

Who's In Charge of The Hen House? PAGE 3

DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS: ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE: ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.

- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ATESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES





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ENROLLING IN MEDICARE ONLINE CAN BE CONFUSING



PAGE 6

WARM UP WITH NEW **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**



PAGE 4

Your Water Rates and Misinformation

By DIV Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you haven't mailed your protest to oppose the 300% water increase, you'd better mail it NOW. Two minutes of your time now will be saving you hundreds of dollars on your water bill. Protests must reach the Solano County Taxpayers Association's mailbox (P.O Box 31, Dixon) by Monday January 21, 2019 in order to be submitted to the City during the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday January 22nd at the City Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. It is important that you attend this Public Hearing to voice your concerns.

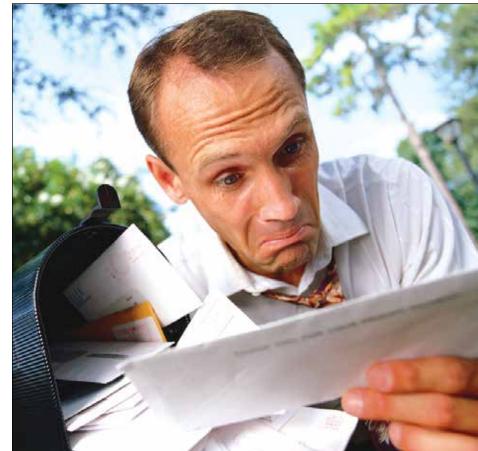
Our reporters are aware of misinformation posted on Dixon-411. People residing in the Cal-Water area are commenting as to "why the rate payers in the city's water district are complaining when their rates are much cheaper than Cal-Water." A better question is "why aren't those in Cal-Water that are paying higher water rates complaining when a better

solution exists?" Why the City is not taking over Cal-Water and stop a private company and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) capriciously raising the rates to the older part of Dixon? The PUC will soon be raising the water rates in the Cal-Water area (see story elsewhere in this issue.)

The chat on Dixon 411 stated that the City Clerk told ratepayers that they would not "accept" the protests submitted by SCTA. This is nothing more than intimidating and scared tactics for you not to submit your protest!!

The City's Resolution (2012-12-040) referenced in the Notice mailed to the ratepayers states: "each record owner or tenant may submit a protest in person or by a third party. It is recommended that your protest be submitted to SCTA to ensure that it will be counted.

Article XIII D of the Constitution (Prop 218) related to the submission and verification of the protests, Section 6 (2) of the Constitution states: "The



It is most important that you mail your protest now. There are only three (3) days left.

agency shall conduct a public hearing upon the proposed fee or charge not less than 45 days after mailing the notice of the proposed fee or charge to the record owners of each

Toastmasters to Honor Long

Time Member Larry Simmons

identified parcel upon which the fee or charge is proposed for imposition. At the public hearing, the agency shall consider ALL PROTESTS against the proposed fee or charge."

We spoke with SCTA representatives regarding the protests. We were told that the city attorney's office provided them several lists with the number

Continued on page 3

California Water

Service Requests

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plus Calif.

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PAGE 2

By Patti Coniey, **Dixon Toastmasters**

Come visit The Dixon Toastmasters Club as they honor long-time member, Larry Simmons, at 7 PM, Monday, Jan. 21st. Over 30 years ago Roberta Beers, founder of the club, convinced Larry to join in her efforts to start a speech club in Dixon. A member since 1988, Larry faithfully served as Sergeant-of-Arms for the club doing a great job preparing for meetings and contests. Through the years Larry gave thoughtprovoking, inspirational and humorous speeches including winning speech contests. He was also recognized as Toastmaster of the Year.

When asked what he likes best about Toastmasters, his response is "I enjoy watching new people grow in their speech development. Many



PAST CLUB OFFICERS - Top L to R: Lloyd Ash, President (deceased); Rose Cook, V.P. Education; Patty Conley, V.P. Publicity; Bottom L to R: Larry Simmons, Sergeant of Arms; Roberta Beers, V.P. Membership, Jane Anderson, A.G.

good speakers, but that is not true.

They do become good speakers and that's what makes it worthwhile."

Due to health reasons Larry had to leave Toastmasters. All are

think they can't become invited to honor Larry and share stories that will surely bring a smile to one's face.

Toastmasters meets at the social hall of the Methodist Church located at 209 N. Jefferson Street in Dixon. Snacks will be provided. Toastmasters is an

international public speaking club designed to improve public speaking skills. For more information contact Lynda Mendez at (530) 665-0948. (Toastmasters is not affiliated with the church and rents their hall for Toastmasters.)

far reaching effects in our

community. A recent study

found that adult literacy

students realize an increase

of about \$10,000 dollars in

their annual income after

receiving 100 hours of lit-

You can help improve

your community by

becoming a volunteer

tutor. Tutor preparation

gives you all of the tools

you need to help someone

eracy instruction.

Rate Increases By Shirley Humphrey DIXON, CA (DIV) - Residents

area received a notice of a Public Participation Hearing. The meeting is scheduled to be held on January 24, 2019 at 6pm at City Hall at 600 East A Street.

The California Public Utilities Commission wants to hear from you. Cal Water is requesting total company revenue increases of \$50,673,500 (or 7.6%) for 2020, \$31,461,900 (or 4.4%) for 2021, and \$33,000,700 (or 4.4%) for 2022. If the rates are approved, these would start beginning in January 2020.

Dixon typical residential customer bills will increase with consolidation.

December 2018 with a current bill of \$66.25 proposed increase \$5.66 for a total of \$71.91; for 2021 \$2.90 for \$74.81 and 2022 \$2.95 for a total of \$77.76.

Dixon typical residential bill increase without consolidation - starting bill of \$66.25; proposed increase 2020 \$30.58 for \$96.83; for 2021 \$0.90 for \$97.73; and for 2022 \$1.19 total \$98.92

The numbers above do not include temporary surcharges and credits.

Cal Water residents have sent a few protests to the IV for the city's increase. Those residents may want to take their protests to this meeting to give to the

Attend the meeting to voice your opinion. ★

Library Literacy Volunteers Needed

By Cherelyn Hunt Solano County Library

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV)

- The Solano County Literacy Program is looking for Adult Literacy Volunteer tutors. Literacy is vital for a healthy and thriving community. More than 60,000 adults in Solano County are functionally illiterate, meaning that the reading and writing

skills they have are inadequate to manage their daily living and employment tasks beyond a basic level. Children whose parents struggle with reading and writing skills are more likely to struggle in school and have low literacy skills themselves. Teaching an adult to read, write, and/or improve their English speaking skills can have



Teaching an adult to read, write, and/or improve their English speaking skills can have far reaching effects in our community.

else with their reading, writing or speaking skills. Tutors don't have to have prior experience, just your commitment of time is needed, and in 3 hours a week, you can help change a life and your community. For more information, visit www.solanolibrary.com—click Literacy or call 1-800-450-7885 or 707-784-1526.



You need actions, not words

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have about \$20,000 in credit card debt, plus payments on a new truck. We also have a camper he bought before we got married that we're still making payments on. I recently received a \$50,000 inheritance, and I'd like to use that money to help get us out of debt and open a savings account. My husband says he is onboard, but he keeps buying things we don't have the money for. I don't want the inheritance to go to waste, so what can I do?

-Tessa

Dear Tessa,

I want you guys to get control of your finances and have a better life, too. But until your husband is

Dave Ramsey Says

how important it is to

you that you're both on

same page financially and

in every other aspect of

proves he's ready to do

that, though, I'd say just

hold on to the inheritance

Dave Ramsey is CEO of

Ramsey Solutions. He has

authored seven best-sell-

ing books, including The

Total Money Makeover.

The Dave Ramsey Show

is heard by more than

14 million listeners each

week on 600 radio sta-

tions and multiple digital

platforms. Follow Dave

on the web at daveramsey.

com and on Twitter at @

DaveRamsev.

money.

—Dave

willing to get rid of the your family first. Keep camper and the truck, I'd talking to him. Explain hang on to the inheritance

Right now, you need more than his words you need his actions. At your marriage. Until he this point, the real issue isn't the debt or the idea of using the gift you received to pay off the debt. The issue is you can't see a future where your husband isn't going to repeat the same financial stupidity. You need to have that future cleared up, and it isn't going to be cleared up until he proves he has changed his heart and his ways. In his case, that means showing he has become a grown-up and isn't buying toys he can't afford anymore.

I know where you are, and I know where he is right now. I've been there. Years ago, I was a "grown man" but I was still really a little boy buying things I couldn't afford to impress people I didn't even know. This guy likes stuff. He likes shiny trucks, shiny things to pull behind shiny trucks, and that sort of thing.

But it's time for him to sell all the crap, grow up, and start putting you and

St. Peters Catholic Church News

Dixon Walk For Life

By Janet Doane

Come join us for the Annual Dixon Walk for Life, January 26, 2019 at the corner of "A" St. and Evans. We gather at 8 AM and shortly after start prayerfully walking down "A" St. arriving at Saint Peter Catholic Church in time for the Annual Walk for Life Mass at 9 AM. After mass, you may continue on to San Francisco for the West Coast Walk for Life, or possibly stay at St. Peter's to continue to pray to support life. The Knights of Columbus will host a free pasta dinner upon the arrival of the

bus from San Francisco. For more information, call Saint Peter Catholic Church at 707-678-9424. God bless you and thank you for standing up for life.

CAMINATA POR LA

VIDA / DIXON Unase con nosotros para "La Caminata Anual Por La Vida", el 26 de Enero del 2019, en la esquina de la calle A St. y la Evans Rd. Nos reunimos a las 8 de la manana y poco despues comenzamos a caminar en oracion por la calle ASt. llegando a la iglesia de San Pedro en tiempo para la misa que

Caminata Anual Por La Vida a las 9am.

Despues de la misa, se pueden ir a San Francisco para la Caminata v para los que no pueden ir, la iglesia va estar abierta para orar y apoyar la Vida. El dia termina con una cena de apoyo de agradecimiento realizada por los Caballeros de Colon de San Pedro cuando regresen de la caminata Costa Oeste por La Vida a Dixon en autobus o automovil. Para mas informacion, llama a la Iglesia de San Pedro al numero 707-678-9424. Que Dios los bendiga y gracias por defender la Vida.

River Cats to Host Job Fairs

More than 400 open positions at annual Raley Field job fair



By Daniel Emmons, River Cats

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats will be hosting their annual job fairs on Saturday, January 26 and on Saturday, February 9 at Raley Field in West

interested in working for the River Cats during the 2019 season are

attend these free events. Hiring managers will conduct interviews during each event and will be prepared to extend job offers on the spot.

The River Cats have some 400 part-time and seasonal positions available for the upcoming 2019 baseball season.

ers, concessions, parking attendants, stadium operations, Cat Crew, On Deck Shop sales clerks, and more. A full list of available positions is available at rivercats.

All applicants must be at least 16 years of age. For positions that serve alcohol, applicants must be at least 21 years old.

The two events are to be held on the suite level at Raley Field on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 9 Some of the available from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00

Sacramento. Those positions include bartend- p.m. Interested applicants must submit an on-line application prior to attending the job fair by visiting rivercats.com/ employment.

For questions and inquiries, please call (916) 376-4722.

The Sacramento River Cats are the Triple-A affiliate of the threetime World Champion San Francisco Giants. The team plays at Raley Field in West Sacramento, consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. For more information about the River Cats, visit www.rivercats.com.

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Spanish

8:30 & 11 am English

Monday - Friday

8:00 am Daily Mass

Bilingual Thursday 7:00 pm

pm English - 7 pm Spanish

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For the 762 Past consecutive columns "That's Life" Columns go to www.tedhickman.com

MUSINGS By Mike Ceremello



Bad time to be a good dog; Worse time to be a dirtball

Lets' go over a quick rundown of the few days: Some whacko in Vacaville stabs a woman and her teen daughter. He then sets the house on fire injuring a baby. Police hunt him down and he's still ok. He then makes a mistake and stabs a police dog and the cops end him then and there. Fast forward to Tuesday another nut job shoots a couple of people in Sacramento. He does the runaway thing and gets by for a while the gang of good guys search or him. They find him and he makes the mistake to shoot the police dog, those cops end him too...Two great ending police stories.

Just before this some Davis nut, S.O.B, coward, assassinates a young, beautiful, Davis police officer, in the dark then jumps back on his bike and pedals home a few blocks away. Before the swat team could send in the police dog the guy does everyone a favor and offs himself. The bad news is no one will ever know what was in this Davis nut's head and why he would do such a stupid, deplorable thing. That's three, Davis, Vacaville and Sacramento ending up with multiple dead, all shot. What is going on? We don't need gun control, we need nut control and your new governor needs to put some of his big spending into mental health outreach programs.

Gonna buy a car? Buy locally, it's cheaper

Told you last week we just gave up the 30 year Dodge addiction and converted over to Fordism. We worked with Dave and Shannon of the showroom sales staff and for me not to have a gripe you know they must be good, and flexible... and we recommend either or both of them if you're thinking about getting another vehicle... open, easy to deal with and No pressure.

Anyway...At Ron DuPratt Ford, (BTW: there are no DuPratt's there anymore) newish owner (2006) Pete Spitzer, a nearby Solano County Resident, said they "take enormous pride in being in business for more than 56 years and helped us out every year with Dixon Toys for Tots all of those years... And even though they've been established for a long time, they're also one of the fastest growing Ford dealerships in Northern California." They make it their number one objective to treat all customers with the highest level of respect and care. They're centrally located in Dixon, and have loval customers throughout the Sacramento Valley and the greater Bay Area.

It truly is a family owned and operated business with his wife and their three children, 19, 24, and 26 all working in and at the business. Their experienced sales staff is eager to share its knowledge and enthusiasm with you. They encourage you to browse their online inventory, schedule a test drive and investigate financing options. You can also request more information about a vehicle using their online form or by calling (888) 458-0798. Shop around but before you buy, check with the local car dealer for pricing, service and adding to the local economy instead of another city's. Dixon's also the only city in Solano County without a city sales tax (through no fault of mine) so it's cheaper too. They are at 1760 N. Lincoln, facing the highway call: 866-324-3409 or

the old standby 678-5555. More Things for Thought

Tell me it ain't so? I heard there are many kids now in high school that can't read cursive writing and can only sign their names in cursive if they've taught themselves... True or not? What do the others do print in block letters in crayon... I'm applying for aiob and my signature is which: TED HICKMAM or Ted Hickman... I mean, really, is this true? They can't read cursive and it's no longer being taught because they are given digital lessons and a phone soon after leaving the womb. Cool, I can do my column in cursive, as a secret code and only those born like before 2,001 will be able to read it. Is this true? Someone must know, I found it hard to believe kids in high school can't read cursive and ask "why would I need to?" I ran this last week with no response. Nobody, knows nothing?

*The hardest part of marriage is resisting temptation... women just don't understand how hard it is not too use a decorative hand towel or one of those little soaps.

*Avocados are a lot like children... it's important to spend a lot of time with them and give them lots of special handling so they won't go bad.

*The coconut oil on my dry skin this winter has made me much more attractive to women... the problem is the chocolate from the Mounds Bar is ruining my clothes.

*My get rich really slow scheme is apparently working perfectly!

*You can lose a lot on a no carb, no sugar diet because I tried it and did... I lost my will to live.

*Just drove past an Italian Nativity scene.... Mary, Joseph, shepherds, a donkey, sheep, and 47 wise guys.

*It's a known fact that smoking will kill you. It's becoming more widely known that bacon will kill you... but, smoking bacon will cure it?

*"Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow".... sounds like a scene from some low-budget horror flick.

*Tomato cup-a-soup makes for an excellent and low-priced bloody Mary mixer... for the enterprising alcoholic on the go.

*A "tramp" only works when they're forced to, a "bum" doesn't work at all, and a "hobo" is a traveling worker... if you never warding Betancur's false work you're congressmen.

*My grandson thought the kidneys, brains and liver I have the butcher grind up and add to our ground beef came from humans... the part that concerns me is he didn't

*Well, that went over like a jar of "Keith Richards Wrinkle Cream

and Remover". *I found a personal trainer who understands my lifestyle and has tailored my workouts to it... every time I finish a beer I will now do a wind sprint from my sofa to the fridge, grab another, and sprint

*I owe most of my colossal success in life... to exaggeration.

*To keep from getting burned-out I exercise for 3 days... then take 2 years

Who's In Charge of The Hen House?

As we enter the last week of this round of the tripling of water rates, no questions have been answered but others have appeared. If this process wasn't corrupted and perverted in its inception, it certainly has gone in that direction whether intentionally or accidently.

How is it the notice for the rate increase specifically references a 2012 city council resolution detailing how you may protest the increase and the interim city clerk, Daryl Betancur, takes it on himself to change the procedure? The resolution quite clearly states that protests will be accepted from third parties, such as the Dixon Chapter of the Solano County Taxpayers Association. Also, there is no requirement that the protest be put in a sealed envelope when depositing your protest in the box at city hall.

The reason this is so important is that the DC-SCTA won't "lose" or "misplace" any protests and takes the time to verify that the list is accurate in the first place. As many as 50 parcels are missing from the city's official list. The law requires notification so it looks like this process is going to have to be redone. If you want to be guaranteed your protest will be counted, you need to rely on sending it to PO Box 31, the SCTA's mail box in Dixon.

Social media was all abuzz with individuals forrequirements. Many of you went into hysterics fearing your protest wouldn't be counted or that it would be rejected. Let me make this patently clear: if you write the words "Water Rate Protest" on a piece of toilet paper with your name, address, and signature, the city has to accept it in any condition it is submitted.

Unlike the trolls at the blog sites, I actually do my research. I spoke with the city attorney who verified the city clerk did indeed make these statements which he is now supposedly retracting. However, the damage is done. The reason I say supposedly is another case in point of how Dixon's local government is inept, incompetent, and a managerial failure.

While your council is giving accolades to the city manager for the wonderful job he is doing, ask yourself why there is no back up for the city clerk as in a deputy or assistant city clerk. We have had one before. You have at least one committed

person in the department who has been there for around twenty years, is bilingual, and in my opinion extremely competent, yet hasn't been offered the backup position to ready her for advancement to the top spot.

Daryl Betancur is getting paid \$99 per hour, is out of office for 4 days, and I get offered the lame excuse he couldn't make it back from So Cal because of weather. If you can't drive in the rain, there is a problem. I have been told that Betancur flies so how does the weather affect that? Neither you nor I should have to go to city hall multiple times to get answers to simple questions and then be referred to the million dollar man, our city attorney Doug White.

Now I know why White makes so much money. He is the de facto Mayor, city clerk, city attorney, and assistant city manager. When I asked for the city clerk's backup, I got Joan Michaels Aguilar, the assistant city manager who told me she "isn't in the process for water rate protests". While speaking to her about my concerns, the city manager Jim Lindley walks in. I said, "Good ... I can talk to Jim and get this straightened out." Aguilar instead told me "no ... I will talk to Jim", left and returned telling me they would have to contact the city attorney to address my concerns.

Concerns? Various incorrect lists of parcels in the city's water district ranging from over 5000 names down to a parcel list of slightly more than 2400, more than 40 parcels not notified but filed protests because of solicitation, the city saying 2802 or 2812 parcels, sealed envelopes required to deposit protest at city hall, not accepting protests from a third party - 2012 resolution which hasn't been repealed or amended. Just shut up and go away, Mike. Ain't gonna happen any time soon.

How difficult is it to take the city's billing list for water to come up with an exact number of parcels eligible to protest? As both property owners or tenants can file a protest, you compare the billing list to the assessor's parcel list and if the owner isn't paying the bill, then you notify him. This can be done in less than a day by anyone remotely competent and either by

hand or on a computer. While I appreciate the effort Tiffany Fabiani has made in obtaining and maintaining two internet blogging

sites so that the citizens of Dixon can be informed, yellow journalism (or in this case jaded opinion) so detested by Fabiani and her minions/cohorts such as Ian Arnold and Kevin Johnson are quite apparent. Arnold specifically has jumped on Mayor Bogue's hate of the SCTA bandwagon and is promoting distrust in this organization which they are all driving me back to rejoin.

You have to wonder why these individuals are promoting the rate increase where 2/3rds of it will go to interest payments instead of improvements. One wants in as city clerk and has been heard at city hall promoting higher salaries. All believe in a centralized government telling all of us what we can and can't do.

I have told you all this before. You have ignored it at your peril. The last election result is now coming back to haunt you. Biting you in your wallet is probably a more apt description. Believe the denigrations to my credibility with this in mind.

Rumor has it that Cal Water has been approached about taking over the city's water system. Rumor also has it that Cal Water wants the system in top shape when they take it over. Rumor has it they have \$20 million to spend. There are four more years before SID is out of the picture, a picture they and the city never should have been in because the system belongs to the ratepayers and not to two agencies which never put a dime into it.

This is sort of like the potential developer of the Southwest quadrant supporting the road sales tax measure so he won't have to pay for the South Parkway Boulevard overpass.

I again have to thank the participants on Fabiani's blog site for pointing out that Cal Water is asking for yet another increase in water rates. Perhaps Ian Arnold will now campaign for an even higher rate for the city's run water system as his logic remains "what I pay, you should have to pay". Paying less never seems to enter their mind.

So there you have it. Incompetence and selfserving bureaucracy. FILL OUT YOUR PROTEST FORM AND MAIL IT TO PO BOX 31, DIXON, CALIFORNIA.

These fools already have enough of your money especially when they won't tell you how they spent it.

Your Water Rates and Misinformation

Continued from page 1 of parcels that will be affected. None of these numbers matched the "2,812 parcels" reported by the City Clerk and City Attorney at the January 8, 2019 council meeting. We were also informed that while they are verifying the protests received they found addresses that are not on the list provided by the city attorney. Will these protests be disqualified because they don't appear on the city's list? Again, Section 6 (1) of the Constitution states: "The PARCELS upon which a fee or charge is proposed for imposition SHALL BE IDENTIFIED." Since parcels are not on the City's list, they were not "identified" and the City is in violation of this part of the Constitution.

It is most important that you mail your protest now. There are only three (3) days left. The majority of the parcels protesting can stop the proposed water rate increase. In view of the

foregoing, if not enough protests are submitted by the public hearing, it will be in the best interest of the City to "re-notice". The City should follow the requirements of the Constitution and should stop the misinformation and intimidating tactics posted on Dixon-411. The mayor, council members and City Manager are on Dixon-411, and they are monitoring that site. They are aware of the postings. So why didn't they address the posted misinformation?★

WATER RATE PROTEST LETTER

Exercise your right to Protest! Oppose, in writing, the proposed water rate increase for the

> City of Dixon Water District. MAIL Your PROTEST NOW to: SCTA - Dixon Chapter

> P.O. Box 31, Dixon, CA 95620

Protests MUST be received no later than January 20, 2019 for the January 22, 2019 Public Hearing

| | Print Name Circle HOMEOWNER or TENANT |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Address | |
| Parcel Number | (If known) |
| | Your Signature |



Warm Up with Children's Books



Start the New Year off with an array of wonderful children's books. While January is known for its cold and often rainy days, these books will give you the perfect excuse to snuggle up tight with your favorite reading companion. This month's lineup of children's titles is filled with: creativity, inspiration, laughter, and happiness.

The House of Lost and Found by Martin Widmark & Emilia Dziubak; Floris **books.** Breathtaking artwork breathes life into the pages of the illustrated children's book. The House of Lost and Found. Reminiscent of the Pixar movie, UP this uplifting story is about an elderly man who has lost hope. Living only with the memories that echo within each room, Niles allowed the sadness to surround him; until the day a young boy appears on his doorstep. With one simple task, Niles is finally able to see past the anchor of sadness, allowing him to discover hope one step at a time. With its blend of beautiful magic, this book will enchant and uplift its readers, allowing them to see hope and

light in any situation. Bloomsbury Publishing adds three great titles to your reading list. Lola Dutch is always "a little too much" and tackles everything she does with giant flair. Now, Lola Dutch wants to be "too much," when she grows up. With so many choices, what will she be? Is she destined to be an; actress on stage, an inventor, or even a botanist? The ideas don't stop there maybe she can be: a chemist, a chef, a yoga instructor, or a veterinarian? Luckily Lola Dutch has her friends to help her decide.

Instantly endearing, Lola Dutch: When I Grow Up will capture the hearts of anyone who reads her story. Inspiring creativity, imagination and the pursuit of dreams, Lola Dutch will allow young reader's minds to take flight. With an inside cover that unfolds to be a theater scene and included paper dolls, readers will be able to create their own adventures with Lola Dutch.

Celebrate who makes you happy with, You Make Me Happy by Smriti Prasadam-Halls. Fox and Porcupine know that life is better when they are with each other. They see a life of; wonder, hope, and love, just by being at each other's side. Fill your day with happiness, rhyming phrases and simply adorable illustrations. Full of optimism on every page, Fox and Porcupine will brighten anyone's day.

When Water Buffalo and Crane meet a mysterious new friend, their day turns around as he shows them that new friends can make vour day brighter. Charming illustrations and a storyline with a message, How Do You Do by Larissa Theule, and illustrated by Gianna Marino opens the door to seeing life in a whole new way.

All Right Already by Jory John & Benji Davies; **Harper Collins**

It's snowing and Duck can't wait to get Bear and play. However, Bear thinks it's a bad idea. It is just too cold, too bright and he would rather stay inside, but duck persists. Poor Bear, he is forced to play outside until he has a giant, Achoo. Will duck be there to help him? In this hilarious book about friendship, All Right Already will leave young readers with fits of laughter. Adorable illustrations and a funny storyline will engage readers all the way through.



Riley Reviews

"A DOG'S WAY HOME" PULLS HEARTSTRINGS; "SCHOOLED" ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"A DOG'S WAY HOME" (Rated PG)

Best-selling author W. Bruce Cameron has carved out a niche in his heartwarming stories about man's best friend that become fodder for cinematic family-fare. If you've ead the book or seen the movie "A Dog's Purpose," you get the idea.

Now along comes "A Dog's Way Home," another Smith adaptation, which explores a canine journey that also tugs on the heart. The dog in ques-Dallas Howard), rescued from an abandoned home slated for demolition.

Finding a home with Lucas (Jonah Hauer-King), a medical student and worker at the VA hospital, and his mom Terri (Ashley Judd), a war veteran suffering from PTSD. Bella is adorable but nevertheless considered a pit bull outlawed by city ordinance in Denver.

Motivated by malice, the animal-control officer, corrupted by a real estate developer's distaste for how Lucas has interfered with his plans to raze property inhabited by feral cats, captures Bella when she runs free in the neighborhood.

Olivia (Alexandra Shipp) are devastated by the treatment out the city policy as basically "racism for dogs."

Retrieving the lovable dog from the pound, Lucas and

Terri have no other choice than to send Bella to live 400 hundred miles away with Olivia's relatives in New Mexico.

Since Bella had been trained to be familiar with the notion to "go home," she decides to do just that. Thus begins a long and often hazardous journey through small a key character in the right

towns, forests and mountain ranges.

The quest to find Lucas affords our canine heroine a chance to meet all sorts of interesting characters of both the human and animal variety. Food and shelter prove not so easy to obtain, and this leads to some interesting situations.

Early on, Bella falls in with some four-legged friends who have a daily routine of dumpster-diving as well as begging for food scraps from a few humans only too willing to share leftovers and other treats.

When all alone on her tion is Bella (voiced by Bryce journey, Bella becomes ingenious in how she steals food from a convenience store or a family's backyard barbeque. These occasions lend themselves to a humorous touch.

> Out in the wild, Bella witnesses a pair of hunters killing a cougar, befriending its cub left behind. This act of kindness has ramifications later on when Bella is confronted by a pack of vicious wolves.

> Considering that the journev takes over two years, Bella lives for a time with a gay couple who found her when hiking. Later on, Bella becomes attached to a homeless veteran (Edward James Olmos) who needs companionship.

"A Dog's Way Home," Lucas and his co-worker targeted for family entertainand eventual love interest ment and appealing to dog lovers, is so heavy on sentiment for the love of furry of Bella, with Olivia calling companions that one is likely to get misty-eyed. That will be the case when Bella is reunited with her family.

"SCHOOLED" ON ABC NETWORK

By now, the ABC sitcom "The Goldbergs," set in the '80s, has set a standard for yet another family thriving on dysfunction. What should we expect from its spin-off, the new sitcom "Schooled," which is set in the '90s if only to place

perspective?

Lainey Lewis (AJ Michalka), the girlfriend of Barry (Troy Gentile) in "The Goldbergs," has found her hopes of being a rock star dashed, so she tries out for the job of music teacher at her former high school.

Looking for a steady paycheck (actually, she wants to be paid up front in one lump sum), Lainey's qualifications are so thin that she states her credentials as "I love music; I work well with children, probably."

The school principal, John Glascott (Tim Meadows), is not exactly sold on hiring Lainey until Beverly Goldberg (Wendi McLendon-Covey), making a cameo appearance and meddling as always, seals the deal for Lainey to fill the position.

By all measures, Lainey was not exactly a stellar student, of which she is reminded by Coach Rick Mellor (Bryan Callen), who has his hands full trying to mold his star basketball player to work as a team member rather than going it alone as could a superstar like Michael Jordan.

In the first episode, Lainey proves to be rough around the edges, which may be expected from a novice teacher who just happens to oversleep on the first day without bringing a note from home.

The best student in the music class turns out to be the rebellious Felicia (Rachel Crow, fifth place winner in

"The X Factor), niece of the principal, and she's not thrilled that her uncle plans for the class to hold a doowop concert.

If we are grading on the curve, "Schooled," at its early stage as a freshman show, might achieve a C+, but there's hope it could find its comedic voice to reach for a higher score. The cast is talented enough to raise the bar.

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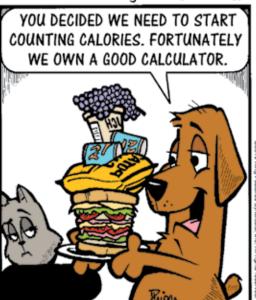


TAKES UP TWO HOURS OF THE WALLPAPER MANS TIME...THEN, 5000 PATTERNS LATER SHE WALLY MAKES Thank to S. HYMAN. NEW YOR



by Dave T. Phipps

Just Like Cats & Dogs





Volunteers needed to help plant native trees at Pond C in Dixon

By Katherine Holmes, **SRCD**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Solano RCD, in cooperation with the City of Dixon and Dixon RCD, is holding several volunteer events this winter to improve wildlife habitat at Pond C in southeast Dixon. Community members are invited to help plant native trees, shrubs, sedges and forbs at the following events:

- Saturday, January 19 - 12:30-3:30
- Sunday, February 3 - 12:30-3:30
- Saturday, February 23 - 12:30-3:30

Those interested in attending must RSVP and reserve a spot either by e-mail at Katherine. Holmes@SolanoRCD.org or by calling 707-678-1655, ext 107. Upon RSVPing, participants will receive specific meeting location and details.

be experts – if you have an interest in conservation or restoration, you are welcome at these events. Families are welcome, but children age 14 and under need to work closely with their parents during the event. Participants should dress in layers, and bring sun protection and a water bottle. Solano RCD will provide snacks and all necessary tools.

"The restoration of native plants at open space parks like Pond C really improves wildlife habitat," said Katherine Holmes of Solano RCD. "The natives provide berries, seeds, nectar and pollen for all kinds of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Plus they will beautify the parks for visitors."

The Pond C Biofiltration and Habitat Restoration Project is being funded by an Urban Rivers grant from the California Natural Volunteers need not Resources Agency.

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DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



Monday, January 07, 2019

0240 Traffic accident in the 800 block of West F Street resulted in the arrest of Josh Stow (34) of Dixon for driving under

the influence of alcohol. He was transported to the PD and cited out to a sober relative.

1433 Traffic enforcement stop in the 800 block of East A Street.

1618 Suspicious circumstance in the 1800 block of North 1st Street. 1800 Minor injury accident in the 2300 block of North 1st Street.

1948 Report of a suspicious vehicle parked in the RP's driveway.

2120 Vehicle burglary reported in the 2300 block of North 1st Street. 2125 Vehicle burglary reported in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Tuesday, January 08, 2019

1029 Suspicious person in the 200 block of Foster Lane.

1421 Warrant service in the 600 block of West Creekside Circle. Mauro Escobar (21), of Dixon, was contacted and found to have a warrant out of Dixon for Robbery. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Solano County Sheriff's Department.

2034 Suspicious Person reported near R/R tracks at Porter Road and S. Almond Street

Wednesday, January 09, 2019

0647 Burglary report in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

0733 Welfare check in the area of North Washington and Sierra Drive resulted in a subject being placed in protective custody.

1105 Fraud reported in the 400 block of La Esperanza Drive.

1340 Fraud reported in the 1300 block of North Almond Street.

1313 Burglary report in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

1436 Vehicle tow in the 200 block of West D Street.

1652 Theft in progress in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Danielle M. Zunino (34) of Sacramento was arrested and cite released for Shoplifting, Possession of stolen property, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

1922 Suspicious Circumstances 1100 block Afton Way.

2300 Stolen Vehicle recovery 1000 block Merryfield Drive.

Thursday, January 10,2019

0030 Traffic Stop 200 block Dorset Drive. The driver, Scot Babot Jr (26) of Vallejo was cited and released for driving on a suspended license. A passenger, Avril Sturgis (22) of Vallejo, was cited and released for an outstanding arrest warrant from Sonoma.

0305 Traffic Collision East H Street and North First Street. Martin Quijano (32) of Dixon was found to have an outstanding arrest warrant out of Solano County and he was in violation of a criminal protective order. Quijano was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

0800 Vandalism reported in the area of Country Fair and South 1st Street.

1208 Warrant service in the 1300 block of Hawthorn Court resulted in the arrest of Chelsea Franklin, (23) of Dixon for a \$35,000 FTA warrant. She was booked into the county Jail.

1232 Parking Violation resulted in a vehicle tow.

1530 Vandalism reported 300 block of East B St.

1745 Neighbor Dispute East A Street and North 3rd street. Luis Lara (37) of Dixon was arrested for public intoxication, child endangerment, and violation of probation. Lara was booked into the Solano County Jail.

1845 Court order violation 1000 block Newgate Way.

1915 Mutual Aid for Davis Police Department.

DIXON FIRE LOG

The Dixon Fire Department's mission is to proudly serve, protect, and enhance the safety of the community and our citizens.



January 01, 2019

1031 Medical, 1200 Pitt School

1037 Medical Aid, 880 Alexander Dr

1805 Mutual Aid Structure Fire, 2225 Glacier Dr 1819 Medical, 755 Vaughn #7

January 02, 2019

1049 Medical, 730 East D

1934 Debris Fire, 4770 McEathron Ln

January 03, 2019

0223 MVA, E80/ Dixon Ave

0537 Fire Alarm, 575 S. Jefferson

2035 MVA, E80// Pitt School

January 04, 2019

0759 Medical Aid, 8100 Slayback

1130 Medical Aid, 575 S Jefferson 1140 Lift Assist, 9014 Winters Rd

1447 Medical Aid, 1010 Sommer Dr

January 05, 2019 0416 Vehicle Accident, W80/S113

0617 Medical, 705 Evans

1348 Medical, 1390 Parkgreen Dr

Vehicle Accident, 5750 Sievers

2115 Medical, 575 S Jefferson Medical, 440 N Washington

January 6, 2019

Traffic Accident, W80 at Dixon Ave West 0123

Medical, 160 Lynd Medical, 565 Berkshire 0323

Medical, 7924 Charlotte 0330 Co Alarm, 320 South Jackson 0457

1359 Fire Alarm, 555 College Way 1746

Traffic Accident, S113/Laxy Way Fire Alarm, 1210 Bello Dr



0117 Medical Aid, 221 N First

0138 Medical, 1320 W H St

1202 Medical, 125 North Lincoln 1228 Medical, 191 Heritage Ln

2024 MVA, W80 // Pitt School 2231 Medical, 815 Sunset D

0436 Medical, 450 Heritage Ln

0703 Medical, 1530 McCormick

0744 Medical, 920 Sommer Dr 1639 Medical, 455 E. A St

0714 Medical Aid, 1255 Hopkins Dr

0743 Medical Aid, 970 Justin Way

1424 Medical Aid, 575 S Jefferson St

1711 Smoke Investigation, 7938 Timm Rd 1737 Medical Aid, 4985 Midway Rd

0633 Vehicle Fire, E80/ Midway

Medical, 235 East Dorset Dr Medical, 575 S Jefferson 1704

1956 Medical, 420 Gateway

2238 Medical Aid, 5516 Weber Rd.

Electrical Problem, Gum Grove Ln/ Wadkins Ln

Electrical Problem, N Washington / West D St Electrical Problem, Midway Rd/ Pedrick Rd 1850

Electrical Problem, East A/ North 2nd 1854 Fire Alarm, 201 West A St

Electrical Problem, 6850 Sievers Rd 1903 Electrical Problem, Hackman Rd/ Harper Ln

Electrical Problem, 540 West D St North Electrical Problem, 127 North L St 2026

2330 Traffic Accident, E80 / N113

2353

January 7, 2019

0016 Medical Aid, 235 E Dorset Dr 0250 Vehicle Accident, 610 Glenside Dr

Fire Alarm, 8656 Sparling Ln Vehicle Accident, N First St at Dorset Dr.

Fire Alarm, 230 North First 2011 Lift Assist, 1010 Sommer Dr 2029

2034 Medical, 270 South 2nd Fire Alarm, 201 West A 2114

January 8, 2019 Lift Assist, 1010 Sommer Dr

Medical Aid, 455 South Lincoln

0817 Public Assist, 641 W D St North MVA, W80/Dixon Ave

Public Assist, 615 E Creekside Ct 1991 Medical Aid, 1000 Newgate Way #1

January 9, 2019 0817 Medical, 337 West H

0914 Electrical, Peters Ave / Marvin 1158 Medical, 125 N Lincoln

1232 Medical, 1255 Rose Ln 1341 Medical, 1010 Sommer

1622 Fire Alarm, 980 Pembroke Way 1744 Medical, 7516 Elizabeth Rd 2131 Fire Alarm, 555 Rossi

January 10, 2019 0232 Medical, 1510 McCarthy Ct 0631 Fire Alarm, 740 South 1st

0703 Medical, 215 Sycamore 1126 MVA, King Rd & Bulkley 1428 Fire Alarm, 2299 Kids Way

2055 Medical Aid, 7427 DeMello Ln 2340 Medical Aid, 1255 Charity Ln

January 11, 2019 0053 Medical Aid, 1395 N Lincoln #121

0741 Vehicle Fire, WB-80 & Pedrick Rd 0836 Medical Aid, 7505 Putman Rd 1522 Medical Aid, 1395 N. Lincoln St #411

2029 Medical Aid, 960 West A St 2310 Possible Medical Aid, 2220 Duncan St

January 12, 2019

0107 Medical, 261 ½ S. Jefferson

1219 Medical Aid, 211 East D St #313

1116 Medical Aid, 1395 N Lincoln St #318

1830 Medical Aid, E80// Kidwell Rd

CONVERSATIONS

By Loren Hoffmanm and Shirley Humphrey

Nelson Sparks will speak at the

Dixon Historical Society Meeting
The first meeting of the year for the
Dixon Historical Society will be held
on Sunday, January 20th at the Dixon
Methodist Church at 2:00 pm. Nelson
Sparks along with his two sisters will
be presenting the history of the Sparks
Family that settled in Silveyville before
1850. Family photos and artifacts will
be shared by the family, along with
the history of the early pioneers settling in the area. Anyone interested in
local history are welcome to attend the
presentation.

Following refreshments, President Bill Schroeder will conduct a business meeting. Bill has been completed the digitization of the Dixon High School yearbooks which have been posted on the dixonhistoricalsociety.org website.

A \$250 grant from Wal Mart allowed the Society to make digital copies of films recorded by local residents in the 1940's and 1950's. Bill has posted the films on local websites, such as Dixon 411, for people to view. The goal is to place the digitized films on the Society's website. You may enjoy looking at the amount of snowfall in Dixon on an April day several decades ago! When you are at City Hall, look inside the exhibit case to see Dixon's very first fire bell that was acquired by the Dixon Fire Department in 1876. The bell is on loan from the California State Archives in Sacramento.

Let Your District Council Representative Know How to Effectively Represent You

In last week's front-page article on the city council meeting, readers read that Dixon city council representatives voted to increase the salary of directors of various city departments. The city manager contended that salaries are 37% below the median determined by surveying various other cities.

We want our employees to be paid well, but we expect high performance from these individuals. Are we getting that? What goals has the city council set for the city manager? What is the strategic vision for the city?

For example, what progress has been made on completing the Parkway Boulevard Overcrossing? Have zoning policies been set for Airbnb? Is the traffic problem in the school/downtown area better?

Do our department heads perform as well as department heads in surrounding towns? For example, our accounting department does not do project accounting. Because of this, a forensic audit had to be undertaken to determine how much money has been collected and spent on Parkway Boulevard Overcrossing which was scheduled to be completed in 2007? A check with accounting departments in a few surrounding towns revealed that most do project accounting. So why does Dixon not do project accounting?

We now vote by district. Do our elected representatives honor the change they voted for? How often does your district council representative contact you to obtain a list of your priorities? Last week there were two town hall meetings regarding the water rates. It appears that district councilmen participated in these meetings, but it was not evident that each council representative contacted their constituents.

One of the ways that we can let our council district representatives know what we think is important is to let each one know what our priorities are. A few people might get together to conduct a survey of fellow voters in our district. Then you can let your representative know what your priorities are and request that he sets goals for the city manager's performance based on his constituent's priorities.

The following are a few sample questions to ask. You may want to ask other questions. You might ask questions such

"Please rank which of the following should receive the emphasis in the next few years. List (1) as the most important to accomplish, then 2,3, etc.

- Establish a binding plan (covering economic and residential development) for Dixon and follow it.
- Develop and establish a 5-year street repair plan.
- Construct train overpasses/underpasses on West A (near post office) and North First Street
- Develop an economic improvement plan (such as incentives, amenities the city could offer)
- Pardi Market Parking Lot improvement spend \$3 million for a new

park + parking

- Establish a parks and recreation plan which includes all aspects (mowing, trimming trees, etc.)
- Fund core drainage plan to allow development in the area to the east of H Street.
- Fund core drainage plan to solve flooding near Cypress Street (subdivision developed in 1970) not finished properly for drainage
- Develop a traffic management plan (Parkway Boulevard Overpass, Traffic from D to C level) including designated city bus routes.
- Addressing the \$1 million city attorney legal bill.

This might seem like a good deal of work, but survey monkey is free and easy to use. A list of district voters should be available from your representatives. If a few of you work together, the survey should be accomplished rather quickly.

Larry Simmon's Recognition Evening

The Dixon Toastmasters along with other friends and organizations will honor Larry Simmons on Monday, January 21 evening beginning at 6:00 pm at the Dixon Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson, Dixon. Larry participated in many Dixon organizations and could always be counted on to arrive early to help set up and stay late to ensure everything was put away. He generously offered to help no matter how large or small the task may be.

On Monday evening Larry's friends and acquaintances will gather to recognize Larry for his life time contributions to the Dixon community. Everyone is welcome to attend! Light refreshments will be provided.

GALLERY 625

Expressions in Cloth, a solo exhibition by Woodland quilter, Jeanne Powell, featuring a variety of quilts by the artist and vintage quilts from her personal collection will be on display through January 29th. Yolo Arts is sponsoring the display at 625 Court Street (County Admin Building) in Woodland.

Governor Proposes a Tax on Drinking Water

The following was printed in the Sacramento Bee and is reprinted to let you know about proposed new laws:

"Tackling what promises to be a controversial issue, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a tax on drinking water Thursday to help disadvantaged communities clean up contaminated water systems.

"Newsom's plan for a "safe and affordable drinking water fund," included in the new governor's first budget proposal, attempts to revive an idea that died in the Legislature last year.

"A McClatchy investigation last year showed that at least 360,000 Californians rely on water that does not meet state standards for toxins. McClatchy also found that 6 million Californians have water providers that have violated state standards at some point since 2012.

"That is a disgrace," Newsom told reporters at a budget press conference, citing a figure of 1 million people without access to safe drinking water.

Newsom said he also wants to earmark \$25 million for safe drinking water, to jump-start the effort. His proposal was immediately hailed by safe drinking water advocates.

"These are our fellow Californians, and it's past time to get this crisis resolved," said Jonathan Nelson, policy director at a nonprofit advocacy group, the Community Water Center."

Scholarship Dinner hosted by Dixon Women's Improvement Club

Tickets are available for purchase for the third annual Dixon Women's Improvement Club Scholarship Dinner that is held at Bud's Pub and Grill at 100 S. First Street in Dixon. The fundraising event held on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 from 5:00-8:0 pm provides scholarships for Dixon graduates and community grants for local schools and non-profit organizations. Members of the organization remain steadfast in creating avenues for civic improvement, beautification, and promotion of the best interests for the city of Dixon. A donation of \$25 will provide a dinner choice from four entrees, salad, vegetable, bread, potatoes, along with a non- alcoholic beverage. Dixon Florist & Gifts, B's Gallery, and Cyndee's Place have

Enrolling in Medicare Online Can Be Confusing



By Toni King

Dear Toni:

Last week, you wrote about how to apply for Medicare online by having to start a "My Social Security" account. I had no problem opening the "My Social Security" account and answering the credit questions because I knew those answers. When it came to fill out the application for Medicare that was another story.

I had a problem with some of Medicare's personal questions. I knew my name, address. Date of Birth, Social Security number, etc. When it came to answering what kind of citizen that was another issue because I am not a US born American, but a naturalized citizen. I was born in Greece and am very proud to say that I received my American citizenship about 15 years ago. The application asked me what date and I could not answer that exact date and had to estimate. Now I must take my original citizenship papers to the local Social Security office or send the original by mail.

Toni, America needs to know that even though this is supposed to be an easier process that it does have

a few kinks which can confuse those with more than a high school degree. Please let your readers know not to give up when having a problem, had my wife and I not scheduled a Medicare consultation at the Toni Says® office I would have been totally lost applying online. Thanks, Nick from Meyerland area.

Dear Nick:

What a great compliment! I was very glad to find out that you found your original citizenship papers and could take them to your local Social Security office. You had hidden them so well that it took you time to find them.

Let's discuss how to apply online and a few of the problems we are discovering when helping others apply for Medicare online when turning 65 by going online to www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare.

What if you cannot open a "My Social Security Account", then what? Click on the EXIT button and proceed you should proceed to the Medicare sign up page. This information about apply for Medicare cannot be found anywhere on any Social Security information on "How to Enroll in Medicare". If you cannot proceed with applying for Medicare without opening a "My Social Security Account" than what? Go directly to your local Social Security office and inform the Social Security agent that you are not able to open a Social Security account and are locked out and you need help.

Information to apply only for Medicare is below:

- 1)Begin with your information: Name, Social Security number, Gender and Date of Birth
- 2) Contact information with address, phone number, email address
- 3) Citizen information about you with what language your read and speak
- 4) Questions about your health benefits
- 5) Then submit your application online and view your receipt which explains what additional information may be needed such as marriage license when you are short of 40 quarters and applying under your spouse's Medicare benefits or may be like Nick and must take your citizenship papers. Take this information to the local Social Security office to be verified.
- 6) Once your beneficiary verification letter that comes first and includes your Medicare number and Part A and/or B dates, or your new Medicare Card which comes next, then enroll in a Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage Plan and Medicare Prescription drug plan.

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. If you would like any Medicare questions answered please contact us at info@tonisays.com or 832/519-8664. ★



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