekend plans for long-time camper Patricia Enns.

“If I can’t have a campfire then it’s not really camping to me – no s’mores and stuff like that, what’s the point?” Enns said. “That’s the way that you cook food, that’s the way that you keep warm on colder nights and it’s especially nice when you have your friends and you enjoy campfires.”

Drought conditions in Manitoba range from moderate to severe.

Full Article <https://bit.ly/2rBnPSu>

PIKE FOREST

Jacob Smith
Campground Owner

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- Website Designer
- Construction Coordinator
- Recreation Planner
- Event Promoter
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The GDPR is coming, the GDPR is coming!

by Peter Pelland



YOU have no doubt heard about the GDPR, and you may think that it has nothing to do with you. First of all, what is the GDPR? Unlike the DPRK, which is also in the news quite a bit lately, the GDPR is based in the European Union, not North Korea. It stands for the General Data Protection Regulation, and it goes into effect on May 25, 2018, with the intent of standardizing data protection rules across the 28 member countries of the European Union, from Austria to the United Kingdom (yes, despite Brexit, the United Kingdom remains an EU member until March 29, 2019.) With additional countries currently seeking admission, there are only a few European countries (most notably Russia, Ukraine, Norway, and Switzerland) that are neither members nor in the process of

“ SOME PEOPLE DISMISSIVELY THINK THAT THEY CAN IGNORE THE NEW GDPR RULES

joining. The GDPR is designed to protect the personal privacy rights of citizens who reside within the EU, through the implementation of data protection standards by companies based in the EU itself and global companies that either process or control the personal data concerning individuals who reside in the EU.

Although the owner of a small campground in Oklahoma may not think of his business as a global enterprise, the Internet has

made this planet a very small world indeed. Campgrounds near international tourism destinations like New York City, Washington DC, or units of our National Park System certainly recognize their percentage of guests from outside of the United States, many of whom originate from within the European Union. In fact, I have written in the past about measures that park owners can take in order to pursue a larger segment of international tourism business. Unless you are going to take the extreme (and suicidal, from a business development standpoint) measure of banning guests from Europe, the new regulations apply to your business. It is better to embrace the standards now because these new standards are likely to be broadly embraced around the world in

the coming years. Which one of us, as individual members of the world society, is not in favor of improving standards to protect our personal privacy?

Some people dismissively think that they can ignore the new GDPR rules, foolishly assuming that they cannot possibly be enforced or that their small business would certainly never be targeted. As Americans, we get inundated with a daily barrage of telemarketing phone calls and junk faxes despite the fact that they are prohibited by the U.S. Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and we have all been the victims of widespread security breaches where companies like Equifax get virtually slapped on the wrist. Well, change is in the air.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

The new rules require a higher standard of consent in the gathering of personal data, broaden the rights of individuals to demand that their personal data remain private, and establish enforcement powers that include some substantial fines for violations. If your website, like many if not most, is running Google Analytics, Google Tag Manager, or similar analytical software, you have probably received notices from Google, requiring that you update your agreement and provide your company's

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legal name and contact information, a process that shifts the burden of ultimate legal responsibility from Google to your business. If you are familiar with Google Analytics and have evaluated your analytical data, you know how it can map your website's traffic volume down to the local level, based upon the IP addresses of individual computers and mobile devices. The information falls just short of identifying a specific visitor to your site as Liam Andersson, at 211 Svarvargatan in Stockholm, Sweden; however, the IP address of a user's computer constitutes personal information under the new regulations.

If you are advertising your business using online tools such as Google AdWords, Bing Ads or Facebook Advertising, you are probably fully aware of how that advertising can be targeted toward specific countries. Targeting any EU countries identifies your company as one that is specifically

processing data from individuals who come under the protection of the GDPR. Although many American campground websites have dedicated French language versions (if they cater to a French Canadian clientele) or Spanish language websites (in order to reach out to the growing numbers of bilingual Americans), having dedicated website content (not simply the availability of a Google Translate tool) in French (even FR-CA, as opposed to FR-FR) or Spanish could also be interpreted as an effort to market to individuals in France and Spain. Clearly, this gets complicated.

There is no question that companies like Google and Facebook will be modifying the ways that they gather and process personal data, in order to safeguard their own interests; however, your individual business is also going to have to take certain measures in order to comply with the new

Cont P8

GDPR rules. If your park belongs to a franchise that has its own assets to protect, such as Leisure Systems' Yogi Bear Jellystone Parks, your compliance needs to be assured. None of this is particularly easy, but it is all unquestionably necessary.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

First of all, you need to recognize that, even if you are not specifically targeting or marketing to consumers in the European Union, people residing in the member countries are likely to be visiting your website. For that reason alone, it is necessary that some modifications be made to your site, particularly if it involves the sale of any type of merchandise or has any sort of form that compiles personal information. This would include reservation request forms or any third-party software that processes reservations on your behalf. Those forms must be modified so that users specifically consent (opt in) to the gathering of their personal information (in other words, no permission boxes that are checked by default), and they must have a clear option to withdraw their consent. These processes must be very clear, specific and unambiguous, and you must have a means to immediately halt any data processing upon request.

Your website should also have a privacy policy that is associated with any e-commerce or form that gathers personal information. That privacy policy must be updated to reflect the new GDPR requirements. If it does not already do so, your privacy policy should

specify that your website is not directed toward children (although, unlike alcohol-related sites as an example, an age gate does not need to be in place), whether or not it is using cookies or tracking technologies that might be out of compliance, how your website is identifying user locations (Google Analytics or Google Tag Manager, for example), whether you are collecting email address for marketing purposes (again, clearly specifying opt in and opt out procedures), whether you are collecting phone numbers and for what purposes, and how and where your data is stored.

Your level of exposure to the new GDPR rules should also address a series of European-specific questions. These include whether or not your site accepts payments in currencies other than U.S. dollars (it should not), whether

your site is advertised or specifically marketed in any way toward European consumers (if so, you may want to reconsider this practice for the time being), whether your site blocks or diminishes content to European users (for example, disabling reservations – a rather extreme measure), and whether or not your site gets any significant traffic from users in Europe.



Google Analytics

Although it is your responsibility to update any agreements with companies like Google and Facebook, many of the necessary steps will require either assistance or implementation by your webmaster or third-party reservation service providers. Keep in mind that this will involve additional services that will almost certainly incur additional fees. Maintaining standards that respect personal privacy go beyond your website and must influence your internal business practices, including the secure storage of customer data. We are living in a complicated world where, ultimately, we are all consumers with rights that need to be protected.

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Peter Pelland is the CEO of Pelland Advertising, a company that he founded in 1980 and that has been serving the family camping industry for over 35 years. His company specializes in building fully responsive websites, along with producing a full range of four-color process print advertising, for clients from coast to coast. Learn more about Pelland Advertising at www.pelland.com or see their ad in this issue.



In May, have a HEART

by Art Lieberman



LAST week in my article, I mentioned that I recently have turned some of my energies into trying to help non-profits raise money. This month, called "Heart Month" I have chosen the American Heart Association. There are two reasons for this. The first reason is, that at 77 years old, I am now looking at the youngest generation and hoping that they can survive a world that is changing, sometimes for the better, sometimes not. The not-so-good reason is the concern about our planet's changing weather – the good is the technical advances constantly being made to promote a longer, healthier life for future generations.

The heart, that organ in our bodies that constantly pumps

the life-giving fluid to every cell is, besides our brains, the most essential part of a human being. This brings me to the second reason I chose this organization to support. Recently I had been afflicted with blood in my urine. My hemoglobin count fell to 6.2%, nearly half of what it should have been. While getting a transfusion in a local emergency room, I had a mild heart attack. I awoke; nearly two days later, in an ICU at the hospital with a breathing and feeding tube attached, and my arms and legs tied to the bed, lest I awoke and tried to

remove either tube. Talk about being scared!

Let me tell you about the American Heart Association. It is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, the nation's number one and number five killers. Their mission is building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Together, with the help of volunteers, survivors,

health insurance. They are working with community partners to identify those social determinants of health that are of greatest concern and focusing efforts where they are needed the most to achieve the greatest local health outcomes. This collective impact approach informs how they invest their resources while continuing to provide educational programs for all ages, science-based guidelines for health care providers, and funding for innovative research.

As the leading source of non-government funded cardiovascular science, the Association has invested more than \$3.7 billion in scientific research and discovery since 1949. The organization trains approximately 2 million high school graduates in CPR every year and has reduced cardiovascular disease mortality by 70 percent since 1968.

They are helping local hospitals improve the quality of heart and stroke care they provide to the community. They are teaching healthy habits to thousands of local school children through their youth programs. The American Heart Association is also investing over \$24.6 million in life-saving heart disease and stroke research just in Pennsylvania, where I live.

The American Heart Association has your community at heart. They are working today, just as they have for more than 90 years,



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advocates, doctors, health care professionals and researchers, the American Heart Association is making an extraordinary impact – healthier adults, more active children and more survivors. In fact, more people are surviving heart disease and stroke than ever before.

In order to achieve its goal of saving more lives, the American Heart Association is assessing all factors that influence community health and impact health equity, including education, poverty and access to

to make healthier, longer life possible for everyone. Why do they do what they do? It's simple. Life is why.

So I'm asking you people in the campground industry to help out. When you make a donation to the American Heart Association, it puts us closer to the quality of life we all deserve. MCPS is part of the Life Is Why We Give™ campaign. I ask you to think about their reasons to live healthier, longer lives and to give in honor of those reasons.

To contribute to the MCPS Life is Why We Give Campaign, send a check made out to the American Heart Association to MCPS of Central PA, 418 Hazel Street,



New Berlin, PA 17855. You can also call us at 877-858-9010 to make a credit card contribution. We will e-mail a receipt. Remember your donations are tax deductible,

Having attended dozens of Campground conventions and participated in the trade shows, I know that campground owners are some of this nation's most thoughtful and generous people in our country. Please help this cause.

For more information about how you can be a part of the American Heart Association's mission, visit www.heart.org/lifeiswhy

A video player interface showing a scene of people jumping on a large green inflatable jump pad in a wooded area. The video player includes a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 0:12, a volume icon, a settings gear, a full screen icon, and a share icon. A red circular icon with a white video camera symbol is overlaid on the video. Below the video player is a dark blue banner with white text.

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New Jersey campgrounds open for the 2018 season

SPRING has sprung in New Jersey and that can only mean the camping season has begun, according to a press release from the New Jersey Campground Owners Association.

As the weather gets warmer across the state, over 90 New Jersey campgrounds and RV parks are welcoming campers for the 2018 season. Some campgrounds and RV parks opened in April and all will be open by Memorial Day weekend.

Many campgrounds are offering spring specials up to Memorial Day weekend. A full list of camping specials can be

found in the news section at www.GoCampingNJ.com

New Jersey campgrounds are spread out across the state offering campers a wide variety of experiences. Campers can enjoy tubing or canoeing down the Delaware

River, hiking trails or stay minutes from the beaches. Most campgrounds are pet friendly, so you can travel with your best friend. They also offer a wide variety of activities (hayrides, movies, dancing, tennis, and mini

golf) and modern amenities such as internet access, cable TV, swimming pools and hot showers.

If you don't have a RV, camper, or even a tent, you can still enjoy camping. Many campgrounds have rentals, such as, cabins, RVs, yurts, tree houses and even tepees.

Many campgrounds offer daily, weekly and seasonal site rentals. To find your perfect camping spot visit www.GoCampingNJ.com where you can search by region, pet friendly, rentals and many more options.

Source: Press Release



COVERING THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA WWW.THEJUMPPAD.COM

Gila Bend KOA receives prestigious 'Park Of The Year' award



Scott Swanson with Winston

GILA Bend Kampgrounds of America (KOA) has won the Medium Park of the Year Award from the Arizona Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (Arizona ARVC), according to a press release.

The statewide award, during the association's annual convention on April 26, was the latest industry recognition for the 130-site park and its owner, Scott Swanson, who won Kampgrounds of America Inc.'s KOA's 2018 Rising Star Award in November.

Arizona ARVC's Park of the Year Awards are given annually to parks that deliver extraordinary guest experiences as a result of all-around excellence in operations, professionalism, marketing, customer service and industry involvement.

"We're heading in the right direction," said Swanson, who also serves as president of Arizona ARVC. Swanson runs the Gila Bend KOA with assistance from his mother, Sandy Catalana, and his dog,

Winston, who accompanies Swanson as he makes his rounds through the park.

Swanson partly credits his success in Gila Bend to his continual investments in improvements, the latest of which are a new heated swimming pool; a new 2,500-square foot veranda with a fireplace and seating outside his recreation hall; and a 1,500 square foot restroom/shower building, with a dog wash station.

"People love this secluded desert park," Swanson said, adding that his overnight snowbird business was up 36% this winter, while his monthly business increased by 19%.

But Swanson isn't resting on his laurels. He plans to focus this summer on "chip sealing" his older black-top roads to help keep the dust down and reduce noise as people drive through the park. He also plans to make campsite improvements and to replace a portion of the park's sewer connections and to improve them with 2-foot by 2-foot concrete pads.

"Our goal is to have all of our sites with new spigots, sewer, gravel and landscaping before our 2019-2020 season," he said.

All of this is a dramatic change for the Gila Bend park, which Swanson purchased in 2015 when it was a largely undeveloped campground known as Augie's Quail Trail RV Park.

He subsequently joined the

KOA franchise network and proceeded to develop the Gila Bend park using proceeds from the sale of his previous park, Leaf Verde RV Park in Buckeye, which he also co-owned and operated with his extended family members.

Swanson also received Arizona ARVC's Park of the Year Award for Leaf Verde in 2013 & 2014.

Swanson left his previous career as a freelance Hollywood producer for the RV park business in 2010 when his family needed help running Leaf Verde. Swanson ended up falling in love with the RV park business and joined Arizona ARVC to network with other park operators and learn as much as he could about emerging consumer camping trends, as well as the best practices of campground and RV park operators in Arizona and across the country.

“OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL OF OUR SITES WITH NEW SPIGOTS, SEWER, GRAVEL AND LANDSCAPING

Swanson has been president of Arizona ARVC for the past three years. He is also president of the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce, a post he has held for the past two years.

Source: Press Release

The PCOA works hard to promote camping in Pennsylvania

THE Pennsylvania Campground Owners Association teamed up with Cabela's in Hamburg, Pennsylvania this year to promote the camping lifestyle. "Discover Your Outdoor Moments" was the theme that the association chose for the April 21-22 event.

Members of the Association were on hand to greet the guests and give them a 2018 Campground Directory of privately owned parks. They experienced what camping is really like by tasting S'mores, which the PCOA members made on a gas grill. A total of 980 S'mores were given out to the hungry crowd. Coloring books were given to the children and there was a photo opportunity on hand.

Three RVs were available for tours. Family Camping Outlet from Stowe, PA, was the participating dealership. Promotional acorn signage and colorful spring flowers added to the promotion.



Michele & Dan Socola and Tracy & Scott Musselman from Williamsport South/Nittany Mountain KOA in New Columbia made s'mores to hand out.

"Camping is not only the most affordable vacation around, it also is fun and memorable. In Pennsylvania we have over 230 campgrounds to choose from to make that memory," said Beverly Gruber, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Campground Owners

Association. "Camping is a great family activity. At the Cabela's event, young families were encouraged to take their children camping this year."

She adds, "Time spent camping or RVing allows you to slow down and gives you the flexibility to pursue what you want and where you want

to be. It gives you a chance to rediscover your family and lets you choose the activities your family enjoys.

For more information on Pennsylvania Campgrounds, please contact Beverly Gruber at 610-767-5026 and visit www.pacamping.com

Source: Press Release

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Gas prices climb following Trump's Iran move

AMERICANS are primed to pay more at the pump after President Trump dumped an accord with oil producer Iran.

Trump announced Tuesday that the U.S., which negotiated the 2015 deal to curb Iran's nuclear program with other international partners, was unilaterally pulling out and reimposing sanctions.

The price of a barrel of Brent crude hit more than \$77 per barrel after the announcement, the first time it has reached that mark since 2014.

A surge in prices is good news for natural resource-dependant countries such as Russia and Saudi Arabia,

though Americans will take a hit from the President's decision as prices are expected to rise even higher towards \$80.

AAA's national gas price average was \$2.82 as of early Wednesday, though states on the East and West Coasts ranged higher and New York's average was \$2.96.

Prices that fluctuated last year have gone steadily upward since the beginning of 2018, when it became clear that Trump would scrap the deal.

Not only will that price affect individual drivers' wallets, but it is also expected to put



a damper on the economic growth that the President loves to tout.

"For the U.S. economy, a prolonged rise in oil prices could reverse part of the benefits from the fiscal

stimulus," Oxford Economics' Gregory Daco told CBS News.

It was not immediately clear what the U.S. would gain by backing away from the deal.

Full Article: <https://nydn.us/2rAbIWF>



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Leavenworth campground offers luxe camping

SEATTLE, Wash- It's got a roaring river. Wildflowers. Wind in the pine trees.

And a nice pool.

Camping at Pine Village KOA isn't exactly roughing it. Sure, camping purists may scoff. Laugh all you want, Tent Boy.

"We offer 27 deluxe cabins, with full kitchen and bathrooms, full-service linens," said Denise Akey, manager of this popular campground, listing some of the many amenities.

"We're on the Wenatchee river, we have about 800 feet of riverfront, which is pretty exciting. In the summertime, we offer river tubing right out



of the campground through Osprey Rafting Company. It's just a great place, you can walk right up to the tent, get your tube, float the river and they shuttle you back. It's really a fun time."

Pets can camp here as well: "Pet-friendly everywhere you go in this campground, you

can bring 'em in the cabins, and the deluxe cabins. We have a free run area for your dogs to run in, and it's super fun."

Right now they were prepping for the summer boom: brand new barbeque grills are lined up, waiting to be installed in campsites.

It's the calm before the storm - this place is already booked up every weekend from Memorial Day onward.

The only thing we didn't see here was Bavarian kitsch.

But don't worry, Pine Village KOA has that figured out as well.

"We offer a free shuttle into town so you can actually camp here and not worry about parking downtown and that kind of thing," said Denise Akey. "It's really one of Leavenworth's best-kept secrets."

Source: <https://kng5.tv/2G3EZxB>

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Monte Vista Village RV Resort named 2018 Arizona ARVC 'Mega Park of the Year'

MESA, Ariz. – The Arizona Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds (Arizona ARVC) recently recognized Monte Vista Village RV Resort with the Mega Park of the Year Award at the 2018 Arizona ARVC Annual Outdoor Hospitality Conference and Expo. This marks the fifth consecutive occasion that an Encore resort has been honored with the Mega Park of the Year award by Arizona ARVC.

For more than 20 years, the ARVC has recognized RV resorts that deliver extraordinary guest experiences as a result of



all-around excellence in operations, professionalism, marketing, customer service, and industry involvement. The Mega Park of the Year Award, for parks with more than 501 sites, was presented

to Brenda Roza, Monte Vista general manager, by Scott Swanson and Jo Anne Mickelson, president and executive director of Arizona ARVC. Monte Vista received the Park of the Year award

during the annual Awards Luncheon held on April 26th.

"We work hard to ensure our guests are having the most enjoyable time possible," said Roza. "Arizona ARVC honoring Monte Vista brings validity to our staff's goal of working hard every day to be the best. The effort they put in for our guests is being recognized and I'm very excited for our team. Monte Vista is a phenomenal resort that exemplifies what it means to be in a community and we are so pleased Arizona ARVC has acknowledged this."

Full Article: <https://prn.to/2l8ZC1a>



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California business offers camping companionship



WHILE most people love the idea of camping, getting organized with the right equipment and deciding where to go can be daunting. And camping alone is also not much fun, Marie Holt started a new business here in Sonoma last year with her dog and adventure buddy, Otis, after realizing how many women are intimidated to go out on adventures in the backcountry.

"They want to, but don't know how to get started, are scared, don't know how to read a topographic map, or don't know what to pack," she said.

Holt has been backpacking for more than 20 years and she says she's always found it to be an activity that centers

ABOVE: Marie Holt
RIGHT: Otis takes in the view

her and proves to her how strong and resilient she is.

"I always come back from the mountains recharged and re-empowered," she said. "There's just something about standing on a massive slab of granite that makes me realize my problems are insignificant."

Her idea for "A Girl and Her Dog Adventures" came from a desire to share that with other women and girls, as well as boys.

Clients come to her with a date in mind or just a general interest to go backpacking. Holt schedules a mutually agreeable date and discusses



goals and interests. She says that most clients are interested in heading up into the Sierra mountains, although she also does local hikes and overnights in Pt. Reyes National Seashore. She can tailor hikes based on interests in geology, wildflowers, lower elevations, time of year, fishing, etc. Clients choose how long the trip is and learn how to read a topographic map, plus "leave no trace" ethics, trail etiquette, campsite selection, an introduction to flora and

fauna of the area, and how to pack and fit a backpack.

Each camper is given a detailed packing list, but Holt supplies backpacks, sleeping pads, tents and a few basic camp necessities.

Holt has lived in Sonoma for the past eight years. She is a registered nurse by night, and by day and for fun on the side, she started A Girl and Her Dog. The company's namesake, Otis, died recently but she kept the name.

Holt says that her experience on the trails throughout the Sierra Nevada, Rockies, Cascades, coastal ranges and deserts of the Southwest have taught her a respect for nature, weather and the alpine environment. She's taken classes on geology, cartography, and leadership and loves introducing her passion for the outdoors to other women.

While most of her marketing is geared toward women, she has taken husbands and wives, women and their sons, co-workers and groups of friends.

Most trips are within a couple hours driving distance (nearby Sierras, Pt. Reyes, etc.) are \$120 per person, per day (i.e. a three-day/two-night trip is \$360 total). This price includes the gear (tent, pack, sleeping bag and pad) and all meals during the trip.

Learn more at www.agirlandherdogadventures.com

Source:
<https://bit.ly/2jN3CFW>

Local New Jersey campgrounds support Ginnie's House

IN addition to enjoying the great outdoors, area campers help to raise funds once again to support Ginnie's House, which provides a safe environment for abused children.

Delaware River Family Campground (Columbia, NJ), and Kymer's Camping Resort (Branchville, NJ) began this fundraising endeavor during their 2016 camping season, and continued their efforts again in 2017 with coin collection boxes in each of the camp stores. Donations collected during the 2017 camping season from both the campgrounds totaled \$405.00.



From left to right: Karen Kymer (General Manager of Delaware River Family Campground & Kymer's camping Resort) and Kristi Young, Executive Director of Ginnie's House

Karen Kymer, General Manager of the two campgrounds, presented the \$405.00 check to Kristi Young,

the new Executive Director of Ginnie's House Children's Advocacy Center.

Karen expressed, "We are

thrilled with the generosity of our campers and they were more than happy to donate to such an important cause."



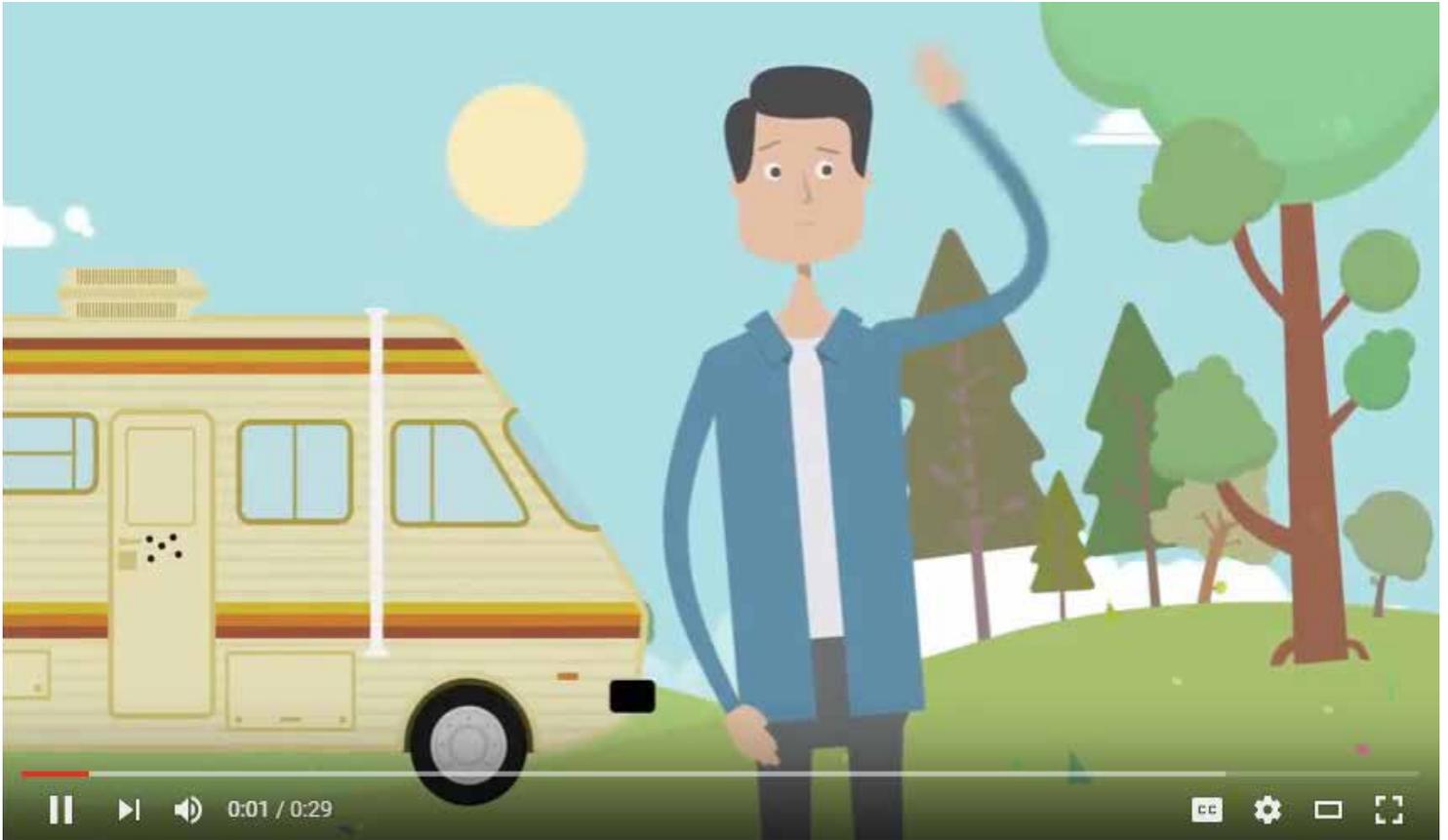
Karen added, "We're proud to support Ginnie's House and their tireless efforts in serving the children and families of Sussex County and plan to put out the collection boxes again this year at our campgrounds."

*Source:
Press Release*

A large advertisement for the Agritainment & Outdoor Recreation Show. The background is a photograph of a smiling woman with long dark hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt and a dark hat, standing in a field at sunset. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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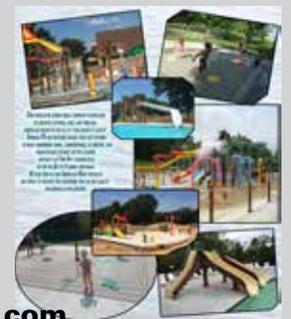


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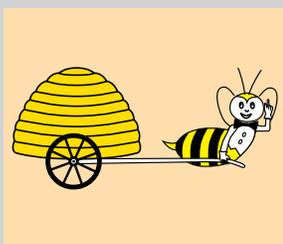


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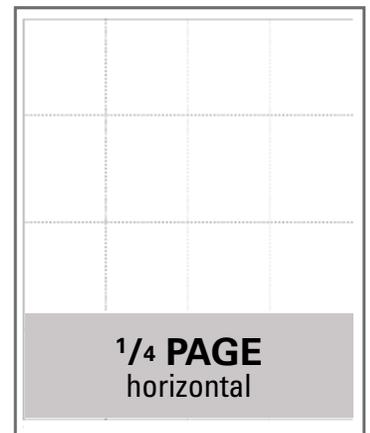
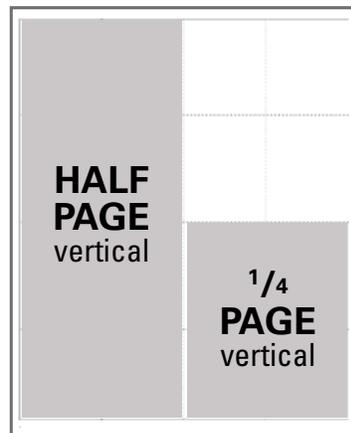
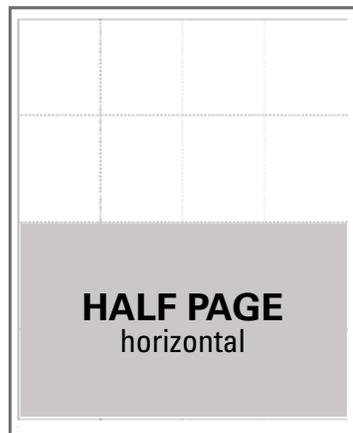
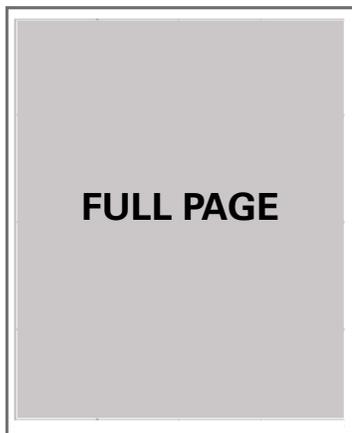
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