



Valley Voice

Free

Serving Madison, Esparto, Capay, Brooks, Guinda and Rumsey

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2
Esparto, CA 95627

December 2025

Postal customer
Esparto CA 95627

Esparto Shines at VEX IQ Robotics Competition: Students, Staff, and Community Come Together for a Day of Innovation

Esparto Middle School was filled with excitement and engineering spirit in November as the ELOP robotics hosted a highly successful VEX IQ Robotics Competition. Organized by Esparto Expanded Learning Opportunities Robotics Teacher and Event Partner Daniel Goennier, the event showcased the creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills of young engineers from across the region. Esparto was proudly represented by three teams, one from Esparto Elementary School and two from Esparto Middle School, all of whom demonstrated impressive dedication, collaboration, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Students led the way from early morning pit setup to the final matches. Students worked tirelessly to prepare their robots, refine strategies, and support one another.

Celebrating Success and Looking Ahead

The event highlighted Esparto's growing commitment to STEM and robotics, giving students hands-on experience in engineering, coding, and strategic thinking. Spectators applauded the teamwork, resilience, and creativity shown by all three Esparto teams throughout the day. "This competition reflected the true spirit of Esparto," said Event Partner Daniel Goennier. "Our students worked hard, our volunteers went above and beyond, and our community came together to support meaningful learning. We couldn't have asked for a better event." With strong participation and outstanding support, the Esparto VEX IQ Robotics Competition continues to grow as a shining example of what collaboration, leadership, and student passion can achieve. **(Continued on Page 3)**



VALLEY VOICE AD RATES
CLASSIFIED ADS
25 WORDS FOR \$10
DISPLAY ADS

Business-card size: \$25/month
1/4 page: \$50/month
1/2 page: \$100/month
Full page: \$200/month

For more info, and yearly discounts email ValleyVoice@riseinc.org

The Valley Voice
P.O. Box 133
Esparto, CA 95627

For article inquiries, email Yessennia Galvan, Editor,
at ValleyVoice@riseinc.org.

For billing inquiries or ad rates, call (530) 787-4110 ext 237.

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.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please Select : One Year: \$25.00 (12 editions)

Two Years: \$50.00 (24 editions)

Please make checks payable to RISE Inc., Mail to RISE Inc. at
P.O. Box 133 Esparto, CA 95627 or bring it into our office (17340 Yolo Ave.)



Seasonal Recipes

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

Beet and Persimmon Salad

2 beets cooked and sliced
2 persimmons peeled and sliced
3-4 cups Arugula
1/2 cup walnuts
Salt

Pomegranate arils for garnish (optional)

Salad Dressing*

1/4 cup Elderberry vinegar *
1/4 cup extra virgin Olive Oil
1-2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

Spread the Arugula on a serving plate and top with the beets, persimmons,
walnuts and pomegranate arils. Add salt to taste. Whisk together the ingredients
of the salad dressing and drizzle it over the salad and serve.

***Notes**

Each ingredient in the salad dressing can be adjusted to your taste. Several farms
in the Capay Valley make and sell Elderberry vinegar. The delicious fruity taste
of this vinegar compliments the taste of beets and persimmons.



(Continued: Esparto Shines at VEX IC Robotics Competition)

Community Support Makes It Possible

The success of the event reflected the incredible teamwork of Esparto's staff, volunteers, and local partners. Food service and preparation were handled by EUSD Staff Teresa Warde, Marisol Castaneda, Juan Salas, and Sara Robles, who ensured all participants received a well-organized lunch. Event operations were supported by our EUSD Community School Leadership, Sherrie Vann and Admin Ariaza, who assisted with setup, cleanup, and ensuring all areas ran safely and efficiently throughout the day. A significant highlight of the event was the support from Esparto High School computer science students: Giselle Villegas, Ramiro Mojica, Hector Covarrubias, Jeremy Ryan Valentin, Diana Lucero, Irlanda Fierro, Kiara Cox, and Carolina Montes, guided by their teacher, Wally Wickander, who served as referees and scorekeepers. Their accuracy, fairness, and professionalism ensured smooth match cycles and well-managed game rounds. VFW Post 7143 volunteers generously served as judges, reviewing engineering notebooks, interviewing students, and helping determine award winners. Their dedication brought a professional, real-world perspective to the judging process. Additional support came from Amanjot Kullar and the EMS Saturday School students, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to reset fields. Their effort kept the competition running flawlessly. Visitors were greeted with warmth and professionalism by Dr. Christina Goennier, who welcomed families, provided directions, and helped ensure that everyone felt included and supported.

The winners in all categories are as follows:

- Excellence Award - Elementary School Team "Girl Powered-Eclipse" San Jose STEM
- Excellence Award - Middle School Team "Instant Noodles" San Jose STEM
- Teamwork Champion Team "NeRdS" San Jose STEM
- Teamwork Champion Team "Sandstorm-Hedgies" Hoover Robotics Club
- Robot Skills Champion Team "R.I.C.E-Magikid" Cupertino Robotics Lab
- Design Award Team "NeRdS" San Jose STEM
- Innovate Award Team "Forsaken" STEM Cupertino
- Judges Award Team "R.I.C.E-Magikid" Cupertino Robotics Lab



EHS Computer Science Volunteer Referees with Mr. Wickander

EMS Team Edwin De La Luz and Krystal Owens



EES Team Johny Garcia, Owen Vann, and Everardo Camargo Romo



EMS Team MJ Vann, Fernando Torres, and Joey Casson

TULI MEM PARK UPDATE

Winter has arrived and the sound of wind and rain has replaced the sound of children splashing in the pool at Tuli Mem Park. Although the pool is closed for the season, we are happy to see people are still using the park for walks, softball, basketball, and soccer. During the winter, the County and WYORCA are working to ensure everything is ready when the warm weather returns.

The County is performing inspections and needed repairs, as well as planning and coordinating staffing. Starting this fall, the County has taken over maintenance and operation of the park from the Esparto CSD to reduce costs and be involved in the park and pool more directly. WYORCA would like to take this opportunity to thank the Esparto CSD for their years of good service at Tuli Mem park. Their willingness to step into the role when a solution was needed after construction was completed, and the County was not ready to take the reins at that time, is deeply appreciated.

Meanwhile WYORCA continues to work (as it has for over 25 years!) to find ways to support the County in terms of advocacy for the park, coordination with pool management on details for the coming season, and raising funds to support programs such as lessons and free days. Please consider joining Friends of Tuli Mem to help make each new swim season a success, stay on top of the latest information regarding the pool with our biannual newsletter, and join us at our end of season celebration.

Submitted by G. Moris

WYORCA Board Members

Sandra Adams, David Vigil, Giacomo Moris, Jodee Treat, Carine Hines, Sherrie Vann

THANK YOU to all our members of Friends of Tuli Mem!

Pond Turtle Level

Letty and Homero Melendez
Loreal Monroe
Judith Redmond and Thomas Nelson
Brian and Gretchen Paddock
Polestar Farm
Kathy & Evan Vigil-McClanahan

Marsh Wren Level

Pam Welch and Tom Fredricks
The Moris Family
Julia Thomas

Chorus Frog Level

Alice Manas

River Otter Level

Anonymous

Great Blue Heron Level

John and Sandra Adams
R&R Pacific Construction
Sherrie Wood
Chris and Sharon Steele

Egret Level

Esparto Broadband
Trini and Wyatt Cline
Sam and Jane Cody
Double Dipper Ice Cream
Jim and Deborah Durst
The Hines Family
Max Vann Landleveling
Bob and Vicki Murphy
Linda Pillard
Dave Scheuring
Loreal Monroe and David Vigil
Nancy Vigil

Youth Speak Out: Their Views and Ideas on Substance Abuse

Across schools and neighborhoods, young voices are inspiring a new conversation about prevention and hope. The RISE Leadership Group at Winters Middle School is empowering students to take an active role in their community by promoting civic engagement and youth leadership. Their mission is to help prevent and reduce substance abuse by shaping positive local environments and supporting meaningful policy change.

As part of this effort, students were challenged to design posters that raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse—messages they would proudly display throughout their community. Here's what they created.

Submitted by Yesica Ayala, Mental Wellness Specialist

Student Responses:

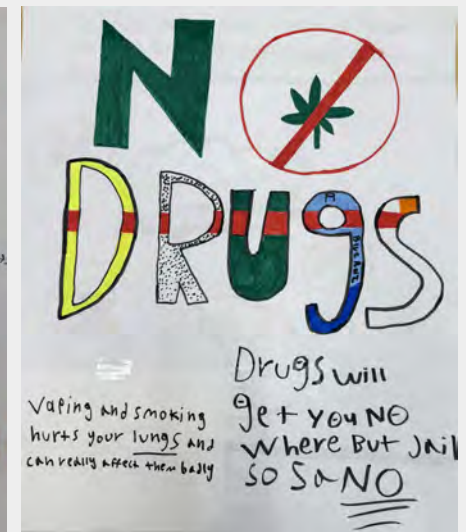
"There are better ways to control anxiety and other mental disorders. I feel like people should go to a therapist to get some help." – 8th Grader

"I think substance abuse are not good. A lot of people think that it helps them but it's hurting their body. I think having more presentations in school about substance abuse would prevent kids from consuming them in a future." -8th Grader

"Substance abuse is not good for you, and they can hurt you. I wish there was more programs that will help people not to do it or to tell them that's not good for you" - 6th Grader

"Substance abuse is bad for your health. I wish we can put information on the local newspaper about the dangers of substance abuse" -6th Grader

"People would get informed if we had posters around the community like the ones we are drawing today" -6th Grader



Youth Leadership Group

Esparto Middle School's Youth Leadership Group recently participated in an engaging Alcohol and Drug Prevention project during their After School group session. The students explored the topic "*Vaping: Fact or Myths?*" as part of a broader discussion on drug prevention and the risks associated with substance use. Through research, group discussions, and creative teamwork, they identified common misconceptions about vaping and learned about its impact on physical and mental health.

The students then applied what they learned by creating an informative display board to share with their peers. Their goal was to raise awareness and encourage others to think critically about the choices they make regarding drugs and other substances. This hands-on project gave students the opportunity to take on leadership roles, promote positive decision-making, and support a healthy school community.

In addition, members of the Youth Leadership Group wrote about their understanding of the project here in the *Valley Voice*, reflecting on what they learned and how the experience has influenced their perspectives on drug prevention and healthy living.

Submitted by Daniela Hernandez, Mental Wellness Specialist

Student Response:

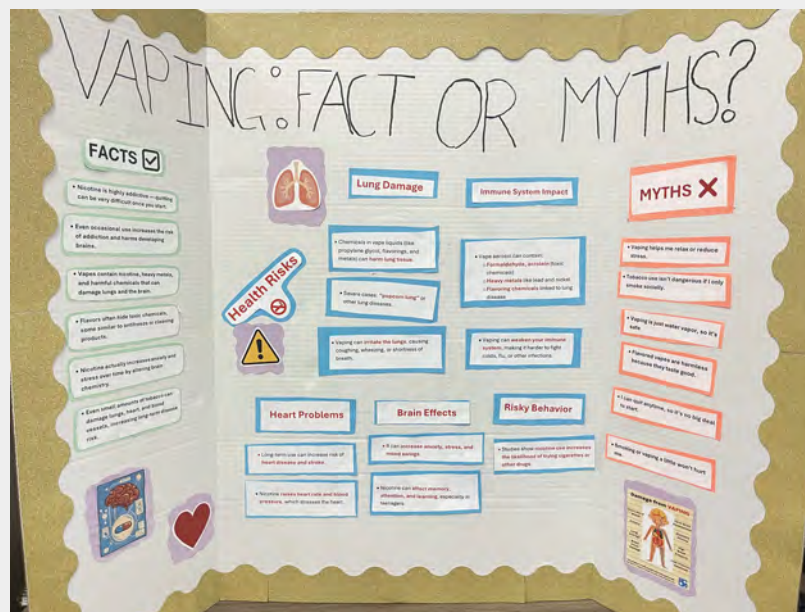
"Have you ever thought about how vaping could affect your body? Vaping could damage your body in many ways. It could damage your lungs, heart, kidneys, and affect your brain and you could possibly die. Some reasons why people start vaping is because they get peer pressured to do so or they want to fit in, or they could even be stressed out, and they believe that vaping could help. Some people believe that a little bit won't harm them, or it's safe because it has flavor, or "vaping is just flavored water or steam", or "vaping is a safe way to quit smoking". Those are all just myths and are not true. Some true facts about vaping are that vaping could cause cancer and it can cause nicotine addiction, which is the chemicals that are in vapes or cigarettes that are very unhealthy. Vaping can harm young people who are still developing, which is very bad for them. If you vape too much, it can overheat and explode, causing serious injuries. There are no safe levels of vaping. If you vape or smoke, and you want to stop, you can try cutting down the amount of vaping you do a day. You could also try Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) which is replacing your vape or cigarette with patches, gum, oral sprays, inhalers, or tablets."

-Chloe A., 7th Grade

Student Response:

"During this project, we learned about substance abuse, and we learned about how drugs can affect your health. Vaping can affect your mental health, lungs, and heart, and it could also affect your brain. We also discussed ways we can support the community by giving people resources to help with addiction. One of the ways we can help those people is hosting drug prevention clubs and talk about how drugs can really damage your health. Another way we can help the community and school community is by giving them advice they can seek help with professionals if they need to speak to anyone regarding any issues they might be having."

-Bethel A., 6th Grade



Western Yolo Grange Holiday Happenings

The Holiday Season has kicked off in high gear at the Western Yolo Grange Hall in Guinda. We held our annual Halloween Carnival on October 26th that featured Games, a Costume Parade, a Treasure Hunt and Raffle. The event was enjoyed by both children and adults. Some of the costumes were spectacular. Also, every Halloween night Jesse Capitanio, our local Fire Chief, heads up the annual Trick or Treat Hayride. All who want to participate, meet at the Grange Hall at 6:30 p.m. and caravan throughout our community on a pre-arranged route with approximately 40 trick or treaters, and their parents, all in costume and gathering candy. It is a great ride and good for those folks that want to still celebrate Trick or Treating on Halloween Night without miles of hiking in a rural area where the houses are spread so far apart. A good time was had by all.

Next up is our Annual Children's Nativity Play. The performance date is December 6th. This year we are changing it up a bit and featuring it as an "An Evening in Bethlehem". We will have "Bethlehem" food for sale prior to the show. The menu will feature meat bites, cheese, grapes and various fruits, dates, bread and relishes with hummus. The Doors and food sales open at 5:30. You will be greeted by folks in period costumes at the door and market tent. The performance starts at 6:30. There are 27 local children in the Nativity play, ranging from ages 2 to 16. The Performance is free.

After the performance, the Grange Hall presents the annual "Citizen of the Year Award". This has been a long-time tradition honoring those folks that go above and beyond helping in our community. The recipient is publicly honored on stage and their name is engraved on a plaque that is displayed forever in the Grange Hall.

After that presentation we have a "surprise" visit from Santa, who arrives in a brightly lit up Fire Truck. The children have the opportunity to tell Santa what they want for Christmas and everyone can enjoy a plethora of delicious free donated desserts with Hot Chocolate and Coffee.

Come and join us. This is a great way to kick off the Christmas Season.



Starting December 4th, Cafe Yolo will implement a new meal service to the Capay Valley Health & Community Center – RISE, Inc.

Meals will be delivered every Thursday—except the 3rd Thursday of the month from

Lunch:

11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Location:

17340 Yolo Ave, Esparto

Please remember to reserve your meal 24 hours early by calling 530-662-7035 or emailing welcome@mowyolo.org.



P.O. Box 528
Woodland, California 95776
530.662.7035
info@mowyolo.org



Capay Valley Flora, Fauna and Farms
Capay Valley Regeneration
By Pamela Bateman



Oats

Among the diverse crops grown by farmers in the Capay Valley are several types of grain including oats. But you are unlikely to find oats available for purchase at farmers markets because the oats grown locally are almost entirely for animal fodder in the form of oat hay. Oat hay is consumed by horses, cattle, goats, sheep and other domestic animals. Oats are often planted on dry land i.e. land that is not irrigated and the planting time is important. In California November is the recommended planting date because the weather has cooled and it is the beginning of the rainy season. In practice the planting date runs from October through January. Oat seeds can be planted alone or with a blend of barley, wheat, rye, or triticale. In order to increase the protein content of the fodder oats are sometimes planted with vetch or Austrian winter peas.

There are many wild oat species but only four oat species are cultivated worldwide. Archeological evidence shows man was collecting wild oats for consumption at least 32,000 years ago. Oat cultivation began in the Middle East, southern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and north coast of Africa. The oat species we eat today is *Avena sativa* and was brought to North America in the early 17th century by European immigrants.

In addition to fodder, oats provide ecological value for the farm. Oats are generally a low maintenance plant requiring little fertilizer, weed or pest control. Oats as a cover crop can increase soil biomass, improve soil biological activity and reduce weeds with its rapid growth and fibrous root system. Planting oats can reduce erosion as the crop absorbs and stores rainfall. The roots develop an association with arbuscular mycorrhiza further improving soil structure and fertility.

The timing of oat harvesting is one of the most important decisions for the farmer. The quality of the oat hay is dependent on the growth stage of the plant. The vegetative stage of oats begins with germination in the soil, then tillering, then stem elongation. The reproductive stage follows and is sometimes called the boot stage where the seed head begins swelling in the stalk but has not yet emerged. Heading is when the seed head appears above the stalk followed by the flowering stage when little spikelets of two to four florets are attached by short stems to loose panicles. The final stage is ripening when the oat grains begin to develop. Oats are sometimes cut at the early flowering stage because of the higher levels of protein and digestible nutrients. At this stage the stems will be green and pliable. Oats may also be harvested later when newly formed seed heads are soft and referred to as the soft dough or milk stage. Oat hay harvesting takes place sometime between the flowering and seed production stage. The timing of harvest determines the protein content and digestibility of the oat hay but the weather and the ability of the farmer to get machinery into the field may delay the harvesting time. Harvested oats are left in the field to dry, then tilled or raked and then baled when the moisture content is below 18%. Oat hay can be a valuable crop for the farmer and the tall stacks of golden oat hay contribute to the beautiful bucolic landscape of the Capay Valley.

CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE
COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of Grafton and Fremont)



WINTER SOLSTICE SOUP SUPPER AND BONFIRE
Friday, December 19th, Social Hall and Patio 6:00 PM
Relaxed gathering to celebrate the Return of Light

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
Sunday, December 21st, 9:00 AM
String and Brass Ensemble with Angela Kost and Friends
Begin your day with beautiful music and prayer for peace

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24th, 6:00 PM
Traditional beloved celebration with lessons, carols and candles

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US THIS WEEK
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December Superintendent's Message

As we enter December, EUSD extends warm wishes for a joyous and blessed holiday season to our entire community. This time of year invites reflection, and we are grateful for the many accomplishments we've shared as we prepare to welcome a new year.

One highlight has been the successful hosting of our very first **VEX Robotics Competition**, a milestone made possible by the dedication of our students, staff, and volunteers. We are equally excited as we near completion of the final tasks on our new **CTE buildings**, which we anticipate will be wrapped up before we head into the holiday break.

Looking ahead, we are planning to install the **new stadium lights** over the next 4–6 weeks, weather permitting. This improvement will further enhance our campus and the experiences we offer students and families.

As we close out the first semester, our focus remains firmly on our **Graduate Profile Competencies**. This year, we continue to emphasize three key areas:

Graduate Profile Competencies

Graduate Profile 2: Collaboration

- Building Thinking Classrooms
- Early Childhood Education
- Robotics

Graduate Profile 4: Wellness

- Wellness Center
- Wellness Coaches
- PBIS

Graduate Profile 6: Communication

- Think–Pair–Share
- Sentence Stems
- 30/70 Talk Ratio
- Cell Phone Ban Focus Groups

These competencies guide our daily work, supporting students in developing the skills and habits that prepare them for life beyond high school.

Wishing everyone a peaceful holiday season and a strong finish to 2025. Here's to a bright and rewarding year ahead!

Christina (Christy) Goennier Ed.D.
Superintendent
Esparto Unified School District



Community Schools: Trimester Highlights and Updates

As we move through a busy and exciting school year, we are proud to share some of the wonderful things happening in our Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP). From student performances that highlight their creativity and hard work to partnerships that support families with enrichment opportunities and essential resources, our schools continue to grow as hubs of learning, connection, and support. In this update, you'll find important information about recent events, upcoming programs, and ways you can stay involved in our school community.

As we conclude the first trimester of our Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP), our students finished with a great performance where they showcased the hard work and dedication they have put into their classes. Our music class allowed students to demonstrate their musical abilities. They sang along with Mrs. Martin, played instruments, and finished with the chicken dance. The theater class, directed by Jeff Teague, performed Frozen Jr., which truly highlighted the great acting skills of our theater students. Thank you to our ELOP program, our teachers, and our coordinators for allowing students to showcase their talents and create memorable moments they will remember for years to come. We look forward to the new trimester and the performances it will bring—please be on the lookout for our next show.

The end of our fall semester is approaching. Our schools will be on winter break from December 22nd to January 9th. During this time, Community Schools will partner with RISE Inc. to offer the Winter Intersession. The Winter Intersession will run from January 5th to 9th, giving students a week of exciting activities, including arts, crafts, STEM challenges, enrichment activities, and field trips to keep them learning and engaged. Space is limited, so please make sure you sign your child up for this great opportunity.

As we get closer to the holidays, Community Schools, in partnership with Yolo Food Bank, will continue to support our students and community by providing food boxes. Since the beginning of the school year, we have provided over 600 food boxes to our community! Please mark your calendar for our next food distribution dates right before our winter recess:

- Wednesday, November 5th
- Wednesday, November 19th
- Wednesday, December 3rd
- Wednesday, December 10th

Food distribution will continue at the Esparto Elementary parking lot (Omega Street) from 3:00–5:00 p.m. (until supplies last).

Esparto FFA Shines at the Yolo County Sectional FFA Opening and Closing Ceremony Contest

On Friday November 7th, Woodland Community College hosted the annual Yolo County Sectional FFA Opening and Closing Ceremony Contest and the Best Informed Greenhand Competition. Esparto was proudly represented by 96 students at these events! Two of Esparto's agriculture teachers, Mrs. Crerar and Mr. Kincaid, encouraged all of their freshmen students to participate in these public speaking contests— this year, almost every single freshman opted to compete!

The high school's Ag-Team urges all 9th graders to compete in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies Competition as it provides students with the opportunity to challenge themselves while developing critical career skills such as leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. The development of skills like this is a core value of Career Technical Education (CTE) and allows students to develop their progression towards meeting the Career, Communication, and Collaboration Competencies of the Esparto Graduate Profile.

In the Novice Opening & Closing competition Esparto was represented by eleven teams! In this competition EHS FFA earned four gold, four silver, and three bronze awards. One of the Novice Esparto teams was also awarded 2nd Place Best Informed Greenhand Team, with two members of the team placing 4th and 5th highest individuals.

Esparto was also represented by four Advanced Opening & Closing teams. Our highest placing Advanced Team placed 2nd overall in the County. Advanced team member, Anna Rickey received the high honor of County Top Reporter.

The final Spartan team was the Esparto FFA Officer Team, who placed 3rd overall, missing 2nd place by just half of a point. The team earned a perfect score in memorization. Additionally, 11th grader Riata Chappell, the North Coast Regional Vice President, earned Top Vice President honors.

Overall, the Esparto FFA Chapter represented the community with professionalism, confidence, and pride. Their dedication and hard work were evident in every event. Congratulations to all our Spartan competitors—way to go Spartans!

Kate Diezel
College and Career Readiness Coordinator
Esparto Unified School District



Tradition Remains Strong in Esparto

The Children's Shopping Day, a local celebration of giving, is coming up on Saturday, December 13 from 10 am to 1 pm. Children can spend 5 dollars to choose up to ten gifts for their family. It will take place at the Esparto Elementary School's cafeteria and is organized by the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library (FERL). At the event, the children from our community can shop for holiday presents for their family. Generous members of the community donate gifts, and FERL members transform the Elementary School cafeteria into a store. Volunteers help the children shop and then wrap all the presents, while parents wait in the hall. When the children are done they proudly greet their waiting family with a big bag full of surprises for Christmas morning.

Someone who has been influenced by this tradition is Esparto High School English Teacher Janette Geach. We interviewed her to give us her thoughts on Children's Shopping Day. She participated when she was a child and now her children join the event every year. She also brings helpers from the high school and is heavily involved with the event.

Mrs. Geach has some fun memories like how her niece gave a family member a gift that her family had donated. She believes that Children's Shopping Day is an important event that gathers and unites the community. She also said "this event highlights the importance of a small community working together." We asked her why she still participated in this community event and she stated that "it is important for the community to see the magic of Christmas and gift giving, no matter the age."

This tradition has been ongoing for over 30 years, and its longevity shows how important it is to our community. Families create fun memories, and future generations can reminisce about shopping for their family members, just like Mrs. Geach.

Everyone is welcome to donate new or gently used gifts for every member of the family (no clothing please). Collection boxes are placed at the Library and businesses around the Valley. Children under 12 are invited to come and shop. The entrance fee is \$5, and children can choose up to 10 gifts.

For more information and to volunteer, contact FERL at ferl95627@gmail.com. Join the Annual Meeting at the Library at 6 pm on January 14th to get involved with FERL.

by *The Spartan Scroll*



Happy Holidays from the League of Women Voters of Yolo County!

We've been hard at work this season because of the unexpected Special Election for Proposition 50, which is unofficially a "Yes" vote in Yolo County. Ballots are still being counted, and the next update will happen on November 18.

October Membership Meeting

In October, the League held a membership meeting and awarded two individuals with our League **Democracy Works Award**. League attendees were joined by several community guests, including two former Democracy Works Award recipients.

Two of our youth guests, a Woodland High School student and one of our newest members, who is a UCD student, reported back about how much they enjoyed the entire evening. They appreciated the camaraderie, loved the snacks offered and even picked up voter education materials to help our league community distribution.

This year, we are honored to recognize Dr. Lizette Navarette, President, and Dr. Shannon Reed, Dean of Arts & Sciences, both of Woodland Community College (WCC), for their outstanding contributions to our community in support of youth voter engagement on campus.

Jesse Salinas, Yolo County Registrar of Voters, gave a brief history of redistricting in California and described the impacts of Proposition 50 outcome options on our county and state congressional districts. You can see more about the event and watch the presentations at lwvyolo.org/october-2025-membership-meeting.

Proposition 50 Public Presentation

LWVYC held a separate presentation called "Understanding the Proposition 50 Special Election: Nonpartisan Voter Information for Yolo County".

League members summarized the initiative's history, its proposed impacts on congressional redistricting for the 2026, 2028 and 2030 federal elections, and the arguments made by both supporters and opponents. Voter information, including registration requirements, important mail-in, drop-box, and in-person ballot return options, dates and vote center locations, were also reviewed.

The video is available on the League's YouTube channel, youtube.com/@LWVYC. You can find more information about the event at the League's website: lwvyolo.org/understanding-the-proposition-50-special-election.

Defending Democracy at the No Kings Protest Event

On October 18, several League members offered their public support for defending democracy and protecting voting rights. We provided community members with voter registration and education materials at the Countywide "NO KINGS" protest held in Davis. Our voter education table at the event attracted more inquiries for voter materials: Easy Voter Guides, voter registration online tools and Yolo County Elections Office ballot return information than many of our tabling events earlier this year.

Several community members inquired about League membership and our election information materials. It was inspiring to see the number of folks wanting to learn more about the League's mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. You can see photos of the event at lwvyolo.org/no-kings-protests.

Two New League Initiatives

Beginning in November, two new initiatives will help us grow our program and expand our county outreach. A new Issue Position Advocacy Review Committee is working with the board to revisit our advocacy history and initiate updates to our issue positions where needed. By June 2026, we hope to identify several issue positions we can bring forward to help advocate for community-based local resource priorities that impact housing, climate, education and transportation challenges.

Our Fundraising Committee is currently working to ensure we have sufficient resources for countywide outreach and public resource advocacy. Our support for good governance policies in housing, health and the public resources helps lift up our residents and strengthen our communities. We will be launching a 2026 LWVYC Funding Campaign to ensure our league has the operational resources needed to support a range of voter registration and ballot education outreach events in partnership with multiple Yolo County communities during the 2026 election cycle.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We're ending the 2025 year with a members-only social gathering and a brief winter break, but we'll be back with more in 2026, and we'll be bringing you more information about the June primary elections and the November midterms.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the League, please go to the membership link on our website: lwvyolo.org/membership. For more information about League member opportunities, contact Membership Committee Chair Kathleen Stack at membership@lwvyolo.org for additional event information.





2026 OPEN ENROLLMENT

GET HELP ENROLLING TODAY!

Open Enrollment is your chance to review your health coverage and make sure you and your family are protected for the year ahead. At Winters Healthcare, we offer free appointments to help make the enrollment process simple and stress-free.



COVERED
CALIFORNIA



GET COVERED, STAY HEALTHY.

OPEN ENROLLMENT RUNS

NOV 1, 2025 - JAN 31, 2026

CALL (530) 795-4377 OR VISIT WINTERSHEALTH.ORG
TO SCHEDULE YOUR ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENT

Friends of the
Esparto Regional Library
presents

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING DAY!

Saturday, December 13th
10 am-1 pm

Esparto Elementary School

All children under 12 are welcome to come and shop for holiday gifts for everyone in the family

Donate new or gently used items for children to give as gifts to every member of the family. Drop gifts in boxes at the Library and local businesses.

Thank you!

Esparto RISE, Inc.

Thursday, December 4th and 18th
starts @ 9:30am

~~~~~

Monday, December 22nd  
starts @ 10:30am

~~~~~

Food Pantry

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

(17317 Fremont Street, Esparto CA)

Madison Community Committee Food Closet

Monday, December 8th and 22nd
starts @ 4:00pm

(28963 Main St, Madison, CA)

Guinda Grange Hall

Monday, December 8th and 22nd
starts @ 9:30am

(16787 Forest Ave, Guinda, CA)



Road Trip

BAR & GRILL

Visit Santa with Us!
Dec. 19, 6pm-8pm

WE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 22 - DEC. 31, 2025
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS
WE ARE OPEN JAN. 1, 2026

24989 STATE HWY. 16 • CAPAY, CA • (530) 796-3778
CLOSED MONDAY-WEDNESDAY • ROADTRIPBG.COM

CAPAY VALLEY
FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

play the best.



cachecreek.com

Selling Soon? Here's What Most Agents Won't Tell You!

As your local expert in residential real estate, land, and country homes, I know that selling here takes more than just putting your property on the market—it requires smart strategy, and strong visibility

✓ **Most Agents Don't Offer This—But I Do**

- ✓ Strategic scroll stopping Video & Social Media Marketing
- ✓ Targeted Ads + Custom Property Websites
- ✓ Local **PLUS** National Buyer Exposure
- ✓ Free Home Value Report—**Even if You're Not Ready Yet**

I live here, work here, and market like no one else. Thinking of selling this year? Let's chat—I'll give you real answers and a real plan. Call or text me today to get started!

Local Realtor
Strong Networks & Connections!

(530) 713.6121

l.pillard@gmail.com



Lic: 01208519



Green Fields
Real Estate of California

Full Belly Farm

530-796-2214

www.fullbellyfarm.com

CSA boxes available
for pickup at the farm
or in Esparto.



Need Help?

**St. Vincent de Paul
is available to help those in need.**

For more information call (530) 312-8967

D. Warren Insurance Agency

Brookie Jo Campbell

Lic.# OD21886

main 530-787-3558

fax 530-787-3233

brookiejs@outlook.com

Auto, Home, Life
Farm, Commercial, Health

17309 Fremont St.
Esparto, Ca, 95627

MANAS RANCH



25838 County Road 21a
Esparto, CA 95627
(530) 787-3228
Fax (530) 787-1878
Fred and Alice Manas

SÉKA HILLS



Experience a Taste of the Capay Valley

SAVOR OUR EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OILS, ESTATE WINES, HONEY
AND MORE AT OUR TWO TASTING ROOMS.

SÉKA HILLS OLIVE MILL AND TASTING ROOM

19326 COUNTY ROAD 78 | BROOKS, CA 95606

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY, 11:00AM - 5:00PM

SÉKA HILLS MIDTOWN TASTING ROOM

1733 S STREET | SACRAMENTO | CA | 95811

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO MONDAY, 11:00AM - 8:00PM

SEKAHILLS.COM

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



OPEN ENROLLMENT
Little Gnome
CHILD
DAYCARE
530-204-3984



Countryside
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services
WORSHIP - 9:00 AM • SUNDAY'S TABLE - 10:00 AM
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00-10:30 AM
Everyone Welcome!

Located at 26479 Grafton St, Esparto, CA 95627
(on the corner of Grafton and Fremont streets)
For more information call 530-787-4040 or visit espartocountrysidechurch.org



Esparto's Local Meat
Market and Taqueria

- Party trays Available
- Rice and Beans
- Chicken Fajitas
- Chicken Enchiladas
- Chile Verde Beef
- Carnitas

Tables now available
for inside dining

16939 Yolo ave.
Esparto, Ca 95627
530-787-3532
eltorofood@gmail.com

Online ordering available at
eltoroesparto.com

DURST
 **ORGANIC**
GROWERS 

James & Deborah Durst
26100 County Road 16
Esparto, CA 95627
530-787-3390

J&L Lawn Maintenance offers lawn maintenance, cleanup, bush trimming, sprinkler repairs, window screen repairs, window cleaning, hauling, & gutter cleaning. Don't be afraid to text or call for an estimate and any information on our services!

#1 Juan Solis: (530)-848-2824
#2 Leonardo Solis: (530)-631-9283

Candice Schaer, B.Sc., MT, HHP
Holistic Health Practitioner
Therapeutic Bodywork
Guinda, California
858-232-1005



Make Time for Yourself in Your Life

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 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 on January 26th, 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 Wednesday at 4 pm (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 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Community Center in Esparto.