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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT PROJECT



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Supervisor Jim Spering Reappointed to MTC as Many Concerns Remain

By Marcy Berry, Member and Website Editor Nine-County Coalition George Guyann Jr, Former President Solano Taxpayers Association, Member Nine-County Coalition

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV) - On Tuesday, February 5, the Solano County Board of Supervisors considered the appointment of a Solano County representative to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

The Board voted 4-1 to appoint Supervisor Jim Spering as Commissioner to the MTC. Supervisor Monika Brown voted against Spering's appointment.

The Solano County City Selection Committee provided the Board with the names of three nominees to MTC for a 4 year term to commence on February 10, 2019 and expire on February 9, 2023. The nominees were: Supervisor Jim Spering, Mayor of Fairfield Harry Price, and Mayor of Vallejo Bob Sampayan. (Dixon Mayor Thom Boque voted for Spering.)

Concerns have been raised and letters have been sent to the Board of

Supervisors not only by Marcy Berry, a member and website editor of the Nine-County Coalition but also by Gerald Cauthen, President of Bay Area Transportation Working Group. The groups' concerns centered on positions of MTC Commissioners on Regional Measure 3, bridge toll funds used to fund projects not related to bridges and access to bridges, and Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA). "The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is a powerful body that controls billions of dollars of transportation funds and shapes housing policy in the nine-county Bay Area. All 450,000 Solano County residents have a stake in MTC's decisions," Cauthen pointed out.

Spering has served 32 years on the commission, 20 of those as mayor of Suisun City, the past 12 as a supervisor.

Regional Measure 3 (RM3), which increases bridge tolls by \$3.00, was rejected by 70 percent of Solano County voters last June, but Jim Spering, Solano County's representative on the board of the MTC not only cast a YES vote in support of RM3, but called for a higher toll increase.

A group of ordinary citizens from all political and professional bents and backgrounds formed Nine-County Coalition (NCC) to stop Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure, an unprecedented proposal on the June 2016 ballot of all nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. The group's objective is a simple one: present facts about the downsides and dangers of unfettered regionalism.

NCC has numerous active participants in Solano County who are determined to shed public light on the obscure way cities and counties appoint MTC Commissioners. The NCC, as an organization that has fought against unrepresentative bureaucratic governance in the Bay Area for the past five years, supports the efforts of the Solano county involved participants. (Visit <https://nine-county-coalition.square-space.com>)

NCC requests that Jim Spering, the appointee to MTC immediately and publicly answer the following question "whom does an MTC Commissioner represent – the city/county that appointed him or MTC's latest plan?" ★

California Driver Cell Phone Use Creeping Up



By Tim Weisberg, OTS

More California drivers are using their cell phone behind the wheel, but less than previous years, a 2018 observational study by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and California State University, Fresno found.

The study, which was done between August and September of 2018, revealed fewer than five percent (4.52 percent) of California drivers were seen picking up and using their cellphones, compared to less than four percent (3.58 percent) in 2017. As part of the study, surveyors examined driver behavior at 204 locations across 17 counties statewide.

The 2018 numbers are three percent less than 2016 (7.6 percent), a year before the most recent cell phone law went into effect.

"Our goal is to end distracted driving, and there's still work to be done," OTS Director Rhonda Craft said. "This observational survey gives us an idea on where we stand getting drivers' attention away from their phones and where we still have work to do."

Other key findings from the study include:

- Cell phone use was more than 8 times higher (5.55 percent) among drivers with no passengers versus with at least one passenger (less than one percent).
- Cell phone use was higher on local roads than on freeways or highways.
- The most common cell phone use by drivers was to perform a function on the phone. This could be anything from texting, email, GPS, using an app or social media.
- Less than two percent of drivers were observed using their phone with a child passenger.

Under the 2017 hands-free cell phone law, drivers are not allowed to hold their phone for any reason. The phones must be mounted on the dashboard, windshield or center console.

The mounted phone can only be touched once with the swipe or tap of a finger to activate or deactivate a function. If cited, drivers face a \$162 fine for a first offense and at least \$285 for a second offense.

Since the first cell phone laws went into effect more than 10 years ago, the OTS has been urging people to put down their phones and focus on the road. ★

Dixon School District's Obfuscated Oversight

By Mike Ceremello

DIXON, CA (DIV) - Once again the Dixon Unified School District is refusing to comply with the law which allowed them to obtain a \$30 million bond with a 55% voter consent. On the agenda for tonight's, Thursday February 7, 2019, Dixon Unified School Board meeting is the approval of the Bond Audit Report for Measure Q for Fiscal Year 2017-18. The Board of Trustees is asked to approve that Report.

This is the second time since the voters approved Measure Q, the \$30 million bond for the modernization of the old high school, Anderson Elementary, and other facilities that the Board will be approving and accepting the

audit report before the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) is given the opportunity to review the same.

The law requires that the "annual, independent financial and performance audits for the preceding fiscal year shall be submitted to the citizens' oversight committee at the same time they are submitted to the school district." The CBOC hasn't met since December 5, 2018 thus, they haven't received the audit report although the report is addressed also to the committee. How can the committee verify the auditor's findings if they haven't had the opportunity to review the audit report prior to its approval by the School Board?

The appropriate way

the audit report should be approved, and in other school districts the way it has been done, is the Bond Oversight Committees review the audit reports and make comments prior to the school board accepting the audit. Last year's audit report garnered extreme criticism for items left out of the compliance section, such as the late formation of the committee in violation of the law. The auditor was more than willing to amend the report but the school board refused to take action to that effect.

It should be noted that both John Calise, the Facilities Director, and Melissa Mercado, the Chief Business Official, have left the District. As Calise was the intermediary between the board and the committee and

was asked numerous times to rectify issues, the heat might have run them both out of the kitchen.

Whether it is obvious or just conspiracy theory, it seems the "Trustees" of the School District, now that they got your money, do not want any "oversight." The next time the School District comes for more of your money, it would be wise to remember how this public agency treats those who provide them with funding. While the Solano County Taxpayers Association believed and were convinced by the late school district trustee Joe DiPaola that "true" oversight would occur, they have stated they will only be fooled once and will oppose any new proposals given the actions which have occurred. ★

Dixon Adult Literacy Program Growing, Tutors Needed

By Pam Griffey, Dixon ALP

DIXON, CA (DIV) - The Dixon Adult Literacy Program (DALP) will be holding two orientation meetings for those interested in the program or in becoming tutors. DALP tutors help improve literacy in our community by teaching English language speaking, reading and writing skills to any Dixon resident over 18 years old. The new tutor orientations are scheduled for Wednesday, February 27 from 6pm-8pm and Saturday, March 2 from 10am-12pm. Orientations will be held in the Annex at 200 N. 1st Street. Those interested in becoming a tutor are required to attend one of the upcoming orientations and complete 10 hours of training. Most tutoring is done on a 1-1 basis, but a group lesson has been created for those students on the waiting list.

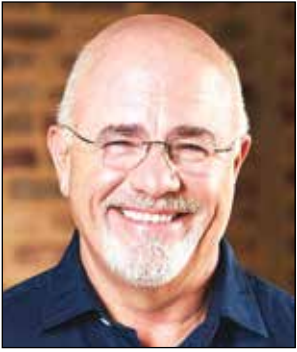
The Dixon Adult Literacy Program began in April 2018 when a few volunteers from the Friends of the Dixon Public Library saw a need to help improve English skills in the community. These volunteers met with literacy coordinators from other libraries in our area, attended trainings and learned how

to establish a literacy program in Dixon. DALP is a home-grown Dixon program!

"We began the Dixon Adult Literacy Program to make literacy available to all people in our community. Most of our students work all day before coming to lessons in the evening. They are tired, but want so badly to learn to speak, read and write in English" said Pam Griffey, DALP Coordinator, "most of us take for granted the ease at which we use the English language and all the privileges that it can bring to us. We want to make sure all Dixon citizens have these rights. The Dixon Adult Literacy Program is our gift to the community we live in."

The Dixon Library is excited to partner with and support the DALP as it continues to grow and serve the community. Most recently the library has added a new staff position to aid Ms. Griffey in the administrative and operational areas of the program.

For more information about the Dixon Adult Literacy Program please visit www.dixonlibrary.com, the Dixon Adult Literacy Program Facebook page or email DixonALP@gmail.com. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

relationship. Family get together, special events, and holidays will feel different when you're there with your lender instead of just good old dad.

I assume your father-in-law is doing well financially, since he can afford to make this offer. And don't get me wrong, it's a very kind and generous offer. If I were in his shoes, I might offer instead to pay off the mortgage as a gift to my son and daughter-in-law for working so hard to attain a goal. But it would be a gift. No strings attached.

If you have a nice, stable family, this debt will always be there in the back of your mind. If you have a dysfunctional, control-freak kind of family, it's going to be right there in front of you constantly. Either way, I don't think it's worth the risk.

— Dave

Fight back against fraud

Dear Dave,

We recently learned that my wife's ex-husband used her social security number to establish several credit card accounts. We've written and called the credit card companies, and we're disputing the charges, but is there anything else we can do to protect ourselves and put an end to this?

— Ken

Dear Ken,

You bet there is! File a police report immediately,

and if possible, have this guy arrested. He has committed criminal fraud, and it's not something you should take lightly. Also, put a fraud victim alert on your credit bureau reports today.

Don't stop with just alerting the credit card companies about this situation. You should be speaking with and communicating via email—plus snail mail, if necessary—directly with the fraud victim division at every credit card company involved. Make sure they understand this is a denial of responsibility and not simply a dispute.

Let them know you're sorry this happened, but explain that all these charges in your names are the result of a criminal act perpetrated against you. You may have to stand your ground with the credit card companies, because some of them might try to get you to pay it, anyway. Don't do it!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

St. Peter's Catholic Church News

Our parish has entered into the New Year. The beautiful Christmas decorations and the peaceful creche with replicas of baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are put away. It is with a certain sadness that we say goodbye to Christmas innocence, and yet, we must be on our way responding to the call to do his work.

The St. Valentine's Day Banquet will be Saturday February 9th. This lovely, many course dinner which is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

will benefit the St. Peter's Youth Group. The young people help in preparing the food and serving. The no host bar is open at 5:30pm with 6:30pm dinner. Tickets are available for \$20 each from the youth committee and office staff. This is a popular event for families, special valentines, and friends. Don't miss it!

Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy is in full swing at St. Peter's. Enrollment for Fall is Open: TK-2nd Montessori elementary and 9th-11th

grade Chesterton Academy. There will be a Preview Night on Monday February 11th from 6-8pm in St. Peter's Religious Ed building. Meet the teachers, explore curriculum, and receive program information for the full-time elementary and high school, the Homeschool Co-op K-8th grade, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd faith formation program for ages 3-12. For more information please visit valleyofthesacredheart.com or call (530) 574-0804. ★

Relationships and money

Dear Dave,

My father-in-law wants to help us with our mortgage. We've been working hard to pay off our home early, and we've reduced what we owe to around \$35,000. His idea is to pay off the remainder, then let us pay him back over time. In the past, he has loaned us much smaller amounts and everything has worked out fine. What do you think about this?

— Brienne

Dear Brienne,

I'm sure this seems like a winning proposition all the way around. My concern is there's a big spiritual and emotional issue that has been left out of the equation. The borrower is always slave to the lender, and nowhere is that more true than in a family.

I understand, too, you have a solid track record with this kind of thing. But anytime you borrow money from family you're playing with fire. When you do something like this, especially with such a large amount, the money issue is likely to be a shadow hovering over your

Faustina Production Will be Presented at St. Mary's Catholic Church

Faustina, the moving, live production performed by actress Jennifer Pagano and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Friday, February 15 at 7:00pm.

Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a worldwide devotion to Christ's

Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up.

Admission will be: \$10/ticket; \$25/Family of 4 or more and \$5/Ages 18

and under. Tickets available in the parish office, the religious store and on Eventbrite (link on parish website: stmarysvacaville.com

Link: <https://stmarysvacaville.com/blog/faustina-messenger-divine-mercy>

For additional information, contact St. Mary's Parish at (707) 448-2390 or alicia@stmarysvacaville.com ★

Walter Vernon Peters Memorial Service (Aug 16, 1940 to January 17, 2019)

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, February 10th - 1:00 PM in the afternoon at Calvary Chapel in Dixon. Walter Peters was a long time Dixon resident. Friends are invited to attend this celebration of Walter's life. Calvary Chapel is located at 140 North First Street in Dixon. Call 707.678.4012 for information.

From Danny Matt

DIXON, CA (DIV) - When Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Jerome Van Amber, longtime Dixon VFW and Dixon Knights of Columbus member died without

any immediate family; members of both organizations stepped up to make sure he was not alone. Members of the Knights of Columbus and VFW served as pallbearers at the funeral Mass at St Peter's Church and final

resting at the Winter's City Cemetery. The USMC honor guard provided honors and presented the American Flag to his friend, Mark Richards.

Thank you Jerome for your service to our country. ★

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Remember these signs? Remember the results of petitioning city hall? Many say: "Let the people vote on the water rate increases (plural). Elected officials say: "We can't let the people vote on every little thing that comes up that's why they elected us. I said, "Yep, If we did then we'd have we'd have what? (A Democracy?) Perish the thought of the people actually having a say on how their tax dollars are spent on actions by their "elected officials". The true colors of those you elected are now coming to light. Hope you enjoy the costly show. ★



Phony Phone calls and What You Can Do

I know we are not the only one getting them, those annoying Robo calls, solicitors calling your home at all hours trying to sell you stuff. With caller I.D. you'd think it would be easier to put a stop to this illegal scamming. But the bad schmucks are always on step ahead of the good guys it seems.

The latest waltz around the law is to "pirate" (steal) phone numbers so your caller I.D. shows a local 678 phone number calling or at least the call is coming from our area code (707) prefix... sorry but it is no longer a true gauge of from whence the call is coming. I like to call the person whose number has been stolen but half the time

there's no name.

I had a list of about five numbers with names but inadvertently erased them and started a new list "Capital One", CC companies and at the solar a**holes are the top culprits.. What caller I.D. shows we've had lately is: Brian Watson, 678-8970 (thanks but don't want solar) Social Security in Fairfield, Microsoft, U. S Government 707-562-8998, First Northern Bank 678-7795 and FNB 678-7890 (no, don't want credit card protection or solar) 707's#: 379-7073, 557-8559, 678-3251, 249-3554, 249-6780, and 678-2341. If you see your number here know that you are being thought poorly of

by folks receiving a call from "your" number. I returned calls to most but I only get a recording saying there is no such number.

ONCE AGAIN: Give NO information to no one. No governmental agency will call and ask for money. 3. Never fall for any of the many phone scams like the couple in Davis did spending thousands to help out a non-existent grandchild. You are on their sucker list or you wouldn't be getting the robo call (robotic generated phone calls sent out by the millions (phishing) to catch the one or two of you dumb enough to bite, so don't. Just hang up. ★

... More Things for Thought!

• Soon after we were married my wife expressed a desire to see the softer side of me, so I got fat.

• Have you ever noticed how some men promise to move heaven and earth for the love of their life... and then can't be bothered to pick up their socks and skivvies and put 'em in the hamper?

• I started a new kale diet today. I eat everything but kale.

• Some people don't know that "it's" is short for "it is"... but it's.

• This cop wants me to walk the line. Does he mean the wavy one or the blurry one?

• I went to Costco this afternoon because I needed TP and paper towels. An hour later I found myself wondering if

this baby grand piano would fit in my new helicopter.

• If at first you don't succeed, it's most likely because your mother lied to you about you being able to do anything you want to.

• I drive a Toyota Prius, but I put a gun rack in it, bro.

• When my neighbor accused me of stealing things from his lawn, I took a fence. (moan)

• I was worried about being overdressed when the wife asked me to make a Walmart run, but then I spilled most of my dinner on my shirt. So I'm good.

• Your tee-shirt says "tapout" and "UFC", but your body says cookout and KFC!

As it turns out throwing salt over your shoulder for luck is really bad luck for the guy

behind you with the gaping back wound.

• You know you're in a committed relationship when both parties are wearing sweatpants.

• My father always said it's important for me to carry a compass when I go hiking in case I ever get lost, and although I have no idea how being able to draw perfect circles will help, I'm not one to question authority.

• Fried tarantulas are quite the delicacy in Cambodia. Finally, a fried food that I want no part of!

• You know you've come home when your mom welcomes you and wants to show you a whole huge bag of stuff she got at a garage sale, and asks if you need any underwear. ★

MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



Taking Away Your Rights on the Water Rate Increase

So what have we all learned from those who control the government of the city of Dixon in regard to the tripled water rates for the city's managed portion of our water district? No, not that you get the government you deserve by electing the incompetent when you could have put someone in who not only attempts to educate you but has worked tirelessly *for you* over 25 years.

First, the dog and phony pony show which was the consultant's report on what needs to be done to address the system. Rumor has it that the wells that need to be re-drilled were ag wells converted to domestic use. How is it the city forces developers to put in new wells but this didn't happen in the Pheasant Run or Industrial well areas?

Why did they wait until now to tell us this rather than telling us during the workshops or council hearings? Sounds like more blatant incompetence on both the city's and Solano Irrigation District's part as they allowed this to happen.

From the pen of Bil Paul on the subject of the consultant and his veracity: *"I have concerns about the city always (seemingly) using West Yost and Assoc. in Davis as the water consultant. With \$37 million (??) at stake here, the city should've spent extra money to get a second opinion."*

What was the incentive for West Yost to look for the most cost-effective methods to update the water system? When the city hired West Yost, did they give them instructions to absolutely find the lowest-cost solutions? Isn't it much easier for West Yost to just say, you need virtually everything new, instead of specifying -- this pump could be rebuilt in such-and-such a way, this well could be re-conditioned by this method, etc.?

You also have to have concerns about relationships between West Yost and local water-system contractors. A second opinion could have been obtained from a consultant from out of state. What did we pay West Yost -- \$100,000? Compared to the \$37 million (double that with bond interest), another \$100,000 would be peanuts."

Those questions are quite reasonable. Too bad they weren't made during the workshops or council meetings so the staff and council, especially Scat Pederson, could make up excuses to refute them. In fact, that is exactly what happened as this was asked during a Pederson town-hall meeting.

So now, city officials will do anything and everything to stop the citizens from saying NO!! This is where the misinformation comes in. We had a Proposition 218 protest process where the city couldn't come up with one distinct number for the amount of protests needed

to defeat the increase. Over 100 notices were returned as undeliverable, which means at least that many property owners were cheated out of the ability to protest the rate increase.

On top of that, at least 60 others within the district weren't notified as they submitted protests after being asked to do so by local advocates. Given that some of these people have lived here for years, it is unlikely that they would be part of the 100 returned notifications. Considering that the protest failed by around 20 responses, given the city's initial 1208 number, any reasonable person would be calling for a re-notification and "do over" of the protest count.

After speaking with the city attorney, Doug White told me "he was still investigating it". Sorry, Doug, but waiting until the increase goes into effect is you once again missing the boat and not allowing the good citizens of Dixon out of their right to say "NO!!".

How about the interim city clerk, Daryl Betancur, or should I say "former" interim as he quit immediately after his count of the protests? Explain to me how a supposedly sealed box has protests in bundles of 50 with rubber bands around them all in sealed envelopes which were not opened to assure there was only one in each envelope or any for that matter.

If the box was opened prior to the meeting to bundle the protests, exactly how many could have been destroyed to assure the protest's failure? You have to wonder why those on Dixon 411 Political were advising people not to send their protests to the Solano Taxpayers group?

Funny how not one city official corrected the misinformation being spread on this website when the city's own resolution stated that protests would be accepted from a third party. Of course we all know the reason.

So you think I am making this up? How about you go to city hall and ask to see **YOUR** protest so you can verify whether the city received and counted it?

Of course, it doesn't end there. Citizens have the right to do a referendum on water rate hikes according to an appellate court decision. The California Supreme Court has decided to review this case which means that right is up in the air for probably two years while Dixon residents had only 30 days to collect the necessary signatures. It's in the California Constitution. Enough said. But that isn't the end either.

The Solano County Registrar's office maintains that unless there is a "defined" district, a vote would have to be city wide. Somehow the county has never had this issue come up since 1983 when the district was formed between the city and SID. How is it that

people in the city water users' district pay an SID assessment and Cal Water users don't? Does it make logical sense that Cal Water users can determine the water rates for those outside of their district? Going a step further, why weren't Cal Water users included in the 218 process in the first place and why weren't city water users given CPUC notification so they could comment on Cal Water's proposed rate increase if this logic makes sense? Because it doesn't.

The SID water district has distinct boundaries as the council found out when suggesting we meet in the SID board room. The council couldn't meet outside of them to conduct the joint board meetings. And of course, we have the aforementioned assessment district. But the registrar wants proof from the city.

So do you think city hall would take care of this issue? Pulling teeth would be easier. After numerous emails, personal meetings with the assistant registrar, and phone calls to the city attorney, city clerk, and mayor, the city did provide one of the four pieces of information required by the registrar.

Although the registrar, John Gardner, was extremely cooperative, he didn't answer my question "why doesn't the county have this district's information under its old acronyms of DSMWS (the Dixon-Solano Municipal Water Service) or its successor DSWA, the Dixon Solano Water Authority? Didn't the city have to go to the State to satisfy requirements to take over operation of the system?"

Do you understand obfuscation when you see it? The city took its citizens to court to stop us from rolling back sewer rates. They will do the same with water rates. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association put this in Proposition 218 specifically for this purpose and it resides in Article XIII C & D.

How is it that our \$180,000 a year city manager who also got a low interest loan to buy a house in Dixon didn't even have the courtesy to respond to any of the emails? He has time to post to 411 Political but can't seem to handle valid complaints. I didn't see a response from Thom Bogue either.

Once again you have had your rights violated. Once again the city has proven they work against you and not for you. An elected city clerk is one thing Dixon needs. A recall of the entire council is warranted. A referendum is not the only roll back option the citizens have.

When you see your water rates rise by 85%, the first of 330% increase, maybe the sting will hit home. A council which ignores this close of a protest has no business running our city.

When will you stand up and say "Enough is enough"? ... I leave it to you. ★

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Concerned about Medicare Supplement Plan F Going Away in 2020?



Morning Toni:
I am concerned about the difference in premiums between many of the Medicare Supplement plans and companies and it seems that plan F is considerably higher in monthly premium than Plan G.

My husband, Joe enrolled in Plan F a few years ago and I'm concerned that his Medicare Supplement Plan F premium is going to skyrocket and force him to leave. Because Plan F is leaving in 2020. Is there anything he can do to protect himself?

I am turning 65 in May and am being bombarded with telemarketing calls about my Medicare and many of the callers are discussing Plan N which I've never heard about.

I need a little clarity on this change because we do not want to make a mistake. I understand the Medicare Advantage plans and know that our doctor is not in anyone's network. I've seen a sign in his office.

– Thanks, Connie from Sugar Land

Connie:
During a Toni Says®

Medicare consultation, those who are new to Medicare or wish to apply for a new Medicare supplement are made aware that Medicare Plans F and C are available until January 1, 2020 and may not be a good option because both plans will not be offered.

After January 1, 2020, no one will be able to enroll in either plans and those who are already enrolled in either Plan F or C can keep them which is what "grandfathered" is.

Connie, your husband Joe will be "grandfathered" for his current Medicare Supplement plan F and able to keep the plan, but no one knows what the yearly rate increases will be when Plan F and C become "grandfathered".

A good option for Joe right now is to explore what new Medicare Supplement Plan G rates currently are and which Medicare Supplement Plan G that he could qualify for with medical underwriting. Medicare Supplement Plan N is also an option with a lower premium but more out of pocket than Plan G.

Since Joe has had Medicare Part B longer than 6 months and will have to meet underwriting qualifications.

Connie, you are turning 65 and will have Medicare Supplement Open Enrollment protection when your Medicare Part B becomes effective. A Medicare Supplement insurance plan cannot use underwriting to approve

your policy and will automatically be issued when you apply.

Let's discuss the differences in Plan G and Plan N:
• Plan G: offer lower rates and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary. Part B deductible for 2019 is \$185 which is Plan G's out of pocket.

• Plan N: generally, has lower premiums than Plan G with generally more out of pocket. There is a \$20 co pay for a doctor visit with \$50 co pay for emergency room. Part B deductible is not covered, and Part B excess charges are not paid for by the insurance company which Plan G includes. Plan N can have more out of pocket cost than Plan G.

Take your time when searching for your Medicare option such as Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plans and ask which option would best fit your specific medical needs. Email the Toni Says® office at info@tonisays.com for more Medicare information or call us at 832/519-8664.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book and bundle packages for the Toni Says® newspaper article readers at www.tonisays.com. ★



Riley Reviews

"MISS BALA" FEMALE ACTION HERO;
"PROJECT BLUE BOOK" ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"MISS BALA" Rated PG-13

Bringing a new perspective to a remake, director Catherine Hardwicke's "Miss Bala" is a reimagining of an acclaimed 2011 Mexican film of the same title.

Not having seen the original, this review is regrettably unable to make any comparisons. Nevertheless, there's an intriguing element to "Miss Bala" that may well revive interest in the source material.

Gina Rodriguez, known for the "Jane the Virgin" television series, stars in the leading role of Gloria, suddenly thrust squarely into the dangerous world of cross-border crime.

An American of Mexican descent, Gloria is a makeup artist who travels from Los Angeles to Tijuana to visit her close friend Suzu (Cristina Rodlo) to help her win the Miss Baja California beauty pageant.

Suzu persuades Gloria to attend a pre-pageant event at a swanky nightclub, at which Suzu hopes to network with officials and power brokers that could enhance her chances at taking home the winner's sash and the prize money.

The party is where the trouble starts. While in the ladies room, Gloria is confronted by armed thugs from a drug cartel who shoot up the nightclub in an attempted hit on a corrupt government official.

During the melee, Gloria is separated from Suzu, who goes missing without a trace. After a long night of a vigil in a café, Gloria seeks the help of a local cop who turns her over to a bunch of tattooed bad guys.

Ending up face-to-face with cartel honcho Lino (Ismael Cruz Cordova), Gloria becomes a hostage forced to do the bidding of Lino and his gang as a condition of getting help to find Suzu.

The so-called favor involves Gloria's unwitting participation in a heinous crime that results in severe repercussions when American DEA agent Brian Reich (Matt Lauria) threatens her with years in prison if she doesn't become a mole in Lino's organization.

An interesting dynamic takes shape in the Stockholm syndrome that causes Gloria to develop a psychological alliance with Lino as a survival strategy during captivity. Sexual tension hangs in the air but nothing comes of it.

The tenuous bond between Lino and his captive is that both of them have identities that transcend the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Lino was once an immigrant living in Bakersfield and Gloria, an American citizen, was born in Mexico.

Both the DEA and Lino string Gloria along to do their respective bidding. Caught between two opposing forces, Gloria makes the dangerous trek to and from San Diego to transport cash and contraband.

More than once, Gloria has to take cover during shootouts between the cartel and law enforcement. In a climactic scene, Gloria, who has been courageous yet skittish, summons up her inner action heroine.

Plot twists abound in "Miss Bala," and there are enough action thrills in the violent showdowns to keep the pace spirited enough to be entertaining. But the best feature is Gloria's

eventual empowerment to outsmart all sides.

"PROJECT BLUE BOOK" ON HISTORY CHANNEL

The History Channel has decided to tap into the zeitgeist of the early 1950's fascination with UFO sightings and the possibility of abductions by little green men from outer space.

The 10-episode "Project Blue Book" may be compared to the paranoia stoked by "The X-Files" series, but Fox Mulder and Dana Scully are fictional characters. This new series is loosely based on the U.S. Government's actual top-secret alien research with the help of an astrophysicist.

While "The X-Files" had the tagline "The truth is out there," it should be more appropriate for "Project Blue Book" because the lead character, Dr. J. Allen Hynek (Aiden Gillen), was recruited by the Air Force to investigate alien life.

Dr. Hynek teams up with Captain Michael Quinn (Michael Malarkey) to travel the country to study reported UFO encounters, beginning with an Air Force pilot's alleged aerial dogfight with a mysterious, fast-moving craft that resembled a brightly illuminated sphere.

After engaging the unexplained flying object, Air Force pilot Fuller (Matt O'Leary) is fortunate to survive a crash landing. He's utterly convinced that this encounter was something otherworldly.

When pressed by Dr. Hynek for details, Fuller tries to unravel the mystery, and then comes up short by concluding that "logic can't begin to explain what we are dealing with here." This fairly well sums up the conundrum that faces Dr. Hynek's mission. ★



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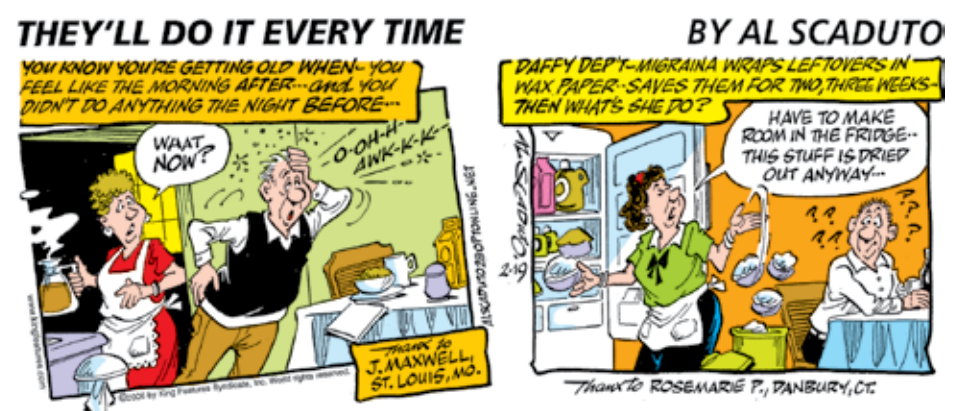
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Free Dental Clinic Coming to Solano

By Joie Harrison, CDA.org

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV) - The California Dental Association Foundation will be hosting a CDA Cares free dental clinic March 8-9 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:30 a.m. both days and patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis with a goal of providing care to about 1,950 people during the two-day clinic.

The services offered are limited to extractions, fillings, cleanings, some partial and full dentures, limited root canals, oral health education and assistance in finding a source for future dental care. Uncontrolled blood pressure or diabetes may prevent patients from receiving dental care at the event — please take prescribed medications as directed.

Parking for the event is free and no identification



The CDA Foundation provides grants and scholarships to dental students and professionals, promotes oral health prevention and education,

is required. Interpreters are available to assist those who do not speak English.

For more information, visit cdfoundation.org/solano or call 877.516.8854.

The CDA Foundation was formed as the philanthropic arm of the California Dental Association in 2001 with the mission to improve the oral health of all Californians by

supporting the dental health profession in its efforts to meet community needs. The CDA Foundation provides grants and scholarships to dental students and professionals, promotes oral health prevention and education, and holds dental clinics around the state that provide dental care at no charge to Californians in need. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

Local Events Happening in February

- Home and Garden Show at the Dixon Fair Grounds, Sat & Sun, February 9-10, 2019.
- Western Railroad Museum presents Aviation Archaeology Meets Train Archaeology, Saturday, February 9th at 2 pm at the museum at 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City.
- Dixon Lion's Club BBQ Beef Brisket Dinner for pick up at Tractor Supply from 4-8 pm to benefit Dixon High Scholarships. \$15 donation.
- Dixon Women's Improvement Club Scholarship Dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill, Monday, February 11, 2019 from 5-8 pm. \$25 donation.
- Theater DeVille in Vacaville offering a Comedy Night, from 8-11 pm, Friday, February 15, 2019.
- Dixon Gun Show at the Dixon Fair Grounds, Sat & Sun, February 16 & 17, 2019; \$10 admission.

California Duck Days

Looking for a great family outing this month? On Saturday February 23, the Yolo Basin Foundation's California Duck Days Festival celebrates its 25th year of wetlands and wildlife education. The festival offers wildlife related workshops and demonstrations, activities

for kids and field trips. A related welcome reception and student art show is planned for February 8 at the Davis Art Center. For more information please visit the Yolo Basin Foundation website at <http://yolobasin.org/californiaduckdays/> ★

Questions & Answers About Drought & Water Conservation

Q. How much water do landscapes use in California?

A. Landscape irrigation accounts for only about 9% of total statewide developed water use, but the percentage varies widely among communities. Water applied to landscapes is estimated to account for about 50% of residential water consumption statewide, but the amount varies from about 30% in some coastal communities to 60% or more in many inland suburban communities.

Q. What are some easy things I can do to save

water in a landscape?

A. Check the irrigation system regularly for leaks as well as physical and operational problems that reduce the efficiency and function of sprinklers, drip emitters, and other water delivery devices. Correcting these problems can reduce water use by 10% or more, improve the uniformity of water application, and likely improve the health of plantings. Check that automatic valves are functioning and repair any leaks at valves, spray heads, and other connections. Walk through an area while the

irrigation system is running and repair or replace sprinklers or other types of emitters that are broken, sunken, crooked, or clogged with soil or debris. Also, be certain that plants are not blocking or interfering with a sprinkler's spray pattern, that roots are not clogging drip emitters, and that all sprinklers and emitters are of the same manufacturer and model. For sprinkler systems, ensure the spray or streams completely overlap among the sprinklers by adjusting their output or adding sprinklers. ★

Volunteers Needed for Pollinator Habitat Project

By Amy Williams, Stewardship Program Manager

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV) - Possible caption for attached photo: "Winters High School teacher Kayla Roberts helps a student plant a Valley oak at the Winters Putah Creek Nature Park upland extension."

Wednesday mornings in February, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, community volunteers are invited to work together with Putah Creek Council to install, establish, and care for native plants along an upland portion of

Putah Creek Nature Park in Winters. This natural area provides open space recreation, wildlife habitat, flood conveyance, and supports pollinator insects. Pollinators like native wild bees and butterflies help support native plant communities, provide a source of food for other wildlife, and perform an essential service to farmers by increasing crop production through pollination.

Winters Middle School and High School students and community volunteers have planted trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses in this area of the park to benefit

wildlife and to improve water quality. We are continuing to install native plants to create a pollinator-friendly garden, and we would love your help!

Please register for "Wild Gardening Wednesday" events at www.putahcreek-council.org, or by calling 530-795-3006.

Putah Creek Council will provide all the plants, tools, gloves, and other supplies. Please dress appropriately for the weather in clothes that can get dirty and wear closed-toe shoes. These are "rain or shine" events, and we will provide mud boots and ponchos if needed. ★



Dixon Lion Club

BBQ Brisket Meal

To benefit Dixon School Scholarships
Saturday February 9th, 2019

Pickup between 4pm and 8pm in the Tractor Supply parking lot

\$25.00 PER MEAL

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To purchase tickets for the BBQ Brisket Meal please contact:

John Mckinsey 213-819-2615 or
Scott Smith 916-806-7451

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