

Valley Voice

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Investing in Tomorrow: Inside Esparto High's New CTE Facilities

On Sunday, February 22nd, Esparto High School had the opportunity to welcome the community into their brand new CTE Education buildings! CTE, Career Technical Education, is a vital element of the Esparto Unified School District. CTE education is hands-on, career-connected education that prepares students for life after high school by integrating industry standards and equipment into classroom experiences. Esparto USD has a profound commitment to ensuring that every student graduates prepared for college and careers. This commitment is evident in the two brand new CTE buildings at Esparto High School.

Construction on the two year project is nearly complete! Finishing touches are being finalized in the new Culinary/Digital Media building and the Welding shop. Esparto teachers and administrators collaborated with the construction team to design top-tier learning environments, complete with industry- grade equipment. Our staff and students will soon be moving into these spaces where their hands-on learning experiences will be elevated.

In the current Welding shop, students learn three different types of welding: ARC, MIG, and Oxy-Fuel. While the content of learning is comprehensive, only six students have the ability to weld at once. In the new Welding shop, a full class of 22 students will be able to weld simultaneously- this will have a tremendous impact on student learning. Additionally, equipment for a fourth method of welding, TIG, has been incorporated into the new learning environment.

Continued on page 3

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All articles and *payments* are **due on or before the 15th of each month**.

*We reserve the right to edit articles at our discretion,
 due to space limitations and other criteria.*

**The Valley Voice is published monthly in partnership with Yocha Dehe
 Wintun Nation, RISE Inc., & Esparto Unified School District.**



Valley Voice Subscription Form

Let all your friends and relatives know that for just \$25 per year we will mail them each month's edition! This is the perfect way to keep up with all the Capay Valley news and events.

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 P.O. Box 133 Esparto, CA 95627 or bring it into our office (17340 Yolo Ave.)

**LOS PROGRAMAS QUE SERÁN DIRECTAMENTE
 IMPACTADOS POR ESTA CAMPAÑA DE
 RECAUDACIÓN DE FONDOS SON:**

- PROGRAMA DESPUES DE ESCUELA
- PROGRAMA DE ADULTOS MAYORES
- PROGRAMA DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD MENTAL EN LAS ESCUELAS

Día del evento:

7 DE MAYO DEL 2026

¡Ayuda a RISE a alcanzar nuestra meta de \$50,000!

Tu apoyo mantiene disponibles programas esenciales para jóvenes, familias y adultos mayores en nuestras comunidades rurales.

Dona hoy a través de los sitios web de RISE o Giving Edge que aparecen abajo.

Cada donación, grande o pequeña, ayuda a fortalecer nuestra comunidad.



**PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE DIRECTLY IMPACTED
 BY THIS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN ARE:**

- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- SENIOR PROGRAM
- SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Event Date:

MAY 7TH, 2026

Help RISE Reach Our \$50,000 Goal!

Your support keeps vital programs available for youth, families, and seniors in our rural communities.

Donate today through the RISE or Giving Edge websites below.

Every donation—large or small—helps strengthen our community.



Para hacer tu donación, visita: www.riseinc.org/donate www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Rise

To make a donation visit: www.riseinc.org/donate www.bigdayofgiving.org/organization/Rise

Continued: Investing in Tomorrow

In the digital media classroom, there are diverse dedicated classroom spaces to personalize learning. There are three sound-proof photo/video booths, where students will create content; a professional photo studio for portraiture and on-demand still-photography needs; a broadcasting studio where students will record video announcements and start a student-led campus broadcast; an art space where students can express themselves through painting, drawing, 3D art, and multimedia; a dedicated service center that will house print-production and print-on-demand services to include lamination, color copying, and merchandise marketing products (such as shirts, mugs, stickers, and large poster vinyl printing) for the school and community-based businesses and groups; and the main classroom, which will serve as a lecture space and computer lab.

The new culinary classroom has been deemed the number one educational kitchen in Yolo County! It is a state-of-the-art facility, complete with a walk-in-freezer, walk-in-fridge, six cooking stations with sinks and gas stoves, and an instructor's station. The instructor's station will have cameras poised to record the instructor and project onto TVs around the classroom for students to follow along. In the dedicated baking zone, students will operate new equipment such as a Proofing Cabinet and a Dough Sheeter. There will also be a coffee cart for student entrepreneurship.

Together these new facilities represent more than upgraded classrooms- they are a powerful investment in the future of Esparto students. Here in Esparto, we know that career-readiness isn't just about knowledge of practical hands-on skills- it is also about communication, collaboration, and problem solving- all of which are key elements of our Graduate Profile. The new classrooms are intentionally designed to provide students with the opportunity to engage with one another in meaningful shared learning experiences.

Kate Diezel, College & Career Readiness Coordinator, Esparto Unified School District



Esparto Regional Chamber Business Spotlight: The Insurance Sisters

The Insurance Sisters, owned by Gerrie Bell and Cali Mefford, is an insurance business dedicated to helping people understand and choose the right health coverage. Gerrie brings 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, beginning her career as a broker service representative with one of the main carriers before becoming an independent agent. Cali has spent the past 8 years in the insurance business, and together they combine their knowledge to guide clients through important healthcare decisions.

The Insurance Sisters specialize in helping individuals review their Medicare options through one-on-one classes and personalized plan reviews. They make sure their clients' doctors and prescriptions are covered and help review all available plans so each person can choose what works best for them. Their approach is completely ethical, they never encourage someone to change plans if it is not necessary. Their goal is not only to help clients select the right coverage, but also to educate them and "make sure their lives are enriched and being taken care of."

Inspired by their mother's work with the elderly, Gerrie and Cali realized there was an opportunity to help others in similar situations. With strong family influences from their mom and aunts who owned their own businesses, they built their company around relationships and community connection. They focus on grassroots marketing through word of mouth, introducing themselves in the community and hosting special events such as bingo nights and DJ gatherings. While balancing work with regular family meals, a weekly family day, and a monthly family brunch, their future goals include continuing to build relationships, opening an office, and eventually teaching their children the business.



GERRIE BELL & CALI MEFFORD

The Insurance Sisters

Licensed Insurance Agents

916-750-4009

theinsurancesisters@gmail.com

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Dear Esparto Community,

As we move further into the spring season, our schools are filled with activity, opportunity, and the strong sense of community that makes Esparto such a special place. With Spring Break scheduled for March 30 through April 3, we look forward to a brief pause that will allow students, staff, and families time to rest and recharge before finishing the school year strong.

This time of year also brings the return of our seasonal migrant students and their families. We are proud to welcome them back and grateful for the richness they add to our school community. Supporting every student and family remains at the heart of our work, and we are committed to ensuring all students feel connected, valued, and prepared for success.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Almond Festival and Donkey Basketball. These events are more than traditions — they are celebrations of community spirit, partnership, and pride in our schools. We are fortunate to live in a community that consistently shows up for our students and staff in meaningful ways.

Across the district, spring sports are in full bloom, and our students continue to impress us with their dedication, sportsmanship, and perseverance. We are also excited that CTE Night is all set for Esparto Elementary School, where students and families will have the opportunity to learn more about the pathways and possibilities that help prepare our young people for college, career, and life.

At the same time, we are continuing to review and gather input for the Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. This process is one of the most important ways we listen to our community and align our goals with the needs of our students. We deeply value the voices of families, staff, and community members, and we encourage continued participation and feedback as we plan for the future.

State testing is also just around the corner. While assessments are only one measure of student progress, they do provide valuable information that helps us support teaching and learning. We encourage families to help students do their best by promoting strong attendance, healthy routines, and confidence as testing approaches.

This is a busy and exciting time in our district, and I am grateful every day for the partnership of our families, staff, and community. Together, we continue to create meaningful opportunities for students and strengthen the foundation for their success.

Sincerely,
Christina (Christy) Goennier Ed.D.
Superintendent

Community Schools & Esparto Scholars Program

By Marlen Melendrez
Community Schools Secretary

Summer 2026 is almost here, and we're excited for another season of learning and fun! Our updated **Summer School program will run from June 16 through July 2, 2026**. Families can easily register by scanning the QR code included in this article. Be sure to sign up early — we can't wait to see our students back on campus for an engaging and activity-filled summer!

Summer School Registration QR Code



In addition to summer school, we are proud to host our **Annual Backpack Giveaway on June 30th**. This event is designed to support our students by providing backpacks filled with essential school supplies to help them start the new school year prepared and confident. We are grateful for our community partnerships that make this event possible and look forward to seeing families there.

Finally, we invite the entire community to join us for our **Summer Performance on July 2nd**. Students will showcase what they have learned and experienced during summer programming through music, presentations, and special performances. It's always a wonderful celebration of their hard work and creativity, and we hope you will come out to support and celebrate our students!

Upcoming Important Dates:

- June 16 - July 2, 2026** - Summer School
- June 30, 2026** - Annual Backpack Giveaway
- July 2, 2026** - Summer Esparto Scholars Performance



Spring Updates from Esparto High School

Over the past several weeks, Esparto High School has celebrated many accomplishments and events that highlight the strength of our school community.

We recognized our fall semester academic achievers during a school-wide awards assembly in late January. We had a total of 143 students with academic honors and 13 perfect attendance recipients. In mid February, we honored our winter student-athletes during our Winter Sports Awards Night. Each sport recognized their most valuable player, and Mr. Araiza and I recognized the top scholar athletes.

Our students have also participated in several leadership and career-focused opportunities, including National FFA Week activities, FFA competitions, and a regional FCCLA competition where seven of our students qualified to advance to the state competition in April.

During the Almond Festival, families and community members had the opportunity to tour our new culinary arts and welding facilities, showcasing the continued growth of our Career Technical Education programs. In late January, we were also proud to host visiting educators from across the region who came to see the work happening at EHS around our CTE pathways and Graduate Profile.

Our athletic programs have also been very active as our winter sports season recently concluded, highlighted by playoff appearances from both our varsity boys and varsity girls soccer teams. Our spring sports season is now underway, with our baseball, softball, golf, and boys volleyball teams gearing up for competition. We encourage our community to come out and support our Spartans at an upcoming game. Please visit our EHS Athletics homepage for current schedules. ehs.eusdk12.org/athletics

Last month, we welcomed our future Spartans to campus and hosted our Spartan Showcase Open House for incoming families to learn more about the opportunities available at Esparto High School. We are grateful for the continued support from our families and community as we work together to support our students and celebrate their success.

On a final note, please save the date for our annual high school graduation. Our graduation date has been set for Friday, May 29th at 7:30pm at the EHS Football field.

Have a responsible, respectful, safe, and kind Spring.

Thank you,

Alberto Tamayo, EHS Principal



Donkey Basketball

Esparto High School hosted another year of Donkey Basketball, filling the gym with excited students, staff, and community members. The event featured an exciting matchup between Esparto FFA and Winters FFA, where players played basketball while riding donkeys. The unpredictable behavior of the donkeys, stopping suddenly or wandering off, made the game both challenging and hilarious to watch. Despite the chaos, both teams kept the crowd entertained, and Esparto came out on top with a 42 to 28 victory.

In addition to the game, a special highlight of the event was the crowning of the 2026 FFA Sweetheart. This year's candidates included freshman Madeline Bailey, sophomore Denise Hernandez, junior Riata Chappell, senior Kamila Moreno, and wildcard candidate Alondra Hernandez. Throughout the week, the candidates participated in various challenges, dress up days, and fundraising efforts, showing their dedication and school spirit.

Their hard work and enthusiasm added even more excitement and meaning to the event, and in the end, Riata Chappell was crowned the 2026 FFA Sweetheart. Overall, Donkey Basketball was a big success, bringing the community together for a night of laughter, school spirit, and celebration.

Submitted by A.H.






EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

Our program is dedicated to empowering rural youth through academic support, leadership development, and exposure to college and career pathways. We foster meaningful opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and step into leadership roles while strengthening their connections to the community.

JOIN US!

- **After-School Enrichment:** Academic support for students needing extra guidance
- **Leadership Workshops:** Build confidence, public speaking, and teamwork skills
- **College & Career Exploration:** Explore college pathways, careers, and resume development

CONTACT: America Hernandez
 (EEI Engagement Coordinator)
 (530)787-4110 / America@riseinc.org




EMPODERANDO A LA JUVENTUD

Nuestro programa ayuda a jóvenes rurales con apoyo escolar, liderazgo y opciones para la universidad y el trabajo. Les damos oportunidades para aprender, crecer y ser líderes, mientras se conectan más con su comunidad.

TE INVITAMOS A FORMAR PARTE DE ESTE PROGRAMA!

- **Programa extracurricular:** Refuerzo escolar y apoyo con las tareas.
- **Formación en liderazgo:** Desarrolla seguridad, mejora tu comunicación y aprende a trabajar en equipo.
- **Orientación académica y laboral:** Infórmate sobre estudios universitarios, oportunidades de empleo y cómo preparar tu currículo.

CONTACTO: America Hernandez
 (Coordinadora del Programa EEI)
 (530)787-4110 / America@riseinc.org

A 50th Wedding Anniversary for Clarence and Regina Underwood
(1976-2026)!

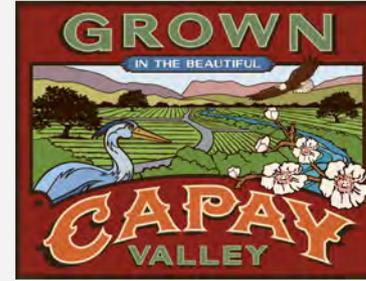


That Moment

I remember that moment years ago
When I looked into your eyes and
Lost my soul. My life was changed
Forevermore, you are my life and
Before God I swore. I said I would
Love and cherish you, come thick
Or thin then, I said I do! We were
Married some 50 years ago. Time
Has passed fast, but it seems so
Long ago! We were young now
We're old understanding it took
Time to get here, but where did
The time go! A life time has passed

In the blink of an eye. Our children
Are grown and we have witnessed
Many Solar and Lunar eclipses in
The sky. As I look into my journal
That I started some years ago, I
Can see how time really did pass
So very slow. But one day turned into
Another and there was night and
Day. All that time we spent together
And I wouldn't have had it any other
Way! I love you my darling my heart
Belongs to you. If we have it in us
Another 50 years we'll be together,
We two!

By Clarence G. Underwood



**Capay Valley Grown Launches New Website and Events to
Connect the Public to Agriculture Community**

This spring marks a new chapter for Capay Valley Grown, an initiative started by a group of farmers and ranchers 20 years ago to raise consumer awareness of Capay Valley agricultural products, and increase the profitability of the Valley's agricultural businesses.

After a few quiet years, a small group of community members decided to put energy into promoting and supporting the food, farmers, and community that make Capay Valley a vibrant agricultural region and a special place to live. Capay Valley Grown (CVG) organized three major events in 2025 and started off 2026 with a new website (www.capay-valley-grown.com). The new website serves as an information hub for Valley residents and visitors to connect with Capay Valley farms and ranches, events, and experiences. This is only the start! As part of the rebuilding effort, CVG surveyed farmers to assess needs and opportunities for future activities, identifying many opportunities to improve the recognition of the Capay Valley, including creating new road signs!

A primary way CVG aims to support local farms is by organizing events that will strengthen connections with customers. Over the course of 2025, CVG hosted three new events: the Rustic Ramble in April, the Open Farm Day in October, and the Holiday Gift Trail in December. These three events were successful in opening up farms to locals and visitors alike, introducing over 1,000 new people to the Capay Valley and are expected to become annual events. With a new digital home and a season of events ahead, Capay Valley Grown hopes to create more opportunities for people to experience the Capay Valley and support the farmers who care for the land.

As Capay Valley Grown continues to grow and evolve, there are many opportunities for local businesses, residents, and nonprofit partners to get involved from joining the group and planning activities, to attending events, sponsorship, or just spreading the word. One of the signature events returning this spring is the Rustic Ramble, happening on Sunday, April 26. This event includes a farm and garden tour of over 20 locations in the Valley and the Taste of Capay Picnic, hosted at Polestar Farm in Esparto, featuring local chefs cooking with Capay Valley produce and meat. The Rustic Ramble is a key fundraiser for CVG and its parent organization, Capay Valley Vision. Anyone interested in helping make this event happen or learning more about the event can visit capay-valley-grown.com or contact hello@capay-valley-grown.com

Seasonal Recipes

Using ingredients sourced from the Capay Valley
From the kitchen of Pamela Bateman



Carrot and Radish Slaw

2 carrots shredded or thinly sliced
1 Watermelon radish shredded or thinly sliced
2 Tokyo turnips shredded or thinly sliced
1 green onion thinly sliced
2 Tablespoons mint chopped

Dressing

1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice
2 Tablespoons Orange Juice
1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
1 Tablespoon Honey
Salt to taste

Combine the shredded carrots, radish, and turnips along with the onions and mint in a bowl. In a small bowl make salad dressing by combining ingredients and pour over the vegetable mixture. Salt to taste.

This salad is best served immediately. If made ahead of time do not add the dressing and salt until the last minute because the dressing and salt, over time, will lessen the crispness of the vegetables.

Capay Valley Flora, Fauna and Farms Capay Valley Regeneration

By Pamela Bateman

Alfalfa- Father of All Foods



Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) has been cultivated for at least six thousand years and may be the first cultivated forage plant. Originating in Southwest Asia with Iran at the center of its native habitat, the name Alfalfa is derived from Arabic meaning ‘father of all foods’. It is consumed by domestic animals, humans, wildlife, pollinators, and even feeds the soil by fixing nitrogen thus increasing the nutrients in the soil. Additionally, the plant creates habitat for insects, spiders and mites. Farmers plant alfalfa for grazing, hay, silage, green manure and cover crops. Of all feed crops it has the highest nutritional value and the highest yield per acre with the capability of producing 1,800 pounds of protein per acre per year and 70% of its total protein is available to the animal. Freshly harvested alfalfa contains the most vitamins and minerals and the highest food value is found in its leaves. Farmers must closely watch the growth cycle of the plant in order to reap the most nutritious crop. Being highly digestible, animals can gain weight quickly, produce more milk, and have improved overall health. These properties make alfalfa an important food for dairy cows and 70% of the California crop is used by dairies. However, too much of a good thing applies here. Alfalfa can sometimes lead to dangerous bloating so judicious animal husbandry is needed for this food source.

Alfalfa was grown by some of the early colonizers of North America but didn’t become widely planted until it was brought from Chile to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. Alfalfa is a perennial flowering plant in the legume family Fabaceae. The unique shape of the flowers make it difficult for honeybees to pollinate this plant but our native Alkali Bees, bumblebees, and Leaf Cutter bees readily do the job of pollination. Like other plants in this family, alfalfa roots form an association with bacteria in the soil that help to ‘fix’ atmospheric nitrogen which in turn feeds the plant and when alfalfa is used as a green manure makes nitrogen available to other plants. This nitrogen fixing ability also enables it to produce protein-rich forage. In optimum soil conditions it grows to a height of 3 feet with surprisingly deep roots reaching into the soil 7 to 10 feet or as much as 50 feet to access ground water making it drought resistant. Although it is able to survive periods of drought, high quality and multiple harvests of alfalfa require timely application of water. The plant typically needs 18 to 36 inches of water per season. These deep and fast growing roots enable the plant to regrow rapidly after harvest and green up early in spring. This root system and quick above ground growth reduces soil and nutrient loss from nearby bare soil, improves soil structure and enhances water infiltration into the soil. The plant typically lives four to eight years but some varieties can live up to twenty years. Considering the amazing and varied qualities of alfalfa it is no wonder that it is planted throughout the world, with approximately 500,000 acres planted in California including some here in the Capay Valley.

Capay Valley Fire District Community Reminder: Reporting Defensible Space and Vegetation Management Hours

As wildfire seasons continue to pose challenges for rural communities, neighbors are reminded of the importance of maintaining defensible space around homes and outbuildings. In addition to completing this work, residents are asked to **report the hours they spend on defensible space and vegetation management each month.**

Reporting your hours is **EASY** and vital for supporting your **FIREWISE** team's wildfire mitigation efforts. It helps meet annual requirements and maintain our certification in good standing. Your participation makes a difference!

At the end of each month, please send your report to **Judith Redmond at Judith@fullbellyfarm.com**. Reports should include the **total number of hours worked** during the month along with a **brief description of the activities completed.**

Examples of activities that can be reported include:

- Weed abatement within **100 feet of homes or outbuildings**
- **Cleaning roofs and gutters** of leaves, needles, and branches
- **Removing combustible materials** within 100 feet of structures
- **Replacing foundation or eave vents with ember-resistant vents**
- **Pruning tree branches** to at least six feet above the ground
- **Removing ladder fuels** that could carry fire into trees
- **Mowing grass to under four inches**
- Creating **10 feet of clearance** around wood piles, propane tanks, and beneath decks
- **Replacing flammable mulch with nonflammable materials**

If you are unsure whether a particular task qualifies as defensible space or vegetation management, please feel free to ask.

These efforts make a meaningful difference in **reducing wildfire risk and improving safety for the entire community.** Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute their time and effort to keeping our neighborhood safer.



Capay Valley Fire District: Reporte de Horas de Espacio Defendible y Manejo de Vegetación

A medida que las temporadas de incendios forestales continúan representando desafíos para las comunidades rurales, se recuerda a los vecinos la importancia de mantener **espacio defendible** alrededor de sus casas y edificios auxiliares. Además de realizar este trabajo, se les pide a los residentes que **reporten cada mes las horas que dedican al manejo de vegetación y al mantenimiento del espacio defendible.**

Reportar sus horas es **FÁCIL** y es vital para apoyar los esfuerzos de mitigación de incendios forestales de su equipo **FIREWISE**. También ayuda a cumplir con los requisitos anuales y a mantener nuestra certificación en buen estado. **¡Su participación marca la diferencia!**

Al final de cada mes, por favor envíe su reporte a **Judith Redmond a Judith@fullbellyfarm.com**. El reporte debe incluir **el número total de horas trabajadas durante el mes** junto con **una breve descripción de las actividades realizadas.**

Algunos ejemplos de actividades que se pueden reportar incluyen diversas tareas que ayudan a reducir la vegetación y los materiales combustibles alrededor de casas y edificios. Estas incluyen **la eliminación de maleza dentro de 100 pies de las estructuras, limpiar hojas y residuos de techos y canaletas, y retirar materiales combustibles cerca de los edificios.**

Otras actividades que califican incluyen **reemplazar ventilas de cimientos o aleros por ventilas resistentes a brasas, podar ramas de árboles a por lo menos seis pies del suelo, y eliminar combustibles tipo “escalera” — vegetación que puede permitir que el fuego suba desde el suelo hacia los árboles.**

Los residentes también pueden reportar el tiempo dedicado a **cortar el pasto a menos de cuatro pulgadas, crear un espacio libre de 10 pies alrededor de pilas de leña, tanques de propano y debajo de terrazas, y reemplazar mantillo inflamable por materiales no inflamables.**

Mantener espacio defendible es ampliamente reconocido como una de las maneras más eficaces en que los propietarios pueden **proteger sus hogares y ayudar a frenar la propagación de incendios forestales.**

Los residentes que no estén seguros de si una actividad en particular califica como manejo de vegetación o mantenimiento de espacio defendible pueden comunicarse para hacer preguntas.

La participación de la comunidad en estos esfuerzos juega un papel importante para **mejorar la preparación y la seguridad del vecindario frente a incendios forestales.**

Esparto - RISE, Inc.

Thursday, April 2nd and 16th
starts @ 9:30am

~~~~~  
Monday, April 27th  
starts @ 10:30am  
~~~~~

Food Pantry

Every Friday, 2:00pm - 5:00pm

(17317 Fremont Street, Esparto CA)

CAPAY VALLEY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

**Madison Community Committee
Food Closet**

Monday, April 13th and 27th
starts @ 4:00pm

(28963 Main St, Madison, CA)

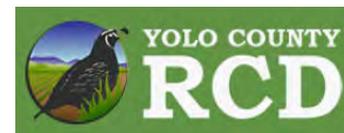
Guinda Grange Hall

Monday, April 13th and 27th
starts @ 9:30am

(16787 Forest Ave, Guinda, CA)

Now is Time to Get Prepared for Wildfire!

Are you prepared for wildfire season? Now is the time to start your defensible space and evacuation preparedness!



Defensible space acts as a barrier to slow or stop the spread of wildfire to your home. Defensible space extends outward in a 100-foot zone (or to the property line) from the home. In these zones, combustible materials and fuels for wildfire are managed or removed to protect the home and surrounding structures. Residents living in the high fire area of western Yolo County (properties west of Winters and Esparto, and all of the Capay Valley) should begin preparing their defensible space now and continue fuels management and maintenance throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

Defensible space is divided into three zones: Zone 0, Zone 1, and Zone 2. Zone 0, the first five feet extending from the home, is the most important zone where all combustible materials, should be removed including tree limbs overhanging structures, patio furniture, wood piles, flower boxes, and mulch. To learn more about each of the defensible space zones, the Yolo County Fire Safe Council developed a short video to showcase the importance of defensible space in Yolo County at <https://tinyurl.com/yolo-d-space> or visit our webpage at <https://yolofiresafe.org/get-prepared/defensible-space/>

Other ways to prepare for wildfire season are:

- Plan evacuation routes and prepare a go bag for every person in the household, including pets. To learn more about go-bags, visit <https://yolofiresafe.org/get-prepared/evacuation-preparedness/>
- Installing fire resistant hardscaping and landscaping, especially in place of dead or weedy vegetation.
- Gathering family keepsakes and important documents like photos, medical records and prescriptions; consider scanning them and saving onto a USB or to the cloud.

Do you need assistance to prepare your property for wildfire? The RCD coordinates the Yolo County Fire Safe Council which offers two FREE wildfire preparedness programs to properties in the high fire areas of western Yolo County. The Neighborhood Chipper Program helps landowners with fuels management from defensible space and fuels reduction. After defensible space work is done, the Chipper will visit your property and chip cut vegetation from defensible space work into mulch that can be used for

landscaping or incorporated into compost. The Reflective Address Sign Program provides high quality, reflective signs—approved by local fire chiefs and CAL FIRE-- to mark your home in all visibility conditions including smoke from wildfire. Reflective address signs help emergency officials locate your home regardless of visibility to respond to emergencies or protect your home from wildfire. To learn more, visit www.yolofiresafe.org/our-programs. For questions, please reach out to Alli Permann, Outreach Coordinator, at permann@yolorcd.org.

For larger or more technical fuels management projects, the RCD offers technical assistance and project implementation funding for fuels management in the high fire areas of Yolo County. We can help with fuels management planning and have expertise in oak woodland health, prescribed grazing, prescribed fire, and invasive weed management. To schedule a site visit or to learn more about our programming, reach out to Tanya Meyer, Senior Program Manager, at meyer@yolorcd.org or call our office at (530) 661-1688 x 2.



Greetings from the League of Women Voters of Yolo County! We can't wait to tell you about what we've been doing to promote voter education and registration, and what we have planned.

Christopher Cabaldon Talks at Annual State of the Community

California State Sen. Christopher Cabaldon, 3rd District, spoke at our 32nd Annual State of the Community Luncheon. He touched on multiple topics that are expected to affect Yolo County, including potential changes to Medi-Cal, evolving technology like chatbots and other AI, climate change, and the complications of the California state budget. Cabaldon asked people to raise their hands if they believed it was in surplus, deficit, or if it were perfectly balanced. "All three answers are perfectly correct," he said, after hands had been lowered, then he explained why this is so.

Affordable Housing: How Do We Get It Built?

Our Housing Committee hosted a public education forum on March 12, which included a panel consisting of John Currey, executive director of the Yolo Land Trust; Ian Evans, executive director of Yolo County Housing; and Bill Pride, executive director of Yolo Community Builders. Each told stories of how difficult it has become to construct projects meant to get people into a home of their own. Affordable housing is one of the main issues- and positions the Yolo League has promoted through voter education. The forum focused on supporting affordable housing projects which serve families, seniors and singles below the poverty level. If you're interested in watching the forum, it's available from Woodland TV at bit.ly/4ruY7uQ.

Our First Ever Art Contest

To encourage greater participation among young voters, the League and the county's public library network sponsored a "Student Voter Empowerment Design Contest" to encourage young voters to create posters, stickers, and bumper stickers. The contest ran from Feb. 16 to Mar. 27. At the time of writing, we don't know the outcome of the contest, but we're looking forward to more collaborations and events to keep student voters engaged.

Join us for Picnic Day!

If you happen to be around Davis on Saturday, April 18, please come say hello as the League will be walking in UC Davis' 112th Picnic Day. This year, our mighty walk team will be joined by members of our LWV-UCD Student Club to represent and inspire our voting community. Join our group cheer - YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE - and meet community supporters lining the streets on campus and in downtown Davis. More information can be found at lwvyolo.org/events.

National News: The SAVE Act Returns

The House of Representatives passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which would require citizenship documentation to register to vote, even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. The SAVE Act would create one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents. You can learn more about the League's position on the SAVE act at lwv.org/save-act.



Serving the Community.

Countryside Community Church (CCC) on the corner of Fremont and Grafton Street celebrated the retirement of Rev. Katherine McIntosh Smith on Sunday, March 1. Kathy has been with us since 2018 and her presence will be missed.

CCC will be hosting many guest preachers over the next few months as we seek another pastor.

CCC is home of Sunday's Table, a weekly food distribution now more than 10 years old, has provided supplemental nutrition to our community every Sunday, 51 weeks per year. We gather food for distribution from Yolo Food Bank, Trader Joes and Nugget market Davis, and local seasonal farm produce. The distribution starts at 10 AM and usually lasts about 45 minutes. If you want to volunteer or donate, please contact the church at 530-787-4040 or stop by any Sunday morning

CCC also hosts a sewing group that meets every Wednesday at 4 PM. If you are an experienced sewer, or want to learn, please come by any Wednesday. Machines and instruction are provided. They meet upstairs in one of the class rooms.

CCC is also home to a weekly bible study class that meets at 10 AM each Wednesday.

Countryside is a community church, open to all.

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YOLO COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

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4 out of 5 car seats are installed incorrectly?
And wearing a helmet reduces the risk of head and brain injury by 70% to 85%?

APRIL 24TH | 9:00 AM-11:00AM
ESPERANZA CROSSING
16797 COUNTY RD 87, ESPARTO CA 95627

Yolo County traffic Passenger Safety program is partnering with Mercy Housing to bring you this event. Stop by and have your child's car seat checked and to receive a no cost bicycle helmet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT US AT
(530) 406-4410
TRAFFIC.SAFETY@YOLOCOUNTY.GOV

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

PROGRAMA DE SEGURIDAD PARA PASAJEROS INFANTILES DEL CONDADO DE YOLO

EVENTO DE REVISION DE ASIENTOS DE SEGURIDAD Y DISTRIBUCIÓN DE CASCOS

¿SABÍAS?
¿4 De 5 asientos estan instalados incorrectamente?
¿Y usar casco reduce el riesgo de sufrir lesiones en la cabeza y el cerebro entre un 70% y un 85%?

APRIL 24TH | 9:00 AM-11:00AM
ESPERANZA CROSSING
16797 COUNTY RD 87, ESPARTO CA 95627

El programa de Seguridad de Pasajeros del Condado de Yolo se ha asociado con Mercy Housing para ofrecerle este evento. Visitenos para que revisen el asiento infantil y reciban un casco de bicicleta gratis sin costo.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE ESTE EVENTO O PARA HACER UNA CITA CONTACTENOS AL
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Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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#2 Leonardo Solis: (530)-631-9283



Sunday Services

WORSHIP - 9:00 AM • SUNDAY'S TABLE - 10:00 AM
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00-10:30 AM

Everyone Welcome!

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(on the corner of Grafton and Fremont streets)

For more information call 530-787-4040 or visit espartocountrysidechurch.org



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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)

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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 pm in the basement of the Countryside Community Church in Esparto. 1 hour open.

AA Spanish: Alcohólicos Anónimos: Detrás de El Toro. Los lunes, miércoles, y viernes a las 7 pm - 9 pm.

AI-Anon: Countryside Community Church on Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

AI-Anon Spanish: Spanish AI-Anon: Detrás de El Toro (26628 N. Grafton St.). Los Martes a las 7 pm - 8:30 pm.

Capay Cemetery District Board meeting: Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the Esparto Community Hall, 17020 Yolo Avenue, Esparto, CA 95627.

Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: 11am adult Sunday school; 11:45am social; 12:10pm - 1:10pm worship/children's Sunday School at Guinda Community Church.

Capay Valley Fire Commission Meeting: Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Guinda Fire Station.

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

Capay Valley General Plan Advisory Committee: Meets every 1st Wednesday at 7 pm at the Grange Hall in Guinda. Open to all.

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: Next meeting will be April 27th at 9am, at the Esparto RISE office (17340 Yolo Avenue, Esparto).

Countryside Community Church: Sundays at 9 am Worship Service and Sunday School.

Esparto Ag Boosters: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 pm in the Ag Department at the high school.

Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee Planning Council: Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm at the Esparto Regional Library.

Esparto Community Services District: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Esparto Food Distributions: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:30 am - Until supplies last and 4th Monday of the month 10:30am - noon.

Esparto Lions Club Meeting: Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Boy Scout Cabin Social hour at 5:30pm, 6pm Dinner, For Zoom link, please call 530-787-3892.

Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce: Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 6pm, at Capay Valley Health & Community Center (17340 Yolo Avenue, Esparto). Questions, call (530) 787-3242.

Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: Meets on the 4th Wednesday at 6 pm in Room A - 7 at the High School.

Esparto Fire Commissioners Meeting: Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 pm at the Esparto Fire Station.

Food Pantry: Fridays at 2 pm - 5 pm. (17317 Fremont Street, Esparto)

Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors' Meeting: The 2nd Monday of the month at 5pm (except for July and November) at the Library.

Guinda Community Church: Sunday Service at 9 am.

Guinda Food Distribution: Yolo Food Bank 2nd and 4th Mondays, from 9:30 AM to 11 AM at the Grange Hall on Forest Ave. Drive through distribution, first come first served, line starts at 8:30 AM. Produce, canned food, dry goods, meat and dairy.

Homeschooling: Carly Castruita Gordon at (916) 616-5419.

Madison Advisory Committee: 4th Wednesday at 6 pm at the Madison Community Services District. No meetings in May, November or December.

Madison Community Committee: 3rd Thursday at 6 pm at the Madison Community Services District.

Madison Fire Commissioners Meeting: 1 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Madison Fire Department at 17880 Stephens Street.

Madison Food Closet: Open on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4pm to 5pm at the Madison Community Services District Building.

Madison Service District Meeting: 3rd Thursday at 6:00pm in the District office at 28963 Main Street in Madison.

New Life Christian Center in Madison: Sunday Service at 11:00am with Jr. Church for ages 5-12 years. Home Bible Studies on Wednesday.

On Fire Fellowship of Esparto: Sunday service at 9am. Bible Study: Wednesday at 6:30pm. Youth Group: Friday at 6:30pm; Ladies: 1st/3rd Tuesday 6:30pm.

RISE Collaborative Meeting: 4th Friday of each month at 9am. Meeting held in-person at the RISE, Inc Esparto Office. (17340 Yolo Avenue, Esparto)

RISE Valley Seniors: Meets Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am - 12pm at the RISE office. (17340 Yolo Avenue, Esparto)

Rumsey Improvement Assoc.: 1st Monday potlucks at Rumsey Hall October - June. Mingling at 6pm, food served at 6:30pm. Bring a dish to share & your own utensils.

St. Martin's Catholic Mission Church: English Mass: 8:30am on Sundays; Spanish Mass: 7pm on Saturdays. (25633 Grafton Street, Esparto)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Western Yolo Post 7143, meets 1st Wednesday each month, at Post Home, Orleans Street and Highway 16.

Western Yolo Grange: Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM, except for July and August. All are welcome, you do not need to be a member to attend.

4-H: Meets at 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Esparto Community Hall, 17020 Yolo Avenue, Esparto CA.