The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the activities for the 105th Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival on Sunday, February 23, 2020. February is always a fantastic time to view the incredible bloom of the Capay Valley’s almond trees and celebrate the rich heritage of the Capay Valley.

There are many events and activities up and down the Capay Valley to enjoy, including something for every member of the family. Don’t forget, you can pick up your PASSPORT for Town Stamps at any of the 5 PASSPORT locations noted below. Get your Passport stamped at 4 of the 5 locations and submit your completed PASSPORT at any of the 5 locations to participate in the Town Stamp contest.

Here are the day’s activities, starting at the top of the valley in RUMSEY and ending in ESPARTO:

- **RUMSEY ACTIVITIES**: Includes a Passport Location at the Rumsey Hall. Events include Blue Grass music, food and drinks including the very popular wood-fired pizza—come early (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), pulled-pork sliders & slaw, home-baked goods, notably almond petal ice cream; a silent auction (including a dinner for 8 at a local farm), lavender products, an art show featuring paintings, sculptures & photos from local artists, a children’s play area and local grain grinding equipment. Food will be served from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Local Craft beer booth is noon – 4:00 p.m. Craft Vendors and the Farmer’s Market is 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Come and taste the different almonds, honey & olive oils of the Capay Valley.

- **GUIDA ACTIVITIES** include a PASSPORT Location at the Guinda Community Grange Hall. You can enjoy music by the Capay Valley Chorus & various instrumentalists & vocalists, Grammy Wyatt’s Famous Almond Rocha, Nona’s Walnut Rocha, and homemade Almond (chocolate, vanilla & almond rocha) ice cream. Lunch & beverages will be available for purchase with gluten free options. Enjoy the Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) tasting, children’s petting zoo & pony rides, various displays of farming equipment & machinery, bat & bird houses, leather crafts & iron-works, jewelry, embroidery, quilts, handmade glass, specialty soaps, a silent art auction and more. The Vendor Fair is 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Guinda Park at the Guinda Bridge is always open and has two restrooms. The Commons Farm Kitchen and The Corner Store will be open for business from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Commons will be featuring music from John Emery Dodds & the Unconventionals and Mike & the Mooncats (12:00 – 4:00) The Guinda Volunteer Fire Department will be selling their very popular BBQ Oysters, sausages, other special BBQ treats with various beverages.

- **BROOKS ACTIVITIES** include a PASSPORT location at The Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room; hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will feature live music by Whiskey Rock ‘n Rollers (10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.), Artisanal Vendors (10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and Almond Blossom Farm Tours (noon – 2:00 p.m.).

- **CAPAY ACTIVITIES** include a PASSPORT location at The Road Trip Bar and Grill Café and The Honey Store across the street. The Road Trip Café will have live music provided by the Fryed Brothers (Noon – 4:00 p.m.), and Native American dancing. All in addition to their menu of delicious food and drink.

- **ESPARTO ACTIVITIES** include a PASSPORT location at The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce tent. Stop by the Chamber’s tent to get information on the entire day’s activities. ESPARTO HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA: The Future Farmers of America (FFA) Breakfast is 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. BOOKS IN BLOOM Book Sale at the Esparto Regional Library is 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At the ESPARTO PARK: Activities include 70 vendors, carnival rides, entertainment for kids, and The CAR SHOW by the Madison Fire Department. The Vendor time is 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **Music in Esparto Park**: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Desert Dan, Tim Slaven, introduction of Almond Festival Queen and her Court, as well as a guest guitarist. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Jessica Malone. Come by and enjoy the music.

- **The Esparto Volunteer Fire Department** will have Tri-Tip sandwiches & beverages for purchase.

- **Countryside Community Church’s Country Store** will hold the Annual Giant Quilt raffle and have various vendors for crafts & food.

- **El Toro Mercado, the Wygold Cafe and Hog Canyon will be open for business.**

- **MADISON ACTIVITIES** include The Car Show to be held in Esparto. This is a gathering place for various motorcycle and car groups from the surrounding region. There will be a wide range of tricked-out and souped-up vehicles throughout the valley.

- **ALMOND QUEEN COURT SCHEDULE**: Attend FFA Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.; Visit Esparto Park and be introduced on the Esparto Stage: 10:30 a.m.; 11:10 a.m. Visit Road Trip Bar and Grill; 12:45 p.m. Visit Rumsey Hall; 1:00 p.m. Visit Guinda Grange Hall

Submitted by Kim Kersten, Media Coordinator (707-372-0742). Call 530-787-3342 or www.espartoregionalchamber.com to find out more about activities.
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Volume 22, Edition 2, February 2020
Esparto Unified School District seeks your input on our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). In 2013, the California Legislature approved the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) which is the finance mechanism through which schools are funded. The LCAP is a critical part of the LCFF which details specific District plans. The 2017-20 LCAP is located on the District website.

**EUSD’s current LCAP goals are:**
- 1. Establish conditions of learning to maintain facilities, retain staff, implement standards and offer broad course access.
- 2. Raise student achievement across the curriculum.
- 3. Actively engage parents and students to promote school attendance, a positive climate, and involvement in the school community.

The LCAP Task Force, consisting of parents, administrators, students, teachers and staff members have met throughout the year to review our current goals, actions and services to ensure they are meeting the needs of our schools and community.

EUSD is currently reviewing and updating the LCAP for the 2020-2023 school years. At this time the District is collecting data from parents, staff members, and community members on our progress towards meeting our goals. There is a brief survey located on the district website at: [https://edo.eusdk12.org/](https://edo.eusdk12.org/) We appreciate your time. The results of the survey will guide our 2020-2023 LCAP plan and inform any additional decision making on our Annual Update.
Esparto Elementary School News
Erika St. Andre, Principal

Esparto Middle School News
Sherrie Vann, Principal

Valley Voice February 2020
Esparto Elementary School Pilots New Science Curriculum

In 2013, the California Department of Education adopted new science standards, called the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS. In the years since, teachers have been learning about the new standards, and beginning to teach to them in their classes. We are now at the point of evaluating and piloting new NGSS-aligned curriculum in order to decide what our Science materials will look like over the next several years. Esparto Elementary School piloted Discovery Science in the Fall of 2019 and is now piloting Inspire Science. A team of teachers will make a recommendation to the district’s Curriculum Council in the Spring of 2020 about adopting one of these programs. Please ask your child’s teacher about the programs, and contact the Principal Erika St. Andre with any questions.

Esparto Elementary School Pilots New Science Curriculum

Discovery Science
Inspire Science

Breaking Barriers at EMS
by Mrs. Kullar

With the start of the new semester, Esparto Middle School students are off to a strong start on their History Fair projects. This year’s History Fair will be on Thursday May 21, 2020. The theme is “Breaking Barriers” and all students have chosen research topics based on this new and exciting theme. Students have been encouraged to choose people, ideas, events, or things that have broken barriers in history regarding race, religion, gender, equality, politics, etc.

After choosing their own topics, students began conducting research, analyzing primary sources, organizing their information, formulating a thesis statement, and finally writing an essay. For the project, the three main tasks that students complete by May are:
1) Research Paper, 2) Website, and 3) History Fair Board and Presentation.

On the day of the History Fair, students will present their projects to judges (community members and history experts) during school hours. On the same night from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., EMS will have their Open House and History Fair Awards Ceremony in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The purpose of this History Fair project is to help students develop four key skills: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. By learning these valuable skills, students will be prepared for high school and beyond. Esparto Middle School is excited for our students to showcase their projects and hope to see you all there!

Important Dates:
2/4: 8th Grade Basketball at Emerson
2/6: 8th Grade Basketball at Harper
2/7: Teacher Look-Alike Day
2/8: Saturday Academy
2/11: 8th Grade Basketball at Holmes
2/12: Minimum Day
2/13: 8th Grade Basketball at Home
2/14: No School
2/15: YCAL 8th Grade Basketball Tournament
2/17: No School
2/20: Freshman Preview Day

Lincoln’s Birthday Holiday
Is on February 14. (no school)

President’s Day Holiday
Is on February 17. (no school)
Second semester has gotten off to a great start at Esparto High School! Teachers and students are ready to shine this semester because before you know it, June 5th will be here and the Class of 2020 will be graduating.

Our sports teams are playing very hard this year and having fun. All three of our sports, Basketball, Wrestling and Soccer are off to a great start. The students and coaches are working hard. Please come out and support our teams.

Recently, Senior wrestler, Issac Lawrence, finished 8th in the 145 lb. weight class at the Tim Brown Memorial wrestling tournament held at CalExpo. This is one of the major high school tournaments in the state with over 70 teams competing. As a result of this strong finish, Issac in now ranked 3rd in the Northern Section and listed as Honorable Mention in the California State Wrestling rankings at 145 lbs. Way to go, Issac!

The Almond Festival is coming! Esparto High School is gearing up for the festival and FFA will be hosting the breakfast on Sunday, February 23 starting at 7:00 a.m. Make sure to get there early. As you know, the line can get long.

Please help us in recognizing our very own Ms. Kersting during School Counselor Appreciation Week from February 3-7! Ms. Kersting does an amazing job making sure our kids are enrolled in the classes that they need or checking in with them when they are having a tough time. Ms. Kersting is a valuable member of our team and we appreciate all that she does.

D/F grades will be mailed home during the week of February 17.

Upcoming Dates: Minimum Day 2: February 12: February 14 is Lincoln’s Birthday (no school), and February 17 is President’s Day (no school).

Scam Alert: Fake IRS “Tax Transcript” emails

It’s Tax Time and the Yolo County District Attorney is warning the community to be alert for fraudulent emails from someone claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. By now, many are well aware of the IRS phone scam in which a supposed “IRS employee” threatens the victim with immediate arrest if a payment is not made to settle their non-existent tax debt. However, much like a virus, the scams mutate and are updated as they become less effective. Now criminals have started the next scam campaign. There is usually an attachment with some variation of “tax transcript” or similar with instructions to open the attachment for important information. When the unsuspecting recipient opens the attachment, a well known malware (EMOTET) is unleashed on your computer. EMOTET has been associated with other bank and other financial institution phishing efforts, but recently morphed into an IRS scam. The IRS is so concerned they issued a statement reminding taxpayers that it does not send unsolicited emails to taxpayers, nor would it email a tax transcript containing sensitive taxpayer information. The IRS suggests deleting the email or if you are comfortable doing so, forward the scam email to phishing@irs.gov. In no circumstances should you ever open such an attachment or enter or provide sensitive personal data to any unsolicited email. If you receive these suspicious emails please contact the Yolo County District Attorney’s Fraud Hotline at 1-855-4-YOLO-DA.

Submitted by Yolo County’s District Attorney’s Office

The staff at Madison Community High School is excited about having completed the first semester of the year. The fall semester of 2019 was very productive. Our students performed well both academically and behaviorally with many reasons to celebrate. The highlight of the semester was an early graduation. One of our seniors was able to complete his graduation requirements back in October and has moved on from Madison. We are extremely proud of this student and he served as an example for the rest of the student body.

Based on this example, many of our students have put in a lot of effort towards completing classes and earning credits. Over 318 credits were earned by students during this fall semester. As a result, two students were given the opportunity to return to Esparto High School and chose to do so. These students were able to earn enough credits at Madison that they will now be able to complete their requirements for high school graduation at Esparto High School and graduate as Spartans. We also had two students who earned sufficient credits in the Fall semester to return to Esparto High, but instead chose to remain at Madison and graduate in order to take advantage of our small school setting.

We have had a lot of success during the first half of the 2019-2020 school year and we are looking forward to a productive Spring.

The Lions Club 83rd Annual Student Speaker Contest

The Lions Club 83rd Annual Student Speaker Contest for Esparto/Madison/Capay students will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at the Esparto Fire Station Dining Hall, at 7:00 p.m. If more than 6 students sign up to participate in the contest, a run-off contest will be held on Monday, February 3, at 4:00 p.m. in A-1, Mrs. Rowland’s room, at Esparto High School.

This Local Level contest is open to high school students in grades 9-12. The topic for this year’s contest is: “Homelessness in California: What is the Solution?” This contest has six levels to it, starting with the local Lions Club contest. The first four levels of the contest will be held in the Woodland/Yolo County area. The location of the 5th level of the contest will depend upon the area that participants are from. The final contest will be held in Modesto on Saturday, June 6. Exact times and locations will be made available after each level as the contest progresses until June 6.

On the February 6 Local Level, all 6 students will receive an award. As a student moves forward in the contest (same topic for each level), the final student speaker on level six will have gained a total of $21,300 in cash and Scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact Esparto Lions Student Speaker Chairperson, Diana Rowland, at drowland@eusdk12.org. The Lions Club Handbook concerning the rules and procedures for this contest can be found at the following link: https://md4lions.org/files/documents/924edbb2-29bd-4c32-8a38-49a7e8c01d.pdf

Submitted by Diana Rowland
Come Join

BBQ Burgers on Thursdays!
Time: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
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Join us in our celebrations of the Holy Mass
Mass Schedule
Saturday 7:00 p.m. Spanish
Sunday 8:30 a.m. English
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Bilingual

Confession
Sunday 8:00 a.m. — 8:20 a.m.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
(Matthew 11:28)

Parish Office
51 Main Street, Winters, CA 95694
(530) 795-2230

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51 Main Street, Winters, CA 95694
(530) 795-2230
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Almond Queen Candidates
(see the next page for information on each of these candidates.)
Almond Queen Pageant

The time has come to celebrate a handful of incredibly talented young women in Esparto and the Capay Valley community. This year, five brave young ladies will compete for the title of The 2020 Almond Queen. The pageant will be held on Saturday, February 15 at the Western Yolo Grange Hall in Guinda at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at Esparto Ace Hardware, New Reflections Salon in Esparto, the Guinda Commons and the Guinda Corner Store. They are $25/ adult and $15/ children (12 and under) and Seniors 85 and older. Any Former Almond Queen who attends the event will receive one free ticket. The menu for the dinner includes delicious Tri-Tip and a vegetarian option along with sides that feature produce from local farms and will be prepared by members of the Grange. The Rumsey Improvement Association sponsors the pageant. Thank you to our esteemed judges: Laura Gordon, Almond Queen, 1982; Vice-Mayor of Sacramento, Eric Guerra; and Judy Van de Water, PhD.

This year’s pool of qualified candidates includes athletes, scholars, leaders, and community-oriented seniors from Esparto High School. Following the delicious dinner, each contestant will deliver a speech prepared on the topic: “If you were a judge for the Almond Queen Pageant, what qualities would you look for in the Almond Queen to best represent the Capay Valley?” Each young lady will answer follow up questions: a current event question and a fun question. The three judges will have met with each contestant earlier in the day for an interview and to study each application.

Join the entire Capay Valley in honoring these remarkable young women and celebrating this important community tradition.

**Kelly Schwenger** lives in Esparto with her parents Dave and Becky Schwenger. She is the youngest of 7 children: Gina, James, Jane, Lisa, Sean and Jonathan. Kelly is an active senior at Esparto High School. She is a member of the Leo’s Club and Esparto/Capay Valley 4-H, National Honor Society. Outside of school she volunteers at the Esparto Fire Station during floods. She is a multi-sport athlete, participating in Where she serves as President of both organizations. Kelly is a member of the FFA and Junior State of America as well as the co-president of the National Honor Society. Outside of school she volunteers at the Esparto Fire Station during floods. She is a multi-sport athlete, participating in Softball and Basketball. Kelly plays travel softball and is a captain for the All American Mizuno team in Sacramento. She hopes to play softball in college, while pursuing her degree. Kelly isn’t afraid of a challenge because win or lose she gains experience and life lessons. She is competing in the Almond Queen pageant so she can be a shining role model for the younger girls in our community. Thank you to Kelly’s sponsor: Nick and Heather Echavez.

**Andrea Garza** lives in Esparto with her parents Mireya and Rogelio Jr. Garza. She has three siblings, Diego, Camila and Raquel. Andrea is involved in the FFA, EHS Junior State of America, Leo’s Club, National Honor Society, ASB and the Christmas Tree Lighting. She plays basketball and is a cheerleader. She has been FFA Vice President, Class President and ASB President. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys cooking and sports to give her interests outside of school. In the future, Andrea hopes to attend a University and major in Political Science/Pre-Law. She would then like to work in legislation, focusing on restructuring the educational system. Andrea is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant to be a part of this long standing tradition, learn more about our community and gain public speaking experience. Andrea looks forward to getting to know her fellow contestants and creating fond memories. Thank you to Andrea’s sponsor: Vannucci Technologies.

**Alondra Lua** lives in Madison with her parents Josefinna Lua-Garcia and Enrique Garcia and sister, Isabella Lua-Garcia. Alondra is a member of the Spanish Club, where she manages the snack bar at Soccer Games. She is also a member of the EHS Culinary Club. Alondra has been on the Honor Roll all four years at Esparto High School and has earned High Honors two of those years. She has been a cheerleader and earned the Spartan Award for her dedication to her team. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, baking, assembling puzzles and camping. When Alondra graduates from Esparto, she plans to attend Chamberlain University and obtain a Bachelors Degree in Nursing. She would like to use her degree to become a traveling nurse to help people all around the world. Alondra believes participating in the Almond Queen Pageant will improve her public speaking skills and build her self-confidence. Thank you to Alondra’s sponsor: El Toro Meat Market.

**Kiera Edwards** lives in Esparto with her parents Ruth and Jason Edwards. She has an older brother, Ceasar. Kiera has been very involved at Esparto High School. She has been a member of the FFA all four years and was an FFA sweetheart candidate. She is a multi-sport athlete, participating in Cheer, Softball and Basketball. Kiera plays travel softball and is a captain for the All American Mizuno team in Sacramento. She hopes to play softball in college, while pursuing her degree. Kiera isn’t afraid of a challenge because win or lose she gains experience and life lessons. She is competing in the Almond Queen pageant so she can be a shining role model for the younger girls in our community. Thank you to Kiera’s sponsor: Voly Family Farms.

**Sierra Winter** lives in Woodland with her parents Lydia and Mike Winter. Sierra is a very involved senior at Esparto High School. She is a member of the FFA, Junior State of America, Leo’s Club, National Honor Society, California Girls State and Congressional Academy. She has held offices in the Leo’s Club, National Honor Society, FFA, Culinary Club as well as Class Offices. She has a 4.6 GPA and has held Spartan Honors for 3 years. Sierra is very involved in her community, as well. She has volunteered at the Lions Club Crab Feed, Sock Drive for the Homeless, FFA Blood Drive, Hoes Down Festival and many more. In Sierra’s free time she enjoys participating in events that positively impact our community as well as traveling, painting and crafting at home. In the future, Sierra plans to attend Seton Hall or a UC campus to pursue a major in Environmental Studies, in hopes to combat the destruction of natural disasters. Sierra was influenced by her FFA education and the wildfire that impacted our local Capay Valley. Sierra is competing in the Almond Queen pageant because she is proud to be a part of this unique tradition, just as she hopes to represent the Capay Valley in the future with Environmental policy and regulation, she also hopes to represent the Capay Valley as Almond Queen. Thank you to Sierra’s sponsor: Eagle Drug. Submitted by Caitlin Zavala, Almond Queen Coordinator.
Music at the Almond Festival in Esparto Park

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Capay Valley Almond Festival coming up on Sunday February 23rd! Don't miss the music lineup in the Esparto Park. This year we are very fortunate to welcome Tim Slaven, Dan Whitney and Jessica Malone to the stage! These talented musicians will perform from 10:00-4:00 p.m.

Tim Slaven - 10:00-1:00 p.m. Vocals, Guitar, Electric Bass, Piano

Tim hails from Southern California and is an accomplished singer, songwriter, arranger, and composer. He has recorded multiple original albums, soundtracks and commercials. He has accompanied artists such as Bobby Hendrix and the Drifters, Cleave Duncan and the Penguins, Al Wilson, Franky Ford, and Don Preston to name a few. Tim has been performing live since 1970 across the USA and Canada.

Dan Whitney - 10:00-1:00 p.m Vocals, Guitar, Harmonica, Piano

This award winning musician was inducted into the Western Swing Hall Of Fame in 2017. Not only is he an amazing vocalist, Dan also plays guitar, harmonica, and piano. He has toured the country performing with such bands as the Temptations, The Coasters and Pablo Cruise. Dan is working on his first CD “Plateau”. You can catch him at local Sacramento and Auburn hotspots throughout the year. www.desertdanmusic.com

Jessica Malone 1:00-4:00 p.m Vocals, Guitar, Violin

With Northern Californian roots, award-winning folk singer Jessica Malone writes songs that seem to grow from the landscape itself. With a mix of heartfelt folk and soulful Americana, Malone offers her powerful and dynamic voice, surrounded by lush and organic instrumentation. Acoustic and electric guitars, drums, violin and an upright bass usher listeners through Jessica Malone's tales of wanderlust and self-discovery. www.JessicaMaloneMusic.com

Submitted by Pat Harrison
Friends of the Esparto Regional Library

Come join us at the following events:

March: Big Day of Giving committee work
April: Big Day of Giving committee work
May 7: Big Day of Giving

More information may be found on our website (www.ferl.com) and our Facebook page: Friends of the Esparto Regional Library

Not a member of FERL? You may join at the Library, through our website or at any of the above events.

Big News: The new movie projector and screen are installed.

Contact Information: Jim Schulte jschulte_611@hotmail.com

Annual Almond Festival Book Sale

The annual Almond Festival Books in Bloom Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Esparto Regional Library, will be held Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Sunday, February 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Monday, February 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

These are extended times so community members and students can participate without the crowd of the festival. We are always looking for volunteers to help by signing up in the library on sign-up sheets.

We are no longer taking donations of books, as we are full. If you still have some books, bring them on February 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information contact: Jim Schulte at jschulte_611@hotmail.com

Friends of the Esparto Regional Library

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Big News: The new movie projector and screen are installed.

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February Programs at the Esparto Regional Library

Beat the winter blues with programs held during the month of February at Yolo County’s Esparto Regional Library, located at 17065 Yolo Avenue in Esparto:

February is Black History Month! 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the women’s suffrage movement and the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment and the right of black men to vote. This year’s theme, “African Americans and the Vote,” recognizes the ongoing struggle of voting for black men and women. Check out displays and pick up a special bookmark.

February 1-14: Blind Date with a Book: The Esparto Regional Library is sponsoring a “Book Blind Date.” It’s no commitment, no drama relationship where your “dream date” could be a thriller, a historical fantasy, a mystery or a sci-fi epic. Participants will be entered into a free drawing for a gift.

February 8: Backyard Chickens, 10:30 a.m.: Program presented by the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Yolo County.

February 12: Free Computer Class, 1:30 p.m.: This class will focus on “Internet Safety for Seniors.” We also offer simple tech support, library computer resources, and a Q & A session. Registration is required and will be limited to the first ten signups. To register, call (530) 787-3426 or sign up at the library service desk. This class will be offered on the second Wednesday of each month.

February 13: Vibrant Valentine’s Day Crafts, 3:30 p.m.: Share the love and have fun making Valentine’s Day cards, bookmarks, and more.

February 20: Afternoon Family Movie, 3:30 p.m.: Join us for a family-friendly (rated G or PG) movie and free popcorn. For movie title call the library at: (530) 787-3426.

The following ongoing programs continue in February:

• New! Lunch Beat: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:40 – 1:20 p.m. Need a space to hang out and eat your lunch or snacks? You’re in luck! The Library has games, a music corner, and crafts. Don’t be shy and come on in. All teens are welcome.

• English Conversation Group: Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Converse and improve your English in a fun and relaxed setting with the aid of a group facilitator. Drop-in visitors are always welcome.

• Aguas Frescas and Crafts: Second Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Join us for a cup or two of refreshing Aguas Frescas while creating a fun craft.

• Hora de Cuentos/Bilingual Spanish Story Time: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Children (ages 0-5) and their parents or caregivers are invited to join us for stories, songs, movement, rhymes and finger-plays. All bilingual story times are provided through a grant from First 5 Yolo.

NOTICE: Yolo County Library branches will be closed on February 17 in observance of Presidents’ Day.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library, are free to attend and, unless otherwise stated, no registration is required. For more information about events at the Esparto Regional Library, contact library staff at (530) 787-3426 or visit the Yolo County Library at www.yolocountylibrary.org (see calendar for Esparto Regional Library-specific events). Connect with the Yolo County Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

Submitted by Jenny Tan, Yolo County Communications Coordinator

Come to the Books in Bloom Book Sale at the Library during the Almond Festival on February 23
“It Had to Be the Rangeland Trust”

Don Tompkins exclaimed this as he talked about his and his wife’s decision to partner with the Rangeland Trust. He even attended college with several ranchers who partnered with the Rangeland Trust to conserve their ranches early on. Don and Merrie Tompkins are the charmingly dynamic duo of the TS Ranch, a commercial cow-calf operation nestled in the foothills of Guinda in Yolo County, California. The sprawling 3,496-acre ranch was taken over by Don in 1976 but was first purchased by Don’s father and mother, Henry Willis and Mabel Tompkins, in 1948. There were many reasons why they wanted to ensure the conservation of their ranch forever. “Not only because of the history but also to keep it as an open range and in ranching forever. This is all ranchland for cattle, and it has been that way since the early 1800s,” Merrie stated. Both Don and Merrie are self-proclaimed history buffs that care deeply about their roots. Most people don’t buy two separate gun safes just to fill them with genealogy binders documenting years of family history dating back to the 1300s, but that’s precisely what the Tompkins did. The fear of repeating history, however, was reason enough to protect their land.

Don’s great-grandfather built a 5,306-acre ranch in Peachtree Valley in the early 1900s. Unfortunately, when the land was dispersed to the grandchildren, only a fifth of the land remained in the family. The rest of the ranch was sold, and the grandchildren moved away. Don somberly explained how he didn’t want his ranch to face the same fate. “Some members of the family lost every bit of their property because their kids weren’t interested in taking it over. Because of all that and growing up knowing all that, and because I love the history of the family, that’s why. When the Rangeland Trust came into activity, I was one of those applicants… That’s our story. It all goes back to that ranch.” The TS Ranch’s wide-ranging history runs much deeper than the Tompkins, though. What is now land for a cattle operation had ties to the famous Confederate Civil War General, Stonewall Jackson. A portion of the land was also a haven for an African American community who farmed the land as a source of income in the 1800s. Merrie said she keeps in touch with descendants of these families and mentioned how they used to farm livestock and tree crops on the very hills where the cattle now roam today.

Deep rooted in history, it’s obvious that the land on the TS Ranch holds great value to numerous families. Conserving the ranch will not only preserve the memories already made by past and current generations, it will also allow for future generations to create memories of their own. Don and Merrie have high hopes for the future of the land and find comfort in knowing it will be taken care of when they are gone. Their son, Mark, with the help of their daughter, Marylyn, will uphold family traditions and management practices once they take over the operation. “He plans to lease it out with the same kind of permission from California Rangeland Trust”

Merrie and Don are fulfilling that promise. By Markie Hageman, Communications Coordinator of Rangeland Trust (This article is reprinted with permission from California Rangeland Trust)
Area Food Distributions
RISE, Inc. manages several food distributions each month in Esparto. Madison Community Committee sponsors a Food Closet in Madison 2x a month. A Food Closet is also held in the Guinda Grange Hall 2x a month (2nd and 4th Mondays). Below is a summary of these opportunities. They are also announced in other places in this paper. (Call RISE office 787-4110 for more information, Food Bank Give-Away on the 4th Monday of each month at the RISE office from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Free produce distribution on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the RISE office from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Volunteers are urgently needed to help with this distribution. Food and Clothes Closet is open on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, and on Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Madison Food Closet is open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. to Madison residents. Produce distribution at the Guinda Grange Hall at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Monday, and produce and commodities at the Grange Hall at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Monday.

Free Produce Distribution
When: 1st and 3rd Thursday
Where: RISE, Inc. office
17313 Fremont St., Esparto
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
1 PER HOUSEHOLD / BRING YOUR OWN BAG
Any Family in Esparto or Capay Valley are Welcome!
Submitted by RISE Staff

Distribucion de Frutas y Verduras
Cuando: 1er y 3er Jueves del mes
Donde: La Oficina de RISE
17313 Fremont Street Esparto
Hora: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
1 POR FAMILIA
TRAIGA BOLSA
Familias en Esparto y Capay Valley son Bienvenidas
Submitted by RISE Staff

Food Distribution in Guinda
Produce distribution is on the 2nd Monday of the month & produce plus commodities is on the fourth Monday of the month. The time is 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. It is always held at the Guinda Grange Hall.
**“VALLEY SENIORS” PROGRAM AT RISE**  
February 2020  
SPONSORED BY THE YOCHA DEHE  
COMMUNITY FUND

If you are a senior citizen interested in having fun, learning and socializing, please join us at the RISE Office, 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto. JOIN US ON Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 9:00 a.m.- Noon for Guest Speakers, Movies, Arts & Crafts, Games, Day Trips, Health and Exercise Classes. We also serve Lunch.

UNETO CON NOSOTROS los martes y jueves de 9:00 a.m. Al Medio Día para Oradores Invitados, Películas, Artes y Manualidades, Juegos, Paseos, Clases de Salud y Ejercicio. También servimos Almuerzo.

- **February 4:** Game Day/Día de Juegos
- **February 6:** Legal Services Speaker/Orador Invitada de los Servicios Legales
- **February 11:** Frost & Decorate Valentine Cookies/Decorar Galletas de San Valentín
- **February 13:** Supervisor Duane Chamberlain/Supervisor Duane Chamberlain
- **February 18:** City Councilman Angel Barajas/Concejal de la Ciudad de Woodland Angel Barajas
- **February 20:** Field Trip TBA/Paseo este mes será asignado
- **February 25:** District Attorney’s Office Speaker/Orador Invitado de la Oficina del Distrito Fiscal

FOR QUESTIONS & UPDATES, PLEASE CALL RISE, Inc. @ 530-787-4110 SI TIENE PREGUNTAS O PARA ACTUALIZACIONES POR FAVOR LLAME A RISE, Inc.

Submitted by the RISE Staff

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**Capay Valley Flora**

The Capay Valley has a delicious wild green growing in our oak woodlands and in open fields that is called Miner’s Lettuce (Claytonia parviflora). It is a native annual herbaceous plant with round leaves and a small stalk of flowers growing out of the center of the leaves. All parts of this plant are edible and can be eaten raw or cooked like spinach. It can be harvested in the cool winter and early spring months before it dries and sets seed. The beautiful dark green leaves with the tiny white flowers make a great addition to a salad or as a garnish.

Submitted by Pamela Bateman

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

RISE, Inc. is offering extended hours on Saturday, February 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Monday, February 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call (530) 787-4110 for questions.

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**More FUN Than Just YOGA Classes**

for balance, mobility, strength, coordination, range of motion & less pain

- **Esparto**  
  Mondays, 7 p.m.  
  Countryside Church  
  Guinda Grange Social Hall  
  16787 Forest Ave.

- **Guinda**  
  Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

**Questions?** Call (858) 232-1005  
Candice Schaer in Guinda

The Valley Voice email address: valleyvoice@RISEinc.org

Send your articles, and contributions to this address. If there are any changes to programs, meetings, ads, etc. please let us know.

Reminder: All articles, ads, and announcements and payments for this paper are due to the following email address by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month’s Valley Voice.

Send to ValleyVoice@RISEinc.org.
February 6: Lions Club Speaker Contest at the Fire Station at 7:00 p.m.
February 8: Backyard Chickens at 10:30 a.m. at the Library
February 11: Candidate Debate for 5th District Supervisor at Esparto High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.
February 12: Free Computer Class at the Library at 1:30 p.m.
February 13: Vibrant Valentine’s Day Crafts at 3:30 p.m. at Library
February 1-14: Blind Date with a Book at the Library
February 14: Valentine’s Day
February 14: Lincoln’s Birthday Holiday observed (no school)
February 14: Kids Night Out at CCC from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
February 15: Almond Queen Pageant at Guinda Grange Hall at 6:30 p.m.
February 17: Washington’s Birthday Holiday observed (no school)
February 20: Afternoon Family Movie at 3:30 at the Library
February 22-24: Books in Bloom Almond Festival Sale at Library
February 23: Almond Festival throughout the Capay Valley

Rumsey Pizza is a real treat at the Almond Festival. (Come early)

Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Report For Older Adults and Persons with Access and Functional Needs

The Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services (YCCAAS) recently identified in a report emergency preparation and evacuation necessities for older adults and persons with access or functional needs. The report will be presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors during the January 28 Board meeting.

The report encompasses recommendations for the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Yolo County Commission of Aging and Adult Services, a suggested plan of action for local aging commissions, as well as background and supporting information. Recent fires, floods, and electrical outages have highlighted the urgency for Yolo County to be prepared in the next emergency.

Included in the report are: recommendations for a Special Needs Alert Program (SNAP) to identify and serve those with special needs during an emergency; measures to assure that licensed care facilities have adequate evacuation plans; training on Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia for emergency workers; and help for those who rely on medical equipment during power outages. After presenting these recommendations to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, city councils, and local aging commissions in the county, YCCAAS will monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations and provide needed assistance.

“Supervisor Jim Provenza had the foresight to bring the issue of disaster preparedness to the Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services, to make sure the elderly and disabled in our area are not left behind in an emergency,” said Vice Chair of the Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services Elaine Roberts Musser. “It is going to take a group effort and earnest collaboration between the county, cities, and citizens themselves to ensure that the elderly and disabled are not forgotten in a crisis.” Submitted by Jenny Tan, Yolo County Information Officer

Kids love the baby animals that are shown at the Guinda Grange Hall during the Almond Festival sponsored by the Valley 4-H club.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA Meeting: Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Countryside Community Church in Esparto. 1 hour open.
Spanish AA: Alcohólicos Anónimos: Detrás de El Toro. Los lunes, miércoles, y viernes a las 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Spanish Al-Anon: Spanish Al-Anon: Detrás de El Toro (26628 N. Grafton). Los Martes a las 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Al-Anon: Countryside Community Church on Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church: Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday at 26479 Grafton Street; weekly Bible Studies, info at www.calvaryesparto.org/bible-study
Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: 11:00 a.m. adult Sunday school; 11:45 a.m. social; 12:10-1:10 worship/children’s Sunday School at the Guinda Community Church
Esparto Lions Club Meeting:
Esparto High School Ag Boosters
Esparto Food Distribution:
Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce:
Food and Clothes Closet:
Esparto Unified School Board Meeting:
Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee Planning Council:
Esparto Ag Boosters:
Countryside Community Church:
Esparto Family Practice:
Esparto Community Services District:
Legal Services in Esparto:
Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors’ Meeting: meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Esparto Regional Library.
Esparto Comunity Services District: meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
Esparto Family Practice: open: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-6:00 p.m. and Thursday from 1:00-6:00 p.m.
Esparto Food Distribution: Produce on the 2nd Monday and canned and dried foods on 4th Monday at the RISE office from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Esparto High School Ag Boosters: meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Ag Classroom at the high school.
Esparto Lions Club Meeting: meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the VFW hall 7:00 p.m.
Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce: meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Chamber Office at 16858 Yolo Avenue. (787-3242)
Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: meets on the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in Room A-7 at the High School.
Food and Clothes Closet: open on Wednesdays 9:00-12:00 p.m. and Fridays 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Countryside Community Church. Contact RISE Inc. at 787-4110 for information.
Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors’ Meeting: the 2nd Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. (except for July and November) at the Library
Legal Services in Esparto: free services offered on the 1st Thursdays of every other month at the RISE office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Call 787-4110 for an appointment.
Guinda Community Church: Sunday service at 9:00 a.m.
Guinda Food Distribution: Produce distribution on the 2nd Monday and canned and dried goods on the 4th Monday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Guinda Grange Hall.
Madison Advisory Committee: 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District. No meetings in May, November or December.
Madison Community Committee: 3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District.
Madison Fire Commissioners Meeting: 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Madison Fire Department at 17880 Stephens Street.
Madison Food Closet: open the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District Building (summer hour).
Madison Service District Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the District office at 28963 Main Street in Madison.
New Life Christian Center in Madison: Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m. with Jr. Church for ages 5-12. Home Bible Studies on Wednesday.
On Fire Fellowship of Esparto: Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. Bible Study: Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Youth Group: Fri. at 6:30 p.m.; Ladies: 1st/3rd Tues. at 6:30 p.m.
RISE Collaborative Meeting: meets the 3rd Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the RISE office (except August and December).
Ramsey Improvement Association: Potluck dinner and meeting on the 1st Monday. 6:00 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7:10 p.m. meeting at the Ramsey Hall
St. Martin’s Catholic Mission Church: English Mass: 8:30 a.m. on Sundays; Spanish Mass: 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays at St. Martin’s Catholic Mission, 25633 Grafton St.
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Western Yolo Post 7143, meets 2nd Monday each month, at Post Home, Orleans St. and Highway 16.
Western Yolo Grange: meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:00: social, and 6:30 p.m.: potluck dinner and meeting at the Grange Hall at 16787 Forrest in Guinda.
4-H: meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Community Center in Esparto.