Yolo County Issues New Health Order Terminating Local Shelter in Place Order

Effective May 28, Yolo County issued a new health order in effect until further notice that extinguishes the local Shelter In Place order and:

- maintains the face covering health order;
- emphasizes the importance of personal responsibility;
- continues personal health and safety guidance such as social distancing and hygiene; and
- provides additional directives and guidance.

Since the local Shelter In Place order is terminated, Yolo County residents will still need to comply with the State of California’s Stay At Home order and are prohibited from reopening businesses that have not been approved by the State and local Health Officer. The new local order includes language that gives the County Health Officer authority to allow newly released state activities to resume in the County as well as to strengthen or supplement state guidance with local recommendations or protocols. For the new health order and to track which activities have been approved by the local Health Officer, visit www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap.

Yolo County hopes to remove public confusion over having multiple Shelter In Place orders (i.e. local and state) while still providing guidance for local businesses to reopen as safely as possible; standards for residents who participate in newly released activities; and measures to help decrease the chances of COVID-19 surges and prioritize the health and safety of all its communities.

“The County continues to move rapidly toward streamlining and clarifying processes aimed at approving and implementing the re-opening of select businesses and activities consistent with guidelines issued by the state,” said Yolo County Board Chair Gary Sandy. “Underlying these changes will be an enhanced emphasis on the importance of personal responsibility, including the need to make wise health choices and the ongoing value of minimizing risk by sheltering in place.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues and activities reopen, the public is responsible for adhering to the rules or guidelines that are set by the State and County as well as practicing social distancing and wearing a face covering. Businesses are also responsible for enforcing and specifying policies at their establishment for the public and staff to follow. Everyone has a role to play in keeping our communities safe and healthy. Older adults and all individuals with underlying medical conditions should continue to stay at home as much as possible through stage 4 of the State’s Roadmap.

For more information on the County’s response, visit www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap. Residents can also call Yolo 2-1-1 for resource information. For additional updates follow Yolo County on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/YoloCounty/ or Twitter at: https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA. Submitted by Jenny Tan, Public Information Officer

Additional Activities to Resume in Yolo County

Yolo County will begin allowing additional activities to resume operations including non-essential offices, non-essential retail in-store shopping, dine-in restaurants, hair salons and barbershops, and places of worship. Yolo County’s attestation was recently approved on May 20 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) which allows the County to move further into Stage 2. Face coverings are still mandatory in Yolo County for the public and businesses as it is a separate health order in effect until further notice.

Though some activities were approved last week by the State of California, Yolo County delayed reopening to ensure that the proper guidance and guidelines were in place and businesses had time to prepare. The following activities are allowed to resume on the specified dates below as long as they 1) follow State and/or County guidelines, 2) adhere to the County’s face covering order; 3) comply with strict social distancing protocols:

**Effective May 27:**
- Non-essential offices (telework strongly encouraged)
- Non-essential retail for in-store shopping and at shopping centers.
- Dine-in restaurants

**Effective May 28:**
- Hair salons and barbershops

**Effective May 29:**
- Places of worship (remote services strongly encouraged)
- Some key measures to note in the State’s guidance for dine-in restaurants include, but are not limited to: removing tables and chairs from dining areas that six feet of physical distance can be maintained, closing bar areas, adjusting maximum occupancy rules, encouraging reservations, performing thorough, frequent cleaning, and installing hand sanitizer dispensers at entrances and contact areas.

Resources regarding re-opening requirements, including state guidelines, plan templates, infographics, and flyers, are available for businesses, offices and restaurants at: www.yolocounty.org/business-toolkit.

Guidelines for other permitted activities may be located on the County webpage at www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap.

“The Board today weighed the progress we’ve made in terms of community health and safe practices and conveyed our support for reopening these activities to the public health officer,” said Yolo County Board Chair Gary Sandy. “This move underscores the importance of restoring the local economy in a way that safeguards existing COVID-related health protocols such as social distancing, masks and frequent hand washing.” cont. on pg. 3
FERL  (Friends of the Esparto Regional Library)

Our biggest fund raiser this year was the Big Day of Giving. Last year we had a high of almost $2500.00 dollars, but this year we surpassed $2700.00 dollars from 50 contributors. So many thanks to everyone.

The Middle School Associated Student Body provided much labor for Bunko, Children’s Shopping day (25 plus students), and our annual book sale. We would not have been able to be anywhere near successful at any of these activities if not for their assistance.

This has become a great partnership for us, as many of us are older and we need additional help. FERL supports the Science Fair and History Fair for supplies that students cannot afford. The library is heavily used weeks before these events, getting ready for the fair. Our members also furnish many of the judges for these activities. Because of their help we contributed $12,000 dollars this year to the county to fund programs and activities for our community. That is $2800 dollars more than last year.

We need partnerships like this to assist us. Last year we added two new board positions: Middle School Rep. Erin Symons and High School Rep Stephanie Shato, who has been a tremendous help both with students and family members. Stephanie was able to get the soccer team to help us box and put up all the books. We were done in an hour. It was great sharing with these students the importance of volunteering.

The book sale was open three days this year and was extremely well received. Many community members came on Saturday; Sunday was huge, of course, and on Monday teachers came and brought students for a free book. Over $1700.00 dollars was raised, which was much more than last year. The middle school students, thanks to Ms. Symons, helped us set up for the event.

My sister, who passed this past year, was a big library fan. She donated here last year and her estate gave over 25 cases of books for the book sale, kitchen items to Bunko, and a lot of jewelry for the Children’s Shopping Day.

We all give in different ways either by our labor or by dollars and items available. It is with great thanks and appreciation we receive your kind support in whatever way you can give. Of course, also thanking the past and current FERL boards for all their time and energy.

We hope students are taking part in the Library sponsored Summer Reading Program signs that are post around the community.

Loving Your Library,

FERL Board Members:
- Jim Schulte President of FERL jschulte_611@hotmail.com
- Virginia Toby Vice-President
- Pamela Marvel Treasurer
- Lynn Fostine Secretary
- Gretchen Paddock
- Ron Cristian
- Lea Lloyd
- Erin Simons-Middle School Representative
- Stephanie Dennis-High School Representative

Contact: Ferl.org

Submitted by Jim Schulte, President
To the students, parents and Esparto community,

The intent of this message is to provide an update with information for the Esparto Unified School District during the COVID-19 crisis.

Employees have continued to work tirelessly to provide distance learning, food and a welcoming environment for our staff and students. Staff members are also planning special memories for our 5th, 8th and 12th graders. All of our students matter, however, those particular grade levels are a marking point in our students’ lives.

The 2019-2020 school year will end on June 5. Our food program will be changing to the summer feed program. This means the only locations we will be providing food are: Esparto Elementary School, Esparto High School, and the Madison Migrant Center. This will be a grab-and-go breakfast and lunch available from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Thursday will have double meals.

Each school will provide information on when and how to return the Chromebooks so we can do any necessary repairs as we plan and prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Esparto Unified School District is dedicated to providing a quality education for our students while keeping the safety of all involved in the forefront. We plan to start our first day of school on August 12, 2020. We are planning for several different scenarios depending upon the health guidelines provided by the state.

We would like to gather more information from you as parents and members of the community. We have placed two surveys on our District Website www.eusdk12.org. Please take a few minutes to provide feedback. Thank you for your continued support.

Activities to Resume (Cont. from pg. 1)

As these activities reopen, the public is responsible for adhering to the guidelines that are set by these entities as well as practicing social distancing and wearing a face covering. Everyone has a role to play in keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Older adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions should continue to stay at home as much as possible except for accessing essential services and activities.

While the State Order is in effect, counties are prohibited from reopening businesses that have not been approved. Items not permitted in Stage 2 of the State’s Readiness Plan include: nail salons, gyms, libraries, public pools, playgrounds, nightclubs, concert venues, live audience sports, theme parks, hotels for leisure or tourism, higher education and others. Counties are permitted to be more restrictive, not less, than the State regarding the reopening of activities.

For additional or specific guidelines on permitted items, click on the hyperlinked business or activity at: www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap. Residents can also call Yolo 2-1-1 for resource information. For additional updates follow Yolo County on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/YoloCounty/ or Twitter at: https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA.

Submitted by Carolyn Jhajj, Interim Lead Public Information Officer

WHEN ARE YOU REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Waiting in line to go into a store.
Shopping at a store to pick up food.
On public transportation or waiting for it.
In a taxi or a ride share vehicle.
Seeking healthcare.
Going into businesses allowed to stay open, like government offices. While working at an essential job that interacts with the public.

WHEN ARE YOU NOT REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

At home, but if someone is sick, use a face covering to reduce exposure.
In your car alone or if you are with members of your household.
Exercising outdoors, like walking, hiking, bicycling, or running. You must still comply with social distancing and have a face covering readily accessible.
If it will create a safety or health hazard at work.
If advised not to by your healthcare provider.
Children under 2 must not wear a facial covering. They may suffocate.

WHO DOES NOT HAVE TO WEAR A FACE COVERING?

Children under 2 years old must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Children 2 years and older should be encouraged to wear a mask when around others closer than 6 feet. Those with Certain Health Conditions: If you have documentation showing a medical professional has told you not to wear a face covering, you do not have to wear one. Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is not able to take off a face covering without help, should not wear one. If you have a physical disability that prevents you from wearing a face covering, you do not have to wear one. If you are deaf and use face and mouth movements as part of communication, you can remove your mask while signing. Be Safe.

Submitted by Carolyn Jhajj, Interim Information Officer

As we are completing the 2019-2020 school year, the staff of Madison Community High School is excited to congratulate and celebrate the accomplishments of all our students. Our biggest congratulations go out to the members of the class of 2020 that have dedicatedly worked through the Madison program to earn the credits necessary for graduation.

This year Madison will graduate 10 students into the class of 2020. One of the members of the class of 2020 completed his course work in October, another completed her coursework in February, and the rest are in the process of completing their course work with an expected completion date of June 4. We are excited about being able to celebrate these students in a virtual graduation ceremony that we will share with the community on June 4. All members of the Esparto Unified School District are very proud of our seniors and wish them well as they move on from Madison.

In addition to the success of our seniors, the Madison staff would also like to celebrate our underclassman. We have three Juniors who have earned enough credits to return to Esparto High School. Two of those students will be returning in the fall while one of the students will remain at Madison so that he can continue to take advantage of our program.

As a group, our students earned over 300 credits in the 3rd quarter of this academic year. This productivity is a real testament to the hard work many of our students put into their learning this year.

As we close out this school year without our students on campus, the staff of Madison is looking forward to the start of the next school year so that we can once again have the opportunity to interact with the wonderful students we have here at Madison. We hope that all of our students have a safe and restful summer break, and come back ready to learn in August.

Madison Community High School News
Javier E. Macias, Site Administrator

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Submitted by Carolyn Jhaii, Interim Information Officer
Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration Happening Now!

Esparto Elementary School is currently enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year. Children who will turn 5 years old between September 2 and December 2 are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten. Children who will turn 5 on or before September 1 are eligible for Kindergarten. Please come to the Esparto Elementary School office Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to pick up a registration packet. Please call (530)-787-3417 with any questions.

Fifth Grade Promotion

One of the special traditions at Esparto Elementary School is the 5th Grade Bridge Crossing Ceremony. During the last week of the school year, 5th graders cross the bridge from Esparto Elementary to Esparto Middle School. They are greeted by middle school students and leaders, given a tour of their new campus, and get to have all their questions answered. With our schools closed this year due to COVID-19, we had to change our way of marking this important milestone in our students’ lives. Each 5th grade student had a Promotion Certificate and a treat delivered to their home on the day we would have held the Bridge Crossing.


Submitted by Erika St. Andre, Principal

Celebration in the Midst of It All

For any student reaching a milestone like the 5th Grade Bridge-crossing Ceremony, 8th Grade promotion, and High School graduation, these last few months have been particularly difficult. It is equally difficult for parents who so desperately want to celebrate these achievements. For the teachers and staff and school it is also heart-breaking. We know how hard our students have worked and we share in the joy of these significant celebrations seeing the past and the future in our eyes.

We will not let these accomplishments go by unnoticed. Each school has planned their own way to recognize their students and celebrate. 8th grade students will have the yard adorned with a custom balloon designed by Mr. Hall and they will be presented with their promotion certificate. On June 3 we will be sharing a recorded promotion ceremony with speeches from select students and staff. We will honor our students for their hard work and dedication.

To all the parents out there working hard to help their child learn at home, while balancing all of life's other duties, please take pride in the work you have done. It has been no easy task for many of us! You deserve special recognition for all the work you have done. Please know we miss our students so much and long to have them on campus again.

Migrant Ed Summer School 2020

Amidst all of the chaos in the world right now, one thing that Esparto’s Migrant Ed students can count on is a summer school program. Not knowing whether the Shelter-in-Place restriction will be lifted by the start of summer school or not, the Esparto district and teachers have been collaborating to create a virtual summer school program. Our goal is to ensure that students are learning this summer, whether or not they are able to be on campus. Online tools, such as Google Classroom, Class Dojo, and Zoom, will all be utilized so that teachers and students are still interacting with each other outside of the classroom. During this full-time, three-week summer program, students will focus on developing and improving their skills in the areas of English Language Arts, Math, and ELD. On a daily basis, students will participate in activities related to Reading, Writing, Math, and Public Speaking. We have a strong team of teachers who are already working on creating lessons for students that will be both rigorous and engaging. Our goal for the students is to not only increase their reading, writing, and math proficiency, but to also improve their skills regarding communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. Through Esparto’s virtual summer school program, each migrant student will be getting the extra support that he/she needs in order to reach his/her individual potential.

Submitted by Sherrie Vann, Principal

Please see pg. 5 for the names of the the 8th grade students graduating from Middle School, and the High School students graduating from high school.
Congratulations to the Class of 2020! As this unique and unimaginable school year comes to an end, I cannot describe how appreciative I am to the staff of Esparto High School who have tried to make the Class of 2020 feel special. The staff has organized a virtual Senior Awards Ceremony that will include presentation of scholarships and awards. The link for the ceremony can be found on the EHS website and will go live at 6:30 on Tuesday, May 26.

We are also filming a virtual Graduation for our Seniors. We understand that it is not the event that they and their families had hoped for, but they have been invited to receive their diploma on stage in the Auditorium, film the tossing of their cap, the turning of their tassel and share their shoutout and who they would have given a rose to. There will also be a link on our website on June 5 for the community to view this event.

A huge thank you to Mr. Wayne Hall who has worked tirelessly on putting these virtual events together as well as the graduation program. Another big thank you to Mrs. Kersting who has worked behind the scenes and closely with Mr. Hall in organizing the events. These two, and their committees, have been amazing in creating such special celebrations. I can’t wait for the committee to see them and I hope you will enjoy them as much as we will. (See names listed below.) Thank you all for your continued support of Esparto High School.

Go Spartans!

Esparto High School Graduates

Acevedo, Sebastian
Aguirre, Perla
Alano, Iliana
Armstrong, Jonathan
Beauchamp, Darren
Bettencourt, Mariah
Buckmaster, Brevin
Burns, Justin
Cano, Rozelei
Carpenter, Brooke
Ceja, Eduardo
Chavez, Alexander
Chavez, Milka
Chavez, Miroslava
Chavez, Ruby
Conrique, Alejandro
Corona, Sammy
Del Toro, Heliodoro
Echarte, Joseph
Edwards, Kiera
Erickson, Kinsey
Fierro, Anette
Figueroa, Monica
Figueroa, Omar
Gallardo, Cody
Gamez, Justin
Garcia, Jolyssa
Garza, Andrea
Gomez, Diana
Hernandez, Aldo
Hernandez, Benjamin
Hilliard, Gage
Huitt, Travis
Ibarra, Aaliyah
Jackson, Aysiah
Jensen, Elizabeth
Jespersen, Jordan
Lacy, Ashante
Lawrence, Issac
Lopez, Anthony
Lopez, Francisco
Lopez, Samantha
Luna, Alondra
Luney, Kendra
Maldonado, Karina
Mansell, Alexander
Marquez, Eduardo
Martinez, Adrian
Mendoza, Jacqueline
Minges, Zachary

Esparto Middle School 8th Graders

Submitted by Sherrie Vann, Middle School Principal
Come Join

BBQ Burgers on Thursdays!
Time: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Includes:
Burger, chips & a drink for $7.50

26797 St. Hwy 16, Esparto, CA 95627
(530) 787-1740

Manas Ranch
Fred and Alice Manas, Owners
25838 County Road 21A
Esparto California 95627
(530) 787-3228
Fax: 787-1878
fjmanas@sbcglobal.net
“The Best Peaches in the West”
Banner to Display Historical Photos of Almond Queens 1915-2020

The Capay Valley Almond Festival began in 1915. Many young women have been selected as Almond Queen. For some periods, there were no Festivals: 1916-1928; 1944-1963; 1973-1974. For the remaining 72 years, names of the Queens are known for 66 years. Queens have been selected at the Queen Dinner in the Guinda Grange Hall, before the Almond Festival the following weekend.

About a year ago, a long-time valley resident, Tom Covington of Brooks, suggested to his neighbor, Caroline Bledsoe, that he would like to see an historical display of all the Queens in the Guinda Grange Hall. Both Tom’s mother and daughter were Almond Queens.

Caroline began her detective work. The capayvalley.com web site has a list of queens. Caroline talked to area residents. She searched the web and visited these sites: Esparto Chamber of Commerce, the Esparto and Woodland public libraries, the Woodland Daily Democrat, the Yolo County Archives. Caroline thanks many who provided photos or leads for photos.

Photos show winners, some in their Queen gowns, others in senior high school pictures, or casual photos. For early years, there are queen photos of young women. Julie Rose of Brooks, found additional photos; (thank you Julie!) We have 50 photos and would like to receive more to complete the collection of pictures of the winners.

F & F Multi-Print, Woodland, CA, did the complex layout and produced a beautiful Almond Queens Banner in color with 50 Queen photographs. In addition, there are 3 photographs of queens and their courts: Lucille Spearin 1939, Laverne Curtis 1940, and Phyllis Covington 1941. The Banner can be seen at the Guinda Grange Hall, Guinda CA.

We have not found queen photos for several decades. To provide photos or higher quality photos, contact Caroline Bledsoe (18080 County Road 70, Brooks CA 95606; or email caroline.bledsoe@gmail.com.)

For 1915-1963, we only have 5 photos: Josephine Owen 1929, Helen McCants 1930, Lela Gray 1931, Lucille Spearin 1939, Laverne Curtis 1940, and Phyllis Covington 1941. We have no names for 1916-1928. For 1930-1943 we only have photos for Elsie Cook 1932, Agnes Tibbets 1934, Janice Humphrey 1938, Miriam Faulkner 1942, and Barbara Pede 1943. We have no names or pictures for 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937. There were no festivals for 1944-1963.


Help is needed to get the photos of those we do not have, names and photos of Queens for those missing. Any information regarding the above mentioned names of former queens would be much appreciated. We know that many of these young women may no longer live in this area. If anyone has contact with any of these winners, your help would be appreciated. It would be great to have a completed banner hanging at the Guinda Grange. Thank you.

Submitted by Caroline Bledsoe

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The Rays of the Sun
By Clarence G. Underwood

The dawn has come, the light appears.  
The sun is rising, it allays all fears.  
The Rays of the sun enter here.  
Night is gone, day has appeared.  
I start my day looking at the sun.  
I use my filtered telescope to see this one.  
I turn to the west and there I see,  
The moon sink below the horizon,  
That fascinates me!  
As the day goes forward, I read and I pray.  
Seeking God, my day proceeds that way!  
We all look for something in our very own way,  
Some seek wisdom and knowledge,  
While others just play!  
I love my family in my own way,  
I'm here to tell you, they love me too,  
As their love they display!  
Each day with the sun rises one can hear me say,  
God, thank you for this blessing and letting  
Us see the sun beam today!  

Photo by Clarence Underwood  
Submitted by: Clarence G. Underwood

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Eclipse Visible in Esparto and Surrounding Area on July 4

On this coming July 4, all Esparto and Capay Valley citizens will have the opportunity to view a partial eclipse of the Moon. The event will occur between 8:30-10:30 p.m. The Moon will be in the Eastern Sky rising toward zenith. Maximum shading of the partially eclipsed Moon will take place at about 9:30 p.m. This will be a penumbral eclipse so the Moon will only be slightly shaded. What a great way to complete the Fourth of July.

There will be another eclipse soon, but you might want to take this one in! A Lunar or eclipse of the Moon, can only happen during a full Moon. (It is caused by the Moon entering the shadow of the Earth when the alignment of the Sun, Earth and Moon takes place.) The Earth being in the middle. A solar eclipse, when the Sun, Moon and Earth are aligned, will next be seen in 2023! The Earth will enter the Moon's shadow, the Moon will be in the middle!
Full Belly Farm
Friday Farm Stand
Open from 1pm to 5pm
County Road 43
Just north of Guinda
530-796-2214
CSA boxes available for pickup at the Farm or in Esparto!
www.fullbellyfarm.com

Countryside Community Church
Where Holiness and Wholeness connect.
A safe Harbor where the gifts of human community, abundance, hospitality, and spirituality reside.
Saturday Fellowship Meal: 6 - 7 PM
Potluck meal, singing, conversation, prayer and laughter.
Sunday Worship Service: 9 AM
Adults and children welcome, followed by coffee, refreshments and conversation.

Welcome to St. Martin De Porres Catholic Mission Church
25633 W. Grafton Street – Esparto, CA 95627
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

Need Help?
St. Vincent de Paul is available to help those in need.
For more information call (530) 312-8967

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.
Keep Your Children Safe Online During COVID-19

The current COVID-19 crisis is one we face together with care, collaboration, and creativity. The following information will help you protect your children against online criminal activity while they are online during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place and beyond. Due to the COVID-19 crisis and suspension of school attendance, children are at home and online more than ever. This can expose our children to criminals who exploit the anonymity of internet-based communication. Knowing the places and people your children “visit” online is just as important as knowing their friends and the places they go in the real world. Every minute of the day, children are solicited and victimized online.

According to The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) (https://www.missingkids.org/) the number of reported child exploitation events during the COVID-19 crisis is up over 300 percent. Last week alone there were 1,127,513 events reported to the center.

The Yolo County District Attorney’s Office is working with law enforcement, educators, and others to develop a program that teaches parents and community leaders how to protect children on the Internet. Our goal is to reduce online victimization, increase the reporting of criminal exploitation, and provide valuable resources for families to help guard against internet predators. Online predatory behavior toward children most often involves one or more of the following goals:

- To obtain explicit photos of children (or to share photos of their own);
- To engage in sexual conversation and/or online role-play;
- Or to meet in person for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

To avoid detection, predators will often engage with their victims on anonymous messaging apps, through text messaging, or on livestreaming sites/apps. Sexual predators have been known to engage victims through social media apps, online games, and chat rooms. If your child is old enough to access the internet or have a smartphone, they are old enough to discuss online safety and the potential consequences of risky behavior. It is crucial that children are empowered to confide in a parent or other responsible adult if they find themselves in a dangerous situation.

The most important and effective way to protect children online is to be involved with your children’s online activity and speak openly with your children about online safety precautions.

- Know who is talking to your children on the Internet.
- Know what websites your children visit.
- To help protect children from online predators, be involved, monitor your child’s online activity and consider internet monitoring software to help check on your child’s online activity.

For more information on The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s online safety software and resources for parents visit: https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz. Should your child become the target of a predator make sure you do not delete the digital footprints before first contacting law enforcement for guidance. Block the offender and report the offender to the service provider used to contact your child and most importantly report this crime to the police. To report suspected internet crimes against children, please call your local police department or the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office High Tech Crimes Unit at 530-666-8180.

Submitted by Kevin Clark, from the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office

Yolo DA Encourages Gun Safety and Secure Storage of Firearms During COVID-19

The Yolo County District Attorney’s Office would like to remind you during this current COVID-19 pandemic that it is the law and your responsibility to lock and secure your firearms. Kids are out of school and spending more time at home. The boredom and isolation they may be feeling pose additional risks to their safety. Securing all firearms in the home by storing them locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition can save your child’s life.

It’s clear that, in this uncertain and unprecedented time, many are purchasing firearms. Even as stay-at-home orders have devastated many businesses, retailers of guns and ammunition are reporting massive spikes in sales. Many stores are reporting that first-time gun owners account for a major part of those surging sales.

If you’ve made the decision to own a gun and have it in your home, it’s important to know how responsible gun owners work to keep their families safe by reducing the risks associated with firearm ownership. Responsible gun owners securely store their guns so that they are inaccessible to children and other people who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Remember that every person who purchases a firearm in the state of California signs an agreement that they will use the issued gunlock and/or properly secure the firearm in a gun safe when they take it home. The proper storage of your personal firearm is the law in the State of California. California Penal Code 25100 discusses the conditions for a person to be charged with unlawfully storing of a firearm (https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/penal-code/pen-sect-25100.html). California Penal Code 25105 discusses the exceptions to criminal storage of a firearm (https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/penal-code/pen-sect-25105.html). The definition of a locking device according to California Penal Code 16860 means a device that is designed to prevent a firearm from functioning and, when applied to the firearm, renders the firearm inoperable. It’s safe to assume that children and teens can find guns in your home. Kids will be kids, so it’s always an adult’s responsibility to keep children safe. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they’ve been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. 4.6 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked. Every year, more than 600 children, 17 and under, die by suicide with a gun. 41% of adolescents in gun-owning households report having “easy access” to the guns in their homes. Nearly 350 children unintentionally shot themselves or someone else each year. Also, in incidents of gunfire on school grounds, 78% of shooters under 18 obtained the guns from their home or the homes of relatives or friends. These incidents can be prevented with secure storage of your firearms.

It’s important to know that secure storage devices won’t stand in the way of getting to your gun quickly if you need it. There are plenty of affordable storage options – from lockboxes, to gun safes, to devices with biometric authentication (such as recognition of fingerprint and palm print) – that allow you access to guns in a matter of seconds while still preventing access by children and other unauthorized people. Proper gun safety training on how to use your firearm and properly secure it are available online during COVID-19. Also, according to the recent, updated health order issued by Yolo County, there are relaxed restrictions on shooting ranges, to use for training and practice now to learn gun safety and storage in person. For more information on gun safety and properly securing firearms in the house visit besmartforkids.org. Model responsible behavior around guns; Ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; Recognize the role of guns in suicide; tell your peers to be SMART. Also, you can call the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office at 530-666-8180 for information on gun safety and securing firearms in your home. Submitted by Jenny Tan, Yolo Co. Information Officer

Volume 22, Edition 6, June 2020
Local Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esparto Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Andrea Garza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almond Queen Participation Award</td>
<td>Alondra Lua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ceteras Memorial Scholarship</td>
<td>Kiera Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capay Valley Firefighters Association</td>
<td>Sierra Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHS Athletic Boosters Scholarship</td>
<td>Kelsey Schwenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esparto Lions Club Scholarship</td>
<td>Jordan Jespersen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esparto Teachers Association Award</td>
<td>Ben Hernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Gadow Pio Plco #1801 Award</td>
<td>Justin Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocson-Poon Scholarship</td>
<td>Justin Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esparto Food Service District Aide Award</td>
<td>Joseph Echard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George and Isabel Story STEM Award</td>
<td>Briana Molina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Toro Meat Market Scholarship</td>
<td>Omar Figueroa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoes Down Agriculture Scholarship</td>
<td>Sierra Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoes Down AHHH Award</td>
<td>Andrea Garza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Yolo Grange #423 Scholarship</td>
<td>Sierra Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esparto High School Spanish Club Award</td>
<td>Kelly Schwenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California School Employees Association</td>
<td>Andrea Garza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartan Culinary Scholarship</td>
<td>Diana Gomez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican American Concilio of Yolo Co.</td>
<td>Sierra Winter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Esparto High School 2020 Senior Awards Night: May 26

The staff of Esparto High School honored the graduating class of 2020 in a virtual awards ceremony that aired on May 26. During the virtual ceremony, the Class of 2020 was recognized for their academic achievements including GPA Honor Cords, Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas, and State Seals of Biliteracy. Kinsey Erickson and Issac Lawrence were named Spartan Athletes of the Year. Kelly Schwenger and Nicholas Miranda were named Outstanding Spartan Citizens, and Sierra Winter and Omar Figueroa were named Spartans of the Year.

The ceremony also recognized Salutatorian Sierra Winter and Valedictorian Omar Figueroa. In addition to academic honors, students were presented with local scholarship awards totaling over $40,000. The ceremony highlighted some of the graduates' future plans including fall attendance at UCLA, Cal Berkeley, Azusa Pacific, Sonoma State, Sacramento State, Woodland Community College, Universal Technical Institute and more.

The ceremony concluded with some special messages for the graduates from EHS staff members during the Covid-19 school closures. Esparto High School staff continue to be grateful for the outstanding support of the parents and community members of the Capay Valley, and we offer our deepest congratulations to the Class of 2020. See names of recipients to the left.

Submitted by Alexis Kersting, Esparto High School Counselor

Local Students are Invited to Enter the Clean Air Calendar Contest

Local students are invited to submit their artwork to the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District’s (District) 2021 Clean Air Calendar Contest. The annual contest is a way for students to share their ideas about protecting the environment and inspire us all with their youthful vision. Twelve winners will be selected to receive a $30 Amazon gift card, a Certificate of Achievement, recognition in a future press release and have their winning artwork showcased on the 2021 calendar.

The entry is free and open to all K-12 students who live within the boundaries of the District, which encompasses all of Yolo County and the northeastern portion of Solano County that includes Dixon, Rio Vista and Vacaville.

**Artwork details:**
- Artwork theme: Better Air, Better Health
- Artwork must be horizontal on standard white 8 ½ x 11 paper.
- Artwork must be created using only colored pencil, pen, crayon and/or paint.
- Digital art or photography will not be accepted.
- The back of the artwork must have the student's name, grade, school and teacher's name and the student's full address and phone number (to receive the final calendar).

All entries must be submitted by July 31, 2020 to the District office, located at 1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103, in Davis, CA 95618. For more information contact Public Information Officer Stephanie Holliday at: (530) 757-3657 or sholliday@ysaqmd.com. To see the current flyer or previous calendars, visit: https://www.ysaqmd.org/about-the-district/news-outreach/. Artwork may be disqualified if all terms are not met.

For more information about the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, including signing up for air quality alerts and the monthly newsletter, visit: https://www.ysaqmd.org/. Connect with the District on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/YoloSolanoAir or on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/volosolanoair.

Submitted by: Stephanie Holliday | Public Information Officer
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY!**

As Valley Clean Energy reaches its two-year anniversary, memories of my role in its formation keep popping into my head.

Way back in 2002, it was my job as a lobbyist representing a statewide association of cities to advocate on behalf of cities before the California Legislature. This included the legislation that became law and authorizes cities and counties to buy electricity on behalf of their residents and businesses. These are known as Community Choice Aggregation (or CCA) programs.

Little did I know that, 18 years later, this new law would blossom and flourish into 21 operating CCAs throughout California, successfully serving 10 million customers in more than 170 cities and counties. More amazing to me is that the new law ultimately enabled my own city of Davis and my county, Yolo (along with Woodland), to form their own CCA — Valley Clean Energy. Frankly, this is a very humbling experience.

VCE reflects the best of local government — local control, transparency, community engagement and expert administration — to provide services to residents and businesses it serves. I’ve had a front-row seat in VCE’s formation and evolution, from my involvement in the legislation that authorized CCAs, to membership on the Davis Advisory Committee charged with evaluating whether Davis should form a CCA, and ended with chairing the VCE Community Advisory Committee.

It’s been an honor to serve with so many talented and dedicated individuals on the Community Advisory Committee. Not only are they knowledgeable about energy and utility issues, they have their respective fingers on the pulses of their communities and offer thoughtful input to the VCE board and staff.

It is exciting to observe how VCE has changed the energy landscape in Yolo County. Yes, our rates are competitive with PG&E’s, and the amount of renewable energy VCE buys is higher than PG&E’s.

What truly sets VCE apart from PG&E, though, is what was originally envisioned 18 years ago in the authorizing legislation — local energy decision-making that’s accessible to all, combined with expert staff and community members dedicated to designing programs that reflect the needs of the communities they serve.

For example, an emphasis on local community economic development and local energy development is at the core of VCE. In May, the VCE board of directors approved renewal of a small contract to purchase electricity produced at the Indian Valley Hydro Power Facility, owned and operated by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

And VCE recently approved a long-term power purchase agreement to buy 50 megawatts of renewable energy from a new solar project in the Central Valley. VCE is also negotiating to buy electricity from another new solar project; our involvement will help get both of these projects built.

Finally, in April, VCE issued a request for offers to purchase renewable energy from qualifying local projects, either here in Yolo County or from the six adjacent counties. While all of these accomplishments are important, what truly delights me is how VCE engages with the communities it serves. Do you have a question about your bill or about how VCE’s rooftop solar program works? Would you care to comment about a proposed new program or policy or pose a question about VCE’s budget?

It is easy to connect with VCE — either drop by the VCE office (when that becomes feasible again), attend a live or virtual VCE board of directors or Community Advisory Committee meeting, or simply call or email your question at 855-699-8232 or info@valleycleanenergy.org. You can also stay informed about what’s going on by signing up for an email list at https://valleycleanenergy.org/get-involved/. Cont. on pg. 15
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 2 x 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.**

The Food Closet is open at the Countryside Community Church on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, and on Fridays from 2:00-5:00 p.m.
The 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.

**Countryside Community Church Food Distribution on Sundays at 10:00.**

Free Produce Distribution
**When:** 1st and 3rd Thursday
**Where:** RISE, Inc. office
17313 Fremont St.,
**Espar**
**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
**Espar**
**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.
Capay Valley Flora

Our beautiful valley oaks support numerous types of wildlife in their canopies. One of the most interesting is the gall wasp that in fall lays its eggs just under the surface of the bark on the stems of the oak. When the larvae hatch and start to feed on the oak they produce a growth hormone that causes that area to swell and form a round gall around the larvae. In summer the mature wasp exits the gall. Initially the galls are smooth and light green with the occasional pinkish blush but over the summer they turn light brown and can grow as large as an apple. The galls may eventually blacken as a sooty mold grows on their surface. These galls do not injure the tree and in time will fall off. There are hundreds of insects that produce galls on trees. The gall wasps and other insects are a critical food source for native wildlife.

Submitted by Pamela Bateman

Countryside Community Church

in partnership with RISE, Inc.

The Countryside Community Church is extending its Food Closet Hours during this time of need.

La Iglesia Countryside Community Church está extendiendo las horas de comida durante este tiempo de necesidad

Hours of operation (Horas de operación):
- Tuesday (Martes) 12p - 6p
- Wednesday (Miércoles) 9a - 12p
- Friday (Viernes) 2p - 5p

Please come on by (Por favor vengan)

Foods offered when available:
(Comida ofrecida cuando esté disponible)
- Meats (Carne)
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce (Salsa para Pasta)
- Dairy items (cheese, Milk, eggs) (Productos lácteos (queso, leche, huevos)
- Canned Fruits and Veggies (Frutas y verduras enlatadas)
- Fresh Produce (Productos frescos)

Local seniors in the RISE Program enjoyed Bitty Bouquets, Manas Burgers and Cookies this past month while they are "Staying In Place." Top: Larry and Patsy Dobbins; Left: Josephina Cano; Right: Kelly Connelly; Below: Obituary for Dorothy Wittman

Dorothy Wittman
Dorothy Wittman passed on 4/25/2020 at almost 102. Raised in Michigan; She moved to California in 1962 and enjoyed a career as a beautician and later LVN while she and husband Gene owned automobile dealerships in Lake Co. Both were active in local churches, golf clubs and the community. Dorothy remained strong in spirit and faith even as her body became tired. Preceded in death by her husband, Gene, and sons, Niels and Eugene. She is survived by three children, Nancy Frye (Gerald), Nick Wittman (Susan), and Nola Montgomery; along with many grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren.

You lived and loved well Mom. Thanks for setting a great example and raising the bar high for us. You will be missed. No services planned at this time.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Please contact the group you are interested in, to see if they are still meeting at this time.

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 St.; 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

Capay Valley Fire Commission Meeting: meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Guinda Fire Station.

Capay Valley Garden Club: 4th Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., location varies, see Facebook page for more information.

Capay Valley General Plan Advisory Committee: meets every 1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall in Guinda. Open to all.

Capay Valley Science Club: 4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m., location varies. See Capay Valley Science Club” Google Group for information.

Capay Valley Vision Board: meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Esparto Library at 6:30 p.m. (Meetings are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.)

Cottonwood Cemetery District: will meet on at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 10 in Rm. #204 at the Woodland Administration Bldg. at 625 Court Street.

Countryside Community Church: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School.

Esparto Ag Boosters: meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Ag Department at the high school.

Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee Planning Council: meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Esparto Regional Library.

Esparto Community 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 Distribution at Countryside Community Church: Tuesday: 12:00 p.m.-6:00p.m; Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Friday: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

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.6:30p.m.

RISE Collaborative Meeting: meets the 3rd Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the RISE office (except August and December).

Rumsey 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 Rumsey Hall

St. Martin’s Catholic Mission Church: English Mass: 8:30 a.m. on Sundays; Spanish Mass: 7:00 a.m. on Saturdays at St. Martin’s Catholic Mission,

25633 Grafton St.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Western Yolo Post 7143, meets 1st Wednesday 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.