

### More than three million seniors have already enrolled in one of the Prescription Drug Discount programs

Seniors can use the card to save 15 to 30 percent off the usual retail price of most brand name drugs and more on generics at neighborhood pharmacies. Low-income seniors struggling with high drug costs will be able to get these savings as well as an additional \$600 a year credit - or \$1,200 over the next 18 months - to help pay for prescriptions. For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## House passes Nunes water storage measure

In a major step toward meeting the Central Valley’s urban and agricultural water needs, the House of Representatives passed a bill co-sponsored by Rep. Devin Nunes that will make it easier to construct new water projects in California.

“I’m happy we made some progress on getting more water storage for the Valley, but there’s still a lot of work that needs to be done before we actually see the benefit,” Rep. Nunes said. “Water is more than just an issue for agriculture. Virtually every city in Fresno and Tulare counties is facing a shortage of water. As our population continues to grow, water will be in shorter and shorter supply. We need a mechanism to capture as much as we can from melting winter runoff

and high Sierra storms.”

Language was inserted in the bill by the congressman would allow for automatic authorization of the construction of a new dam above Millerton Lake along the San Joaquin River if a federal study already underway shows that the project is feasible. The dam would be able to capture as much as 1.2 million acre feet in wet years and protect cities downstream from periodic, devastating floods.

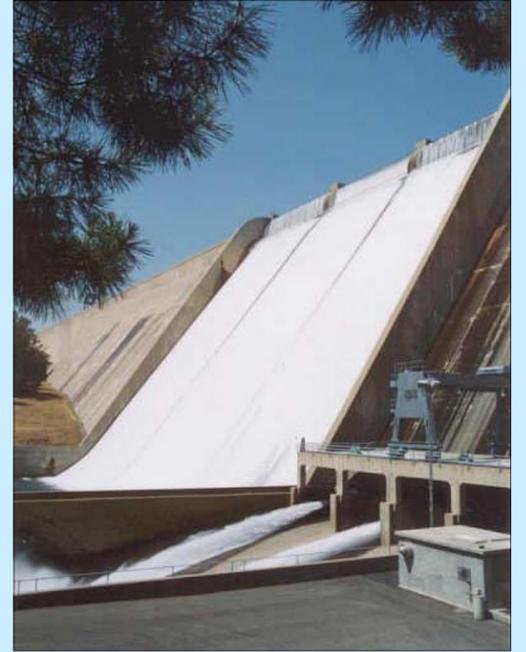
Water would be released from the dam to Millerton Lake and diverted to the Friant-Kern Canal, the Madera Canal, and/or released to the San Joaquin River.

“This project would help meet a variety of needs,” Rep. Nunes said. “It would boost our groundwater

table for communities, irrigation for agriculture, provide additional hydro-electric possibilities and provide a consistent flow of water to reestablish the natural habitat along the San Joaquin River.”

The language for the water measure inserted by Rep. Nunes into the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (H.R. 2828 ), which funds CalFed—the state and federal partnership that manages water projects in California.

The U.S. Senate must also pass the bill before it can be considered by the President and possibly signed into law.



Friant Dam at Millerton Lake

## Tax cuts benefit local families, military

Rep. Devin Nunes hailed the passage earlier this year of legislation that will lower taxes for married couples and the families of military personnel.

“Families are the backbone of our society, so it is only fitting that a man and wife get every financial advantage possible to make ends meet,” Rep. Nunes said. “The average family of four will see their

taxes rise by over \$300 if Congress doesn’t act this year to make this tax relief permanent.”

Before 2001, a married couple earning similar incomes paid more in taxes than two single taxpayers filing individually. Tax relief passed by Congress in 2001 phased out these penalties by providing couples a standard deduction that is twice that of single taxpayers.

Another bill provided financial relief for families of National Guardsmen and Military Reservists who have been called to serve in the war on terror.

“These brave men and women are serving to help protect all American families,” Rep. Nunes said. “This legislation will help their families pay the bills while Guardsmen and Reservists put their

careers on hold to sacrifice for our country.”

By leaving their jobs in the private sector to fill vitally needed positions for our national defense, many National Guardsmen and Military Reservists have taken a drastic cut in pay, placing their families in financial hardship.

## Clovis winner displays artwork on Capitol Hill

Rep. Devin Nunes invited high school students throughout Fresno and Tulare counties to submit their best pieces of artwork to compete in the 21st District contest “An Artistic Discovery.”

Dozens of students submitted a wide variety of top quality artwork, and a panel of judges reviewed the pieces to select a winner and several finalists.

The winner from each Congressional District has their artwork displayed for a year in one of the pedestrian thoroughfares at the nation’s capitol. The winning students also get free, roundtrip plane tickets to Washington, D.C. from Southwest Airlines.

In the end, Clovis East High

School walked away with a number of top honors, including first and second places. Alicia Salas took first and Kyle Lynes placed second. Both are juniors.

Clovis East also received several honorable mentions, including sophomore A.J. Collazo, junior Madison O’Neil, senior Arete Alfson, and freshman Khrystynna Hunsinger, all of Clovis East High school.

Honorable mentions were also given to Daniel Erickson, a senior at Buchanan High School; Belen Vargas, a senior at Dinuba High



School; and Mathew Somawang, a junior at Orosi High School.



Left: Rep. Devin Nunes poses with a number of art competition finalists from Clovis East High School, as well as principal Jeff Eben and art instructor Jeff Nichols.

Above: Alicia Salas’ winning entry—a pencil and charcoal sketch of her family members.