

FREE

FIRST ISSUE



Western Yolo Collaborative

and

Esparto Unified School District

Presents

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

for

MADISON, ESPARTO AND THE CAPAY VALLEY



Future middle school kids and future, future middle school kids! Top row, left to right: Robert Madigan & Kacey Kaake. Bottom row, left to right: Julian Cota, Diego Cota, Joaquin Mayer, Sarah Harmon, Myla Passantino, Kamie Crider, Andrew Goeman, Ari Rome, Marissa Harmon, Brenna Harmon, Emily Johnson, Shannon Madigan, Kerrick Bourland, & Anthony Passantino

Inside this first issue:

- WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DOING ABOUT THE BOND
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR
- COMMUNITY INFORMATION

As a Paying Public, You've a Right to Know!

An Update on the Esparto School Bond Work



You've paid your property taxes, including the new School Bond fees, two times. You voted "yes!" because you care about the kids and the community. "El Nino" has slowed everything down everywhere, but, still, you are interested: What's happening with school improvements funded by the Bond? After all, as a paying public, you've a right to know!

Land purchases for the new Middle School and the High School Athletic Field were the first items of business once the Bond Measure for the School District passed and the Bonds were sold to make some funds available. The original plan presented to the community was to purchase over 19 acres from the Parker properties on Highway 16 east of Yolo Avenue. That was enough room for, the Athletic Complex, an expanded Little League area, and the new Middle School.

After the Bond passed, the Parkers re-considered their options and opted to sell the District only enough land for the High School Athletic Field. This was a huge disappointment and tumbled the District into re-grouping and re-planning strategies. Several other parcels were considered for the Middle School and informal negotiations ensued. Finally an appropriate parcel was secured across the slough from the existing Elementary School. Next, two Environmental Clearances documents needed to be prepared one for each parcel. A number of issues were carefully considered and dealt with during this period of work, with concerns ranging from protection of the farm buffer zone to pumping sewage uphill. The process included environmentalists, attorneys, anthropologists, and just about everyone other than students!

New parcel maps had to be created; new survey monuments established; and new site plans developed. Now the School District has successfully secured two appropriate parcels of land, one for the new Athletic Complex (as planned) and one for the new Middle School (a new site plan).

Next the District had to move forward with the detailed plans based on the new and now purchased sites. The architects went to work on three areas, preparing detailed plans for approval by State Department of Education: the site and building plans for the Middle School; the site plans for the Athletic Field; and the plans for improvements to the High School and Elementary School.

This does not include another important and exciting project that is running in tandem with the Bond-funded school improvements: the new Library! This community endeavor that has had so much support from so many got a big shot in the arm through a generous gift of \$100,000 from the Cache Creek

Indian Casino; that effort also spirited another State grant for a generous amount of funding. The District Office got very active preparing plans for the movement of buildings and re-arrangement of space for the community-supported new Library.

For this project, the District Administrative Office will be moved to allow a perfect lot for the new Library and a lot that will provide friendly community access to the Library while allowing the Library to also be available to high school students for research projects. The High School will also gain another classroom space when the Library moves. The new Esparto Library is a win-win for everyone and a real power-builder for the downtown!

The School Bond work has steadily progressed and is soon emerging from "the work you can't see" phase. The buildings for the Middle School are ordered and being constructed under carefully planned specifications; they will be available in the fall. The open public bid for site work at the Middle School was initiated and is being re-considered due to the high cost results. Technical work is being completed to re-consider every aspect, including the seasonal disadvantage of the bidding climate created by an unusual rain year, in order to bring the bids more in line with the budget.

This will delay the Middle School opening from the Christmas vacation timeline once scheduled, but will be responsible in terms of the holding to the budget restrictions while maintaining other project objectives. The plans for the High School rehabilitation and remodeling are complete and being cleared under special school facility directives; they should be approved for District action by late June. Bidding the work will be the next step.

It should be noted, however, that the Science Room improvements did not need "matching fund" approval and proceeded quickly after the Bonds sold; those classrooms were completed and used in their new, remodeled condition this entire school year!

Work will be strenuous during the coming school year. The site work planned for this summer is now delayed a couple months, dictation that a momentous year will spring forward in the fall! Site work for the Middle School with buildings waiting for immediate placement and a school blooming in the late spring is planned. The High School main halls will be periodically in transition followed by a huge summer push for a completed project. Maneuvers by Board Trustee Charles Schaupp will be designed to get the Marine-muscle as a donated kick for the High School Athletic Fields.

New Library construction will be a certain power-surge for community morale, thanks to the Friends of the Library and numerous other friendly people. The Elementary School campus, vision to be expanded by the movement of the Middle School to its new site, will have its own share of good tidings.

It is hoped that this newspaper can be a routine way to start and continue to share with you progress on the work funded by the Bond. It was a generous thing this community did - funding Bond Measure - and as a supporting public, more than "thank you!" is warranted. Oh yes...and "Thank You!"

A note from the editor:



Debbie Kaake

Western Yolo Collaborative for Healthy Children and Families sponsored by a grant from Sierra Health Foundation hopes to draw support from the communities, as they find this a valuable resource, and make this paper a monthly or bi-monthly regular newspaper.

I'd like to Thank the Esparto Unified School District for financing this issue and making it possible to mail the first issue.

Thank-you to Winters Express for their assistance and low cost production rate.

Thanks go out to all the organizations that wrote an article for the paper.

Thanks to Ted Fontaine for his expert assistance in digital layout. If you or your organization in Madison, Esparto or Capay Valley has announcements, events or activities you would like in the next issue; mail to: PO Box 133 Esparto, Ca. 95627 or contact Debbie Kaake at (530) 908-1186. Fax (530) 787-4006

Remember

this newspaper is for all of you, so any suggestions on how we can make it better are greatly appreciated. If you can help get event information or pictures, current calendar dates, editing, data entry, distribution and later selling advertising space; please give me a call 530-908-1186.

Recognition for years of service

At the May 26 School Board Meeting, the Esparto School Board recognized those teachers, administrators, and classified personnel who have worked in the district for ten or more years. These employees were given a certificate of appreciation and thanks for their many years of devoted service:

20 + Years of service

Fred Lantz	41
Al Massa	31
Cathy Roath	29
Carol Martin	28
Helga Jandera	26
Brian Forment	26
Esther Roberts	25
Marsha Dryden	24
Pat Wright	24
Jim Schulte	22
Jackie Dixon	22
Tim Errington	21
Cleo Pryor	20
Nancy Lugo	20
Jim Mullins	20
Louana Harden	20

10 + years of service

Mona Moretto	19
Brenda Taylor	18
Howard Ross	18
Virginia Sinor	18
Enid Williams	17
Cindy Hayes	15
Nancy Ryan	14
Debbie Tharp	14
Mary Vannucci	14
Nena Lemus	13
Mercedes Ibanez	13
Jeff Sammons	13
Greta Tabor	13
Lynn Logan	13
Linda Dufault	12
Dwight Barnes	12
Adela Baraza	12
Jewel Vieu	12
Mike Cunningham	11
Toni Harden	11
Cindy Baker	10
Susan Cooper	10
Caryl Summers	10
Larry Taber	10

Best wishes to Brenda Taylor - Fairbanks and Louana Harden who retired in June 1998

Community and Staff Acknowledged by School Board

The June 8 Esparto School Board meeting was held at the Canon Schoolhouse in Brooks. For the occasion the 100 year old school was decorated with antique lamps. Engraved plaques were given to community members and Esparto School District staff for their outstanding contributions to the young people of our communities.

Those recognized were:

Irene (Grandma) Jarvis for her weekly Story Hour that she has held at her home in Rumsey for preschool kids and their parents for many years.

Iris and Mel Westerdahl for

their many years of volunteering and tutoring work in Esparto school district classrooms.

Cathie Wicks and Tammy Fullerton for their outstanding volunteer work in helping to get the message out to the community about a "yes" vote on School Bond and also writing and receiving the Operation Graduation Grant.

Chris Ellis (former school board member) and Karen

Woolcott for their outstanding work with the high school Booster Club program.

Kathy Cahn, 4th grade teacher, for the Student Author,

Program and Assembly. Many students at the elementary and Middle school wrote and illustrated their books.

The books were judged and awards were given in an Assembly attended by over 300 kids and their parents.

Sue Kennerly for the outstanding work she did coordinating the Blue/Gray Day and Dance for the Esparto Middle School students.

Melissa Campbell for all her time and effort arranging the 6 grade camping experiences at Sly Park Camp in the Sierra.

Nancy Motain and Lynn Logan for creating and coordinating a very successful Art Day at the Elementary School.

Important School Board Goals.

Earlier this year the Esparto School Board adopted five Goals. The focus of the Goals is directed towards student areas of critical need and other needs in the district that impact students. Staff and community meetings have been held and action plans have been created for each goal for the 1998-99 school year. The Goals are:

1. Focus district-wide (K-12) commitment on improving the reading literacy skills of our students and to prioritize funding obligations to meet this goal.
2. Continue to improve and update the general Board approved policies for the District. Develop a schedule for addressing new policies on a quarterly basis.
3. Strengthen communication efforts to assertively reach the community at large.
4. Formulate policies to improve the applied and technical sciences.
5. Continue to improve the District's facilities and the maintenance of those facilities.

District Receives Healthy Start Planning Grant

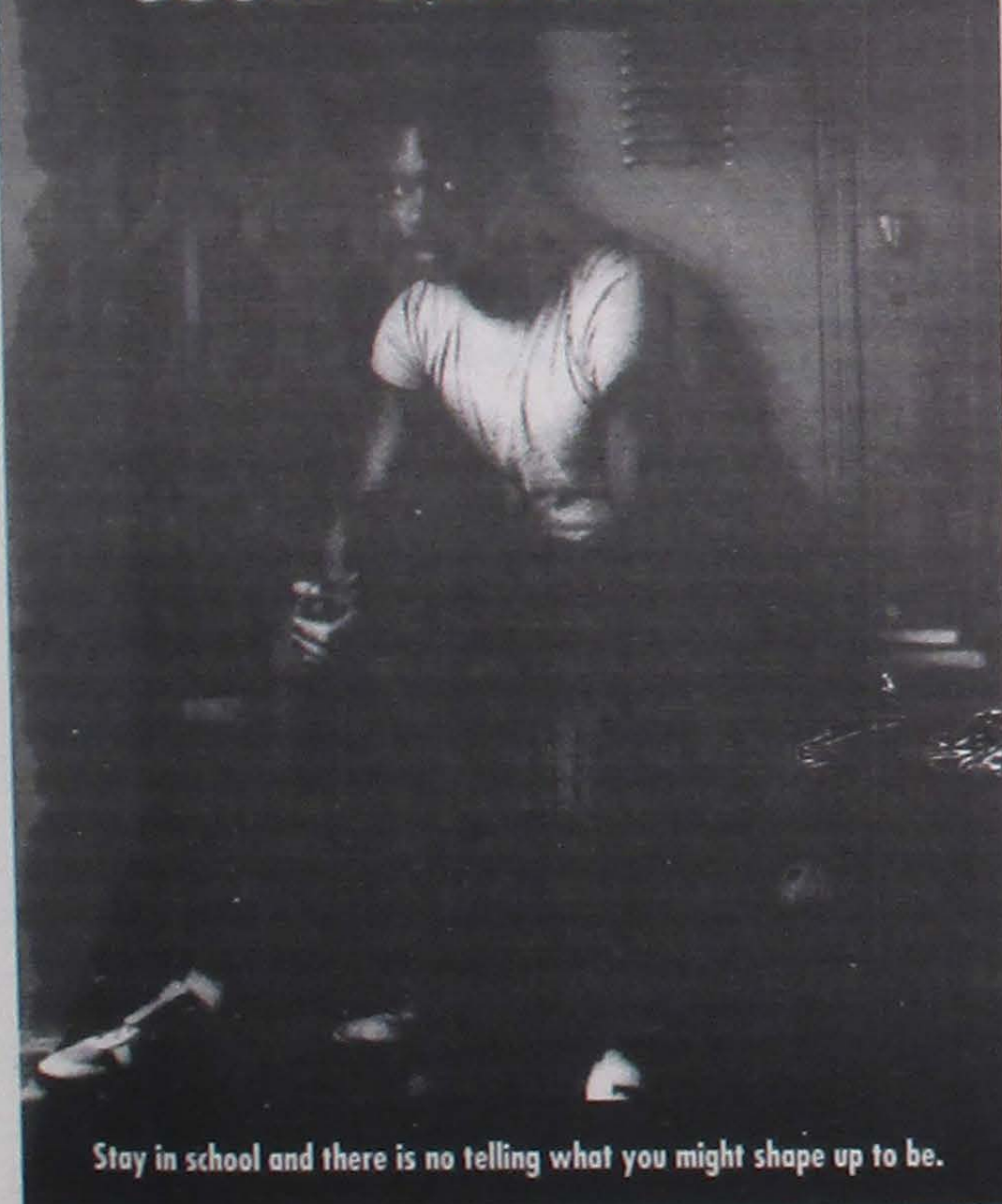
Recently Superintendent Jerry Elmore was notified that the District had received a Healthy Start Planning Grant from the California Department of Education. The Planning Grant developed from the continuing involvement of the Western Yolo Collaborative for Healthy Children and Families in our communities. One of the strategies established by the Yolo Collaborative for improving family and children's services in our service-isolated communities was to write this grant. The District will use Grant funds to hire a Healthy Start coordinator who will assist and facilitate active participation of the community and county agencies in uncovering strengths and needs, especially targeting economically disadvantaged children and families. We need to identify physical health needs, mental health needs, student's school success needs, parent education needs, and the resources in our families, community, and county agencies.

The most important benefits of the planning process will be the collaboration and interaction of two planning groups. The Planning Partners are an umbrella group drawn from school district staff, Yolo Collaborative members, county agencies, local service groups, and parents. The Partners will be responsible for assessing the community, selecting goals based upon needs and strengths and securing funds necessary to meet the goals and objectives. The Community Planning Representatives will be selected from school and community groups, parents, teachers, school site councils, school staff and students. The Representatives will review data, identify needs and suggest outcomes and strategies to meet those needs.

In summary, the planning process will discover needs, prioritize needs, develop outcomes and objectives to meet those needs and write a Healthy Start Operational Grant.

The process is underway. Two meetings of the Planning Partners have already taken place. It is expected that a Planning Coordinator will be hired in August. The planning activities will extend from August 1998 to February 1999.

**DEVELOP YOUR BODY AND YOU
COULD BE A FOOTBALL PLAYER.
DEVELOP YOUR MIND AND YOU
COULD OWN THE TEAM.**



Stay in school and there is no telling what you might shape up to be.

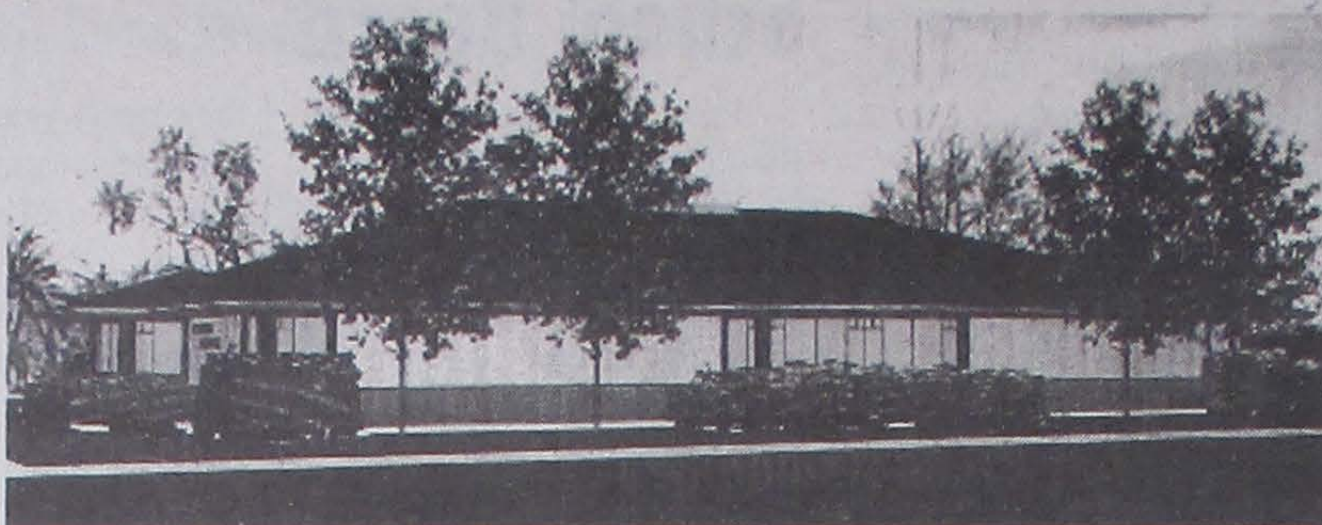
New Library Sneak Preview

Soon to be a reality New Library will be located next to Esparto Park; it will replace the district office buildings.

The Friends have been working for seven years raising funds and public awareness, coordination efforts between other service organizations and clubs from Madison to Rumsey, from all over Yolo County and even beyond.

The hard work of dedicated people has paid off. \$1,052,483+ is needed to build the 5000 square foot library, \$100,000 remains to be raised. We are planning a capital campaign to raise the remaining money. We are planning a ground breaking for February 1, 1999, after the bidding has been completed and the contract awarded. We plan to occupy the new building the first of November 1999.

The Library serves everyone in the western Yolo region and connects them via the public access Internet to the world beyond. Esparto Library patrons have easy access to materials from all over Yolo County and may place orders through the Mountain Valley System from all over Northern California. We have access to the Sutro Library in San Francisco for genealogy patrons. These services are usually free of charge. Annual summer services for the children include a summer reading program: Deputy Reading Rangers; summer school class visits; public access Internet and Bookmobile service in Madison and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. High School parking lot, stays for one hour. Then



it moves to the Mini Mart in Brooks from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. The third stop is the fire station in Guinda from 12:15 to 2 p.m. The last stop of the day is at the Madison Migrant Center from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. The Bookmobile is a regular branch of the Yolo County Library system. Patrons may check out books and even request books that they would like to read. Anyone who has a Yolo County Library card may check out books. It is very easy to sign up for a card. Just ask about a card when visiting the Bookmobile or the Esparto Library.

The Esparto Library is offering a new service to those that are homebound, either permanently or temporarily, volunteers will be delivering or pick up library materials for you. All you need to do is call the librarian, Nadine, 787-3426.

Library Hours are:

Mondays, 3:00pm - 5:30pm & 6:30 pm - 8:00pm

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:30pm

Thursday, 10:00 am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 5:30pm

IN THE FUTURE...

In the future keep your eye open and look for this community Newspaper in your local grocery stores, gas stations or post office. Thanks to the EUSD support we are able to mail this first issue, but at this time the budget doesn't allow for future postage expense. Signs will be posted in your area to show you where to get the next FREE Newspaper. Please help make this a great way to advertise events, where to eat dinner out in this area and support the organizations fund-raising effort; plus visit friends and neighbors at the same time. This paper could be an excellent way to show recognition for the many wonderful volunteers and student achievements, that go unnoticed by the communities. I need your help; even if you can only write one article, send in event pictures, or call with dates and times for the community calendar. Please let me know because I can't do this big-job alone, no matter how important it is. Western Yolo Collaborative Coordinator for Esparto and the Capay Valley, Debbie Kaake 530-908-1186 fax 530-787-4006.

WIN \$100.00!!

WE NEED A NAME and LOGO FOR THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER. SO PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS and MAIL AS MANY ENTRIES AS YOU WANT. IF WE USE BOTH YOUR NAME and LOGO, YOU WIN THE TOTAL \$100.00 and IF WE JUST USE THE NAME YOU ENTER or LOGO YOU WIN \$50.00. EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PLAY "NAME THE NEWSPAPER!"

Send your name ideas and logo drawings to:

**CONTEST
PO BOX 133
ESPARTO, CA. 95627**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Your Idea for Name

- Logo submissions can be hand drawn or computer drawn on separate paper..
- Submissions should be no larger than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches.
- Please clip and include this form with your drawings.
- Include your name, phone number and address with all submissions



NIMBLE NEEDLES

The "Nimble Needles" is basically a quilting group, although many women bring different varieties of handwork. They meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Grange hall. The purpose is to work with each other on projects or on their own design. They are always happy to help pin a quilt, solve problems or just give advice. You need not be a quilter to join. You don't have to bring any kind of work along, just come for the friendship. They sponsor All Day Quilting Classes and Mystery Quilt Day and were instrumental in bringing a sound system to the Grange hall. For more information call Jean Reynolds at 796-3928.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July

- 2 **Western Yolo Collaborative Meeting**
Winters Head Start Bldg. 6:00 p.m.
- 2 **Esparto Lions Meeting**
Community Center Social 6:30 p.m.
- 4 **Capay Valley Fire Dept. & Auxiliary Potluck & Fireworks Display**
Guinda Firehouse social 6:30 p.m.
- 4 **Esparto Fire Dept. Dinner & Fireworks Display**
Esparto Firehouse
- 6 **Blood Drive**
Community Center 2-6:30 p.m.
- 6 **Cub Scout Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 7 **Friends of the Library Meeting**
H.S. Library 7:00 p.m.
- 7 **Boy Scout Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 7 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 8 **Chambers of Commerce Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 9 **4-H Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 14 **Little League Meeting**
H.S. Rm. 10 7:00 p.m.
- 14 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 16 **Lions Meeting**
C. Center 6:30 p.m.
- 20 **Cub Scouts**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.

- 21 **Boy Scouts**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 21 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 22 **FERL Reno Trip**
Esparto Mkt. 7:30 a.m.
- 23 **4-H Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 25 **COOL 101.1 Family fun "Country Kicker"**
Esparto Park Food 5:00
Music 6:00 p.m.
- 27 **Esparto Baptist Church "Vacation Bible Sch."**
26534 Madison St. 6:15-8:30 p.m.
- 28 **Esparto Baptist Church VBS**
- 28 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 29 **Esparto Baptist Church VBS**
- 30 **Esparto Baptist Church VBS**
- 30 **Food Distribution**
C. Center
- 31 **Esparto Baptist Church VBS**

AUGUST

- 3 **Countryside Church VBS**
Grafton St. 9:00 a.m. to noon
- 3 **Cub Scout Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 4 **Countryside Church VBS**
- 4 **FERL Meeting**
H.S. Library 7:00 p.m.
- 4 **Boy Scout Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 4 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 5 **Countryside Church VBS**
- 5 **Last day of Summer Rec. Program**
Swim trip to Wldd. EHS 1:15 p.m.
- 5 **Chambers of Commerce Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 6 **Countryside Church VBS**
- 6 **Lions Meeting**
C. Center 6:30 p.m.
- 6 **FERL "Private party assistance"**
Call Betty Koeppen for info. 787-3814
- 6 **Western Yolo Collaborative**
- 7 **Countryside Church VBS**
- 8 **Free Sports Physicals**
EHS 9:00 a.m.
- 11 **Little League Meeting**
H.S. Rm 10 7:00 p.m.
- 11 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 13 **4-H Meeting**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 17 **Cub Scouts**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 18 **Boy Scouts**
C. Center 6:00 p.m.
- 18 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **Middle Sch. Orientation**
Elem. Cafeteria 6:00 p.m.
- 20 **Lions Meeting**
C. Center 6:30 p.m.
- 20 **FERL Book Sale**
Davis, call Betty for location
- 21 **FERL Book Sale**
- 22 **FERL Book Sale**
- 24 **1st day Esparto School starts**
- 25 **Nimble Needles**
Guinda Grange 7:00 p.m.
- 27 **4-H Meeting**
6:00 p.m.
- 28 **1st EHS Football game**
Home game EHS vs. Princeton 6:00 p.m.
- 30 **Quarterback Golf Shootout (Support J.V. Football)**
Buckingham Golf Course in Konocti Harbor, Lake County



Vacation Bible Schools

There are two Free Vacation Bible Schools in Esparto this summer. The Esparto Baptist Church invites children in grades 1 through 6 to join them at the Seaside with the Savior July 27-31; the church is located at 26534 Madison Street. Come learn Bible verses, crafts, games, and have lots of fun. From 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for more information call Jeff or Mary Miller at 661-1776.

The Countryside Community Church is taking a Voyage Back into Bible Times come get your Passport to the Holy Land. For children preschool through 6 grade August 3-7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Ice Cream Social will be on Aug. 6. It's going to be another fun year at Bible School, hope the children can attend both VBS.



Low Cost, High Quality Health, Dental & Vision Care Insurance

Your Kids May Be Eligible For Low Cost, High Quality Health, Dental & Vision Care Insurance Through The Healthy Families Program

This is GREAT news for families and parents who cannot afford health coverage for their children!!! A new program is coming that can provide assistance with health benefits. President Clinton proposed and Congress passed legislation to cover children under the age 19 who have no health insurance. The California Legislature did their part to enact the emphasis of the National push for health coverage by approving the Healthy Families Program. This Program helps parents without health insurance to purchase low cost insurance for their children. Here in the Esparto area, the Western Yolo Collaborative is

working hard to find a way to provide local accessibility to the program.

This Program could work for you! It is for families whose income levels exceed the limit for Medi-Cal, who do not have employer-provided medical benefits; but cannot afford to pay for private health insurance. Premium range from \$7 to \$27 per month with even more discounts for certain plans (depending on the number enrolled and family income).

Statewide training is starting to prepare staff to assist and enroll families. Western Yolo Collaborative, the new Healthy Start Program Planning Committee, and Yolo County Public Health are all committed to making sure our communities in rural Western Yolo County are not left out. Stay tuned for more information, as it becomes available.

Child Care Grants



Are you among the many working parents looking for affordable child care in the Esparto, Capay Valley area? There is a service available to you that help parents find child care that fits their needs. Child Care Services provides both free child care resources and referral services and subsidies to assist families using child care in Yolo County. Referral staff uses a comprehensive listing of licensed child care providers in the county (family child care and

center-based care) to assist parents seeking care in Yolo County. Families who need financial assistance can apply for a child care grant available through Child Care Services. The Child Care Grant Program provides subsidies to pay for child care, for eligible parents who are working, seeking work, in training or attending school. Parents may choose a licensed family child care provider, child care center, or license-exempt child care provider in Yolo

County. Eligibility is based on income and need for care. Child Care Services also offers free technical assistance, training, and other services to licensed providers in Care Services is located at 604 Second Street in Davis. To apply for the Child Care Grant Program or more information call, toll free 1-800-378-5044. If you require help with the application call the Western Yolo Collaborative for Healthy Children and Families at (530) 908-1186 or (530) 787-3433 ask for Debbie.



Family Fun Night... Everyone is Welcome!!!!!!

If you had fun at the last Cool 101.1 FM "Sock Hop" dance, you don't want to miss this Cool 101 "Country Kicker." Bring the whole family for a night of fun, you don't have to cook, food will be for sale by local organizations. The dance will be held in the Esparto Park on July 25. Come early and get your dinner hot off the BBQ, food available at 5:00 p.m. music starts at 6:00 till 9:00 p.m. Learn some line dancing, three-leg race, tug-a-war, sack races and much more at this nonstop fun filled festivity. Bring a picnic blanket or some chairs and invite your friends. A donation box will be on the band table to help offset the cost. Sponsored cooperatively by: Western Yolo Collaborative and Esparto PTSA.

Esparto Lions Club



What is Esparto Lions Club and what is its role in this community? The Esparto Lions club are your neighbors. This Lions club is truly a community service organization, dedicated but not limited to "sight related" needs. It provides eye care for needy school children and a host of other sight related issues. The Leo Club is a subsidiary of the Esparto Lions. Its membership is derived from local high school students. The Esparto Lions sponsors the Boy Scout troop, and sponsorship of the circus that comes to town. In addition, it provides an annual scholarship based in part on community service, recognition of outstanding effort in academics and citizenship on the part of Middle School and High School students. New members highly prized and pampered. Dinner catered by the Buckhorn twice a month. Meetings have informative and enjoyable programs.

Meetings held 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at the Community Center in Esparto. Social time 6:30 p.m. dinner 7:00 p.m. Come be of service to your community and have fun doing it! JOIN NOW

Preschool Is Important

The Guinda Preschool is a parent cooperative established to provide early childhood education and socialization to community toddlers and their parent/care provider. During the 1997/1998 school year, the preschool served 27 different individuals. On an average week, approximately 14 children would attend. The preschool meets weekly on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. September through June. The day schedule includes circle time for learning activities, hands on crafts, snacks, music and games, stories and unstruc-

tured play time. Thanks to a grant this past year, the preschool was able to add much more age appropriate activities to their program. The Guinda Preschool serves a very important niche in this community, providing not only a service for the children, but also support for rural women (who can be isolated) with young children. This program is possible because of the steadfast work of committed volunteers. A Big "Pat on the Back" to all those in the community who give so much time and energy for all the kids activities. For information call Traci Shera 530-796-2145

WIN \$100 LOGO CONTEST

see page 4 for details

The Neighborhood Toddlers

The Neighborhood Toddlers all started in 1992, with a group of parents meeting once a week in the Esparto Park. The Toddlers group started out small with only six to ten children. Even though the group was small this playtime was a great opportunity for the children to interact with each other. The group also gave parents in outlet. They discussed and shared parenting experiences and ideas. As time went on they decided the group could be more than just a playtime. With some dedicated parents they applied for grants, fund raised and asked for donations from local business. Once they received some play equipment, they went to Jerry Elmore the school Superintendent and asked if there was any room in the schools for them to use as a meeting place? Everyone was very helpful and welcomed them to their new home the Alice Marsh Hall. Due to the limited amount of time the Alice March

Hall was available, the Toddlers moved to the Esparto Community Center for a while. Now with all the parents' effort, the group has its own classroom. It is located upstairs at the Countryside Church. A "Special Thank" goes to the members of the Church for letting them use one of the large rooms upstairs.

They now meet two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday for learning and playing together. Over twenty children attend the group. The Neighborhood Toddlers had their first open house on June 11th 1998. It was a huge success. The Toddlers group has come a long way from the days in the park!

These kids will shine when they enter Kindergarten socially and academically. For more information feel free to call Pixie Madigan 787-3975 or Renee Harmon 787-3757.



Sarah Harmon



Back, Morgan Ericson, Front, K.C.,



Left Taylor Hayes, Right Dustin Hayes

A Little Note from the Guinda Grange!

"The Grange Growing for the Future" The Guinda Grange is traditionally and legal a fraternal, family, farm organization. Membership is open to anyone of good character who is interested in agriculture. As a family organization, all family members are always welcome in the Grange hall. It is non-sectarian and believes in the Supreme Being. It is non-partisan; supporting issues but not candidates. They are involved in community service at all levels; function on the local, county and national

levels. Offer scholarships for members and local students attending college. Have State and National programs including contest awards, for members of all ages in talent, photography, sewing, cooking, art and much more. Western Yolo Grange has made the hall available to the community and the youth for no charge and rent the hall for community activities.

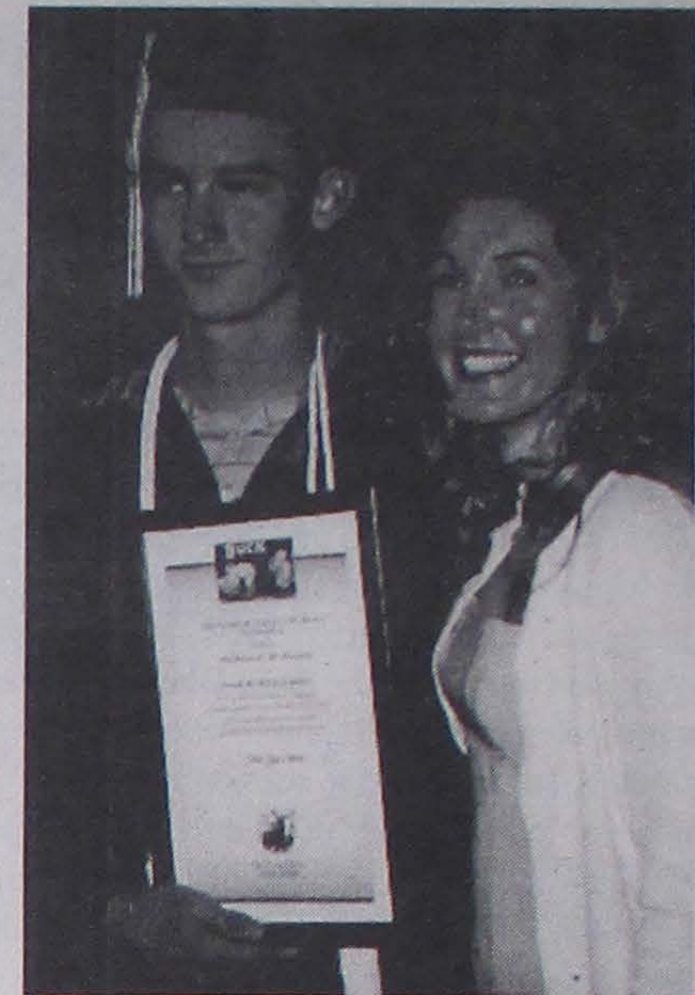
Western Yolo Grange is over 60 years old. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month. The Grange hall is lo-

cated at 16787 Forrest Lane, Guinda, CA. The President is Ken Han the Secretary is Marian Nichols. The Grange has many benefits for the members, buyers group insurance, travel groups, insurance benefits, etc. The Grange provides the opportunity, the people provide the leadership, and the community reaps the benefits. For more information please contact Marian Nichols at 530-796-3424.

First Edition

This community newspaper is a great example of collaborative effort. Collaborative means, partners working together to get things accomplished. The school district has a board goal to communicate and get information out to our community. The Western Yolo Collaborative for Healthy Children and Families also has a goal to help make the community more aware of the activities and events going on in our community. When we combined our efforts both our goals were met. We need a strong collaborative membership in our community. Everyone is welcome to join and help make a great place to live even better! If someone could attend the meetings from each organization in Madison, Esparto and the Capay Valley

we could really communicate and help each other reach goals. The organization representatives could find out what each group is planning and link up with other organization to combine resources and sponsor super events. At the same time share the responsibilities and cost. Yolo County agencies are available to come out and support our community, we just need to organize and then invite them to participate or give information. Dreams BIG and small can become reality when we work together. For more information contact the Collaborative Coordinator Debbie Kaake at 530-908-1186. Sponsored by a grant from the Sierra Health Foundation.



Thad Barsotti and Aaron Wicks

Operation Graduation Prepares Students for Future

Esparto high and middle schools are stepping out in a new program that has lots of positive benefits. This new program will aim youth toward graduation with more confidence and lots of new working skills, all wrapped around the basic core subjects that are required for graduation.

The students chosen for this new curriculum are the ones that need a "jump start" to find out that learning is fun. They will also find out that everything that is taught in school is applied in the work world.

Nick McNicholas and Jess Hollar brainstormed the ideas they wanted in the program.

They included RISE to help find the funding for Operation Graduation and write the grant.

As a result of their combined effort, a grant from Sacramento Regional foundation was awarded the school district. The students are excited about what is coming next and are anxious to get started.

In the fall, the students will work on the basic school subjects during the morning in an off-campus classroom. The afternoons will be filled with projects in the community that will require ordering of supplies, use of tools, elbow grease or other innovative

jobs that are found. The working skills used in the afternoon will be related to the knowledge learned during the morning classes.

Mary Kelley, Director of Development and Special Projects of The Sacramento Regional Foundation, pointed out that if a child is on track by ninth grade, then he will graduate. The purpose of Operation Graduation is to take students with potential and help them on their way to graduation.

These Four members of the Esparto High School Rodeo Team participated in the California High School Rodeo Association. Finals held in Red Bluff June 15. Left to Right Josh Kindrick, bullrider; Eric Farnham, bullrider; Joey Kinser, cutter; Mark Wicks, bullrider/team roper/calf roper. Joey Kinser qualified for the National finals in Wyoming later this summer.



BARSOTTI AWARDED BUCK SCHOLARSHIP

Thad Barsotti's academic future is assured. His tuition, books, supplies, living expenses, and other educational costs will be paid by the Buck Scholarship. He will have the opportunity to study anywhere in the world. The Buck Scholarship is named after the late Frank H. Buck, a Vacaville native who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1932-1942. Students from Solano, Napa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa and Yolo Counties are eligible for this award. Seven scholarships were given this year and Thad

was one of the recipients. Thad Barsotti is the third Esparto High student to receive the prestigious Buck Scholarship. Maribel Gonzales, 1994 graduate, was the first Esparto senior to receive the scholarship. Aaron Wicks, 1996 graduate, was Esparto's second winner. Academic achievement and service to school and community, problem solving ability, enthusiasm and ambition are taken into consideration in selecting award winners. Given the success of these three local students, there is good reason for every student to strive for excellence.

Support the Esparto J.V. Football Team

Celebrity Quarterback Golf Shootout, featuring Joe Montana, Ken Stabler, Jim Plunkett, George Blanda and more. The event will be held at Buckingham Golf Course in Konocti Harbor, Lake County. Sunday August 30, 1998, general admission is \$10.00 and tickets are available at the Esparto Haircuts or through J.V. Players. You can find the J.V. players in the weight room at the High School Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. For more information call 787-1838 or 787-3005.