



# Valley Voice

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January 2026

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## An Enduring Holiday Tradition!

It was a magical day last month when the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library (FERL) hosted Children's Shopping Day for all the children of the Capay Valley. This local celebration of giving has endured for decades thanks to dedicated volunteers and community support. The Esparto Elementary School cafeteria was transformed into a mini shopping mall for a few hours with gifts donated by community members from all over the Valley. Almost 80 children waited patiently for their turn and then left their families in the hallway to pick out gifts for everyone in the family. Once they checked their list twice, a team of wrappers made sure that each gift would look beautiful under the tree.

Parents like Faviola remember shopping for their families at Children's Shopping Day as kids, and now they are bringing their own children to carry on the tradition. Faviola said, "It's amazing that it's still going on!" Frances, another mom who brought her kids to shop, appreciates the convenience, so they don't have to worry about going to the store.

Student volunteers from Esparto High School and Middle School greeted shoppers and led them around the tables laden with gifts. When it's a child's first time, it can be a bit of a challenge to get them to separate from their parents and shop with someone they don't know. Parents can have a hard time, too, when they're instructed to wait in the hall. After a few minutes, everyone is on board. "It's a great way for kids to learn how to be independent," said Laudia, whose child was back for the second year, "I'm glad I'm not allowed to go in; I want to be surprised too!"

The spirit of giving showed on everyone's face. Sisters Valentina, 11, and Keyla, 9, participate every year. Valentina said, "I like that we can get gifts for our friends and family." Keyla remembers getting her sister a fennec fox stuffed animal that she still treasures. Thomas, 8, said "I got my mom something I'm excited to give her!" Abby, 15, participated when she was younger and recalls: "I loved children's shopping day when I was younger because it gave me a chance to do something special for the people I love."

Volunteer Robert Richeal said "Working alongside the volunteers from EHS and EMS is such a pleasure. Watching the older kids interact and helping the little kids brings warmth and hope to the soul."

Many thanks to all the community members who donated gifts, the businesses that hosted collection boxes, and the community and student volunteers who made this holiday favorite happen!

by The Friends of the Esparto Regional Library



Get involved and support FERL, join the Annual Meeting at the Library at 6 pm on January 14th or email [ferl95627@gmail.com](mailto:ferl95627@gmail.com)

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*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.**

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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.)



In this 2 act comedy Tom Flores lives the life of a wealthy industrialist with a beautiful penthouse apartment and a diamond-studded socialite wife. What nobody realizes is that Tom's business is failing and he's on the verge of bankruptcy. Desperate, he hatches a plan to steal his wife's diamonds and claim the insurance money, but unbeknownst to Tom, he's not the only one planning this particular caper on this particular day...

**Directed By:** Jesse Capitanio and Gin Townley

**Auditions: Actors ages 10 and up, Friday 1/16/2025**  
7:00pm with callbacks consisting of a cold read scheduled for 1/23/2025

**Audition Location:** Guinda Grange Hall

**Rehearsal Schedule:** Tue/Fri 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Beginning February 3 with performances Friday May 8th and Saturday May 9th. No rehearsals will be held in the week leading up to Almond Festival. Dress rehearsals will be held nightly during the week leading up to the performance and no absences are permitted during this week. Please note that rehearsals can run late, and location is subject to availability of the Grange Hall.

**What to bring:** Please bring a list of rehearsal conflicts – keep in mind that conflicts may affect casting, and that no conflicts are allowed during tech week. Please memorize an audition piece and be ready to perform it – a favorite monologue or poem is appropriate.



## Celebrate Community, Blossoms, and Tradition at the 2026 Capay Valley Almond Festival

By Laura Gordon

It is with great pride and genuine excitement that I welcome you to the **111th Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival**, taking place **Saturday, Feb 21, 10-4 (Family Day) all day Sunday, 9-4 February 22, 2026**, throughout the beautiful Capay Valley. A cherished Northern California tradition since **1915**, the Almond Festival remains one of the region's most beloved annual celebrations—honoring community, agriculture, and the breathtaking pink and white almond blossoms that signal the coming of spring.

What began more than a century ago as a post-harvest gathering has blossomed into the **only known six-town festival in California**, stretching from **Madison** through **Esparto, Capay, Brooks, and Guinda**, and ending in **Rumsey**. Each community along scenic Highway 16 proudly offers its own unique flavor of festivities—local foods, arts and crafts, live music, family activities, and even a vintage car show. One of the most anticipated traditions of the weekend is the **Almond Queen Pageant** Feb 14th @ 6:00 PM at the Guinda Hall. Culminating in the crowning of our 2026 Almond Festival Queen and her court, who will greet visitors in each town.

The almond is not only a symbol of the Capay Valley—it is one of California's most valuable and recognizable crops. As the only place in North America where almonds are grown commercially, California's almond industry now exceeds **\$2 billion**, supported by more than **6,000 growers** cultivating approximately **530,000 acres**. The festival offers a special opportunity to celebrate these growers and the tight-knit community that supports them.

This year, the **Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce** welcomes vendors and nonprofit organizations to participate in the festivities at **Esparto Community Park**. In a continued effort to spotlight community service groups, **Saturday, February 20, 2026**, will be dedicated exclusively to **local nonprofits**, giving them a unique platform to share their missions and connect with visitors.

On **Sunday, February 21**, the celebration expands to welcome **artisans, crafters, food vendors, and local businesses & Music**, offering an excellent opportunity to showcase products and services to thousands of festival-goers. Vendor and nonprofit applications are being accepted now, with all submissions due or postmarked by **January 31, 2026**.

VENDOR LINK:

<https://espartoregionalchamberofcommerce.regfox.com/111th-capay-valley-almond-festival>

One of my favorite festival traditions is picking up a **Capay Valley Almond Festival Passport**, getting it stamped in each town along the route, and turning it in for a chance to win prizes—a fun adventure for families and visitors alike.

I invite you to join us in celebrating the **Capay Valley**, our agricultural heritage, and the joyful spirit of the Almond Festival. Whether you come for the blossoms, the food, the music, the vendors, or the simple pleasure of community, the festival promises a memorable weekend for all.

For more information or to apply as a vendor or nonprofit, visit the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce at **espartoregionalchamber.com** or email **info@espartoregionalchamber.com**.

Come celebrate with us—and experience the beauty, history, and hospitality that make the Capay Valley Almond Festival the shining jewel of Yolo County.





## Holiday Turkey Distribution Brings Thanksgiving Cheer to 245 Families

In November 2025, our organization was proud to host a holiday turkey distribution that helped bring warmth and joy to families in our community ahead of Thanksgiving. Thanks to our continued partnership with the Yolo Food Bank, we were able to serve **245 families**, ensuring they had a turkey to share with their loved ones during the holiday season.

With the rising cost of food and ongoing economic challenges, having access to a holiday meal can make a significant difference for many households. For families picking up their turkeys, the distribution was more than just food support—it was a reminder that their community cares and stands with them.

We are incredibly grateful to the Yolo Food Bank for their partnership and ongoing support, which makes these distributions possible year after year. Their commitment to fighting food insecurity allows us to reach families who may otherwise go without during the holidays.

Providing turkey distributions to families is something we feel fortunate to do, and it reflects our mission to support community well-being, especially during times when connection and nourishment matter most. We look forward to continuing this partnership and serving even more families in future holiday seasons.

By Maribel Garcia, Resource and Referral Specialist



### RISE Valley Seniors

As the holiday season approaches, our seniors enjoyed a special outing to Road Trip restaurant for a time of fellowship, delicious burgers, and meaningful connection. The road trip provided a relaxed and joyful setting where everyone could catch up, share stories, and enjoy each other's company. Laughter filled the room as friendships were strengthened and new memories were made. It was a wonderful way for our seniors to come together, unwind, and celebrate community before the busy holiday season.

Submitted by Isabel Solorzano, Senior Program Coordinator

"Approach the new year  
with resolve to find the  
opportunities hidden in  
each new day."



## Esparto Celebrates Christmas Tree Lighting with Festive Community Gathering

The spirit of the season was on full display Friday evening, December 5, as families and neighbors gathered at the Community Hall for Esparto's **8th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting**. The beloved tradition once again brought together children, parents, volunteers, local businesses, and students for an evening filled with music, treats, and holiday cheer.

The event was made possible by the dedication of the **Esparto Elves**, the volunteer committee that organizes the tree lighting each year, along with the many individuals and organizations who generously contributed their time, talents, and resources.

A special thank-you goes to **John and Ilene Mast**, who once again transported the Christmas tree down from the mountains and helped with setup, and to **Mike and Tracy Pryor of Evergreen Enterprises**, who expertly placed the tree and lights. The dramatic arrival of Santa—complete with lights and sirens, was facilitated by the **Esparto Volunteer Fire Department**, delighting children as Santa rode in atop the fire truck.



Before Santa's arrival, the community enjoyed a joyful sing-along of Christmas songs and carols led by **Steve Fisher of Countryside Community Church**, joined by musicians from several local congregations.

Families were treated to free cookies provided by the **Esparto High School Culinary Class** and volunteer bakers from Countryside Community Church. **El Toro Meat Market & Taqueria**, **Lucy's Café**, and the **Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce** also contributed products and volunteer support. New to the celebration this year was **Cork & Co.** coffee truck, which generously served free hot cocoa to warm hands and hearts.

Local students again played an important role! Esparto High School teachers coordinated student volunteers, including **FFA students**, who decorated the space and provided holiday crafts for children, and **NHS students**, who helped decorate and package cookies.

Promotion and social media outreach were supported by **Linda Pillard of United Country Real Estate** and **Olga Lee**, helping spread the word throughout the community. **Olga and Matt Lee of OM Ranch** led the efforts for setup, decorating, and cleanup.

The highlight of the evening came when Santa greeted the children and invited them to join him in making "magic wishes" together—wishes that culminated in the Christmas tree lighting up to cheers and applause from the crowd.

The Esparto Christmas Tree Lighting continues to be a cherished tradition, made special by the many hands and hearts that come together each year.

**Cafe**  
**YOLO**

SOCIAL DINING

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

Cafe Yolo has launched a new meal service at the Capay Valley Health & Community Center – RISE, Inc., located at 17340 Yolo Avenue in Esparto. Meals will be delivered every Thursday from 11:00–11:30 am, except on the third Thursday of each month.

Please remember to reserve your meal at least 24 hours in advance by calling 530-662-7035 or emailing [welcome@mowyolo.org](mailto:welcome@mowyolo.org)







Welcome to the start of 2026! Great things are in store for our students, staff, and community as we move into the new year with renewed energy and purpose. We continue our districtwide work on implementing the six competencies of the Graduate Profile. In December, all teachers came together to review and refine the Learner Progressions, our student expectations by grade span, to ensure clarity and consistency around what students should know and be able to demonstrate.

In January, our district ILC will begin the important work of identifying the adult actions that will best support students in developing and demonstrating these competencies. This collaboration will help strengthen our shared vision of high-quality teaching and learning across the district.

We are excited to host a **Study Tour on January 26**, where teams from other districts will visit to observe our classrooms, learn about our progress, and provide feedback to help us continuously improve.

January also brings several important events and updates: **January 23, Kindness Challenge Kickoff**, a districtwide celebration of empathy, positivity, and community-building. **January 28, Board Meeting**, an opportunity to share updates and continue the work of supporting our students and schools. **Winter sports**, our athletics season is in full swing, and our student-athletes are giving their all in competition and in representing our district with pride.

While we are excited about the ongoing improvements to our facilities, our **field lighting project has hit an unexpected hiccup**, and we anticipate a solution and resolution soon. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work through the final steps.

Similarly, although we had hoped to open all new classrooms for the start of the second semester, construction has its own timeline. We are still awaiting final release, but plan to host **soft openings** as spaces become available so students can begin to see and experience the amazing changes on the way.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin this new year together. The future is bright, and we are grateful to learn and grow alongside our community.

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

## Recognizing Youth Leadership This Holiday Season

This holiday season, students of the local Youth Leadership Group were recognized for their dedication, growth, and commitment to making positive change within their school community. Throughout the year, students have worked diligently in their leadership roles, gaining valuable knowledge around drug prevention while actively participating in meaningful civic engagement opportunities.

As part of their leadership development, students participated in an open and engaging conversation with district leadership, including a meeting with the Esparto Unified School District Superintendent. During this discussion, students asked thoughtful questions about the school district, gained insight into how decisions are made at the district level, and learned about the superintendent's professional career path. This experience gave students a better understanding of school leadership and helped them build confidence speaking with professionals.

To celebrate the students' hard work and dedication, the facilitators, Daniela Hernandez and Johanna Lopez hosted a holiday appreciation party where students were gifted thoughtful holiday presents as a token of gratitude. The gifts served as a meaningful reminder that their efforts, growth, and commitment to leadership do not go unnoticed.

"This recognition was about more than gifts," shared program facilitators. "It was about showing students that their voices matter, their leadership is valued, and their commitment to creating a healthier school community makes a real difference."

As the year comes to a close, the Youth Leadership Group continues to exemplify the power of student voice, responsibility, and advocacy. Their dedication serves as a reminder that when young people are given opportunities to lead, they rise to the occasion and help shape a stronger, more connected community.

-Daniela Hernandez, Mental Health Specialist



## Spreading Holiday Joy: Lambda Theta Phi and Lambda Theta Alpha Host Second Annual Christmas Toy Distribution at RISE, Inc.

On December 9, **Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc. Gamma Tau Chapter** and the lovely ladies of **Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. Eta Delta Chapter** partnered with **RISE, Inc.** to host their **second annual Christmas Toy Distribution in Esparto, California**, supporting families throughout the Esparto and Winters communities.

Volunteers from both organizations joined together to sort, wrap, and distribute toys to children and participants of the IMPACT Legacy Program. The event brought joy, excitement, and holiday spirit to dozens of local families, ensuring children in the region could celebrate the season with gifts and smiles.

What started last year as a small joint service effort has now grown into a meaningful holiday tradition. The event not only provided toys but also strengthened the connection between volunteers and the communities they serve, showcasing the true spirit of giving.

This year they hosted a Christmas event in which both organizations alongside RISE, Inc. were able to provide families with a joyful night filled with crafts, games, and snacks.

A special thank-you goes out to the **Sacramento community** and **Dreamer Resource Center, El Centro Serna** at Sacramento State for their continued support. Their generosity and encouragement play a vital role in making events like this possible and helping expand the impact each year.

As the organizations close out their second year of collaboration, **Lambda Theta Phi** and **Lambda Theta Alpha** reaffirm their commitment to serving local families and look forward to continuing this Christmas tradition with RISE, Inc. for years to come.

*Submitted by: Lambda Theta Phi and Lambda Theta Alpha*





## Capay Valley Flora, Fauna and Farms Capay Valley Regeneration

By Pamela Bateman

### American Kestrel

The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon in North America and also native to the Capay Valley. Although they are a common falcon throughout North and South America their population has been in decline due to many factors including deforestation, land clearing for agriculture, pesticide use, nest site competition, expansion of urban areas and other changes in their environment. American Kestrels nest in tree cavities that have been excavated by Northern Flickers or other woodpeckers. Described as secondary cavity nesters, American Kestrels do not have the ability to carve out a nest in a tree so they rely on cavities made by others. Research has found that American Kestrels readily inhabit man made nesting boxes. These boxes mimic natural nesting cavities providing a secure place to rear their young thus helping their survival rates.

American Kestrel are small birds of prey weighing only 2.8 to 5.8 ounces. For their size they have strong talons and beaks which can easily dispatch their prey. They are intelligent birds with keen senses and the ability to fly with speed and agility. They prefer to hunt from tall perches where they can scan the ground for voles, lizards, insects and other small birds. With rapid wing beats the kestrel can hunt by hovering above the ground, often described as kiting, waiting for the perfect moment to capture their prey. Kestrels can see ultraviolet light which enables them to see vole urine trails as bright paths that help them to locate the prey.

American Kestrels are sexually dimorphic with the female having less variation in plumage color than the male. The female is typically slightly larger than the male. Often mating for life, the pair begin courtship in the cold months to secure a bond before breeding season. In early spring once the kestrels have chosen a nesting site the female will lay 3 to 6 eggs. Both the female and the male will incubate the eggs with the female doing most of the work. The eggs require constant brooding the first 10-14 days and after approximately 28 days the eggs begin to hatch. The babies fledge at 4 weeks but may continue to return to the nest for several more weeks. The adults will feed the fledglings for the first month but eventually they begin hunting on their own.

There are several ways to participate in American Kestrel conservation. Across the Capay Valley we can work to protect and restore riparian corridors, grasslands and meadows which are important hunting grounds for the kestrel. Planting hedgerows and native plants create biodiversity on farms. In residential gardens planting natives and native wildflowers attract insects that kestrels need to feed their young. The installation of nest boxes decreases nest site competition and will help with American Kestrel research. And finally we can volunteer and/or donate to American Kestrel conservation efforts.

For more information contact  
Breanna Martinico PhD  
Human-Wildlife Interactions  
UC Agriculture & Natural Resources  
bmartinico@ucanr.edu



### Seasonal Recipes

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



### Napa Cabbage with Peanut Dressing

1/2 Napa Cabbage chopped  
1 carrot shredded  
1 Asian Pear peeled, cored and diced  
Salt

#### \* Dressing

1/4 cup smooth peanut butter  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
1 clove garlic chopped  
1 teaspoon peeled and chopped fresh ginger  
Zest and juice of one lemon  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 or more tablespoons honey  
Water

In salad bowl toss together Napa cabbage, carrot and Asian Pear. Salt lightly.

In a small bowl mix together salad dressing ingredients. Thin the dressing with a little water if it is too thick to pour. Add only enough dressing to thinly coat the salad. You will probably have some dressing left over.  
Serve

\*Note - All the ingredients in the salad dressing can be adjusted to your taste.



## Get Ready, Guinda! Our First Annual Community Evacuation Drill Is Coming January 31st!

Mark your calendars for January 31, 2026! Guinda's first-ever annual Evacuation Drill invites everyone in the 95637 Zip code to join. This event is a chance for our community to enhance safety and teamwork in preparation for any natural disaster.

We're partnering with Yolo County OES, California OES, the Red Cross, and Yolo County Health & Human Services to help residents learn essential emergency response skills for wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and more.



### Event Details

Date: January 31, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

### What to Expect:

10:00 AM: Residents of the 95673 Zip code registered with Yolo Alert will receive a drill message instructing them to report to the Grange Hall in Guinda immediately.

If you're not registered, set a reminder for 10:00 AM and evacuate to the Grange Hall as if it were a real emergency.



### What to Do

1. Grab your go-bag and drive safely to the Grange Hall.
2. Follow CVERA traffic directors into the parking lot and remain in your vehicle.
3. CVERA members will ask you a couple of quick survey questions.
4. Pull forward to receive helpful Red Cross brochures about real-life evacuation shelters and emergency services.
5. And, you are done!

You deserved a little treat after being emergency-ready heroes! Every participant gets a FREE coupon for a single-serving ice cream or popsicle at the Corner Store.



### Why These Drills Matter (And Why You'll Want to Join In)

Community evacuation drills save lives—plain and simple. When we practice together, we turn confusion into confidence and fear into action. These drills equip everyone, including children and seniors, with vital skills needed in a crisis.

### Here's what a good evacuation drill makes possible:



#### Key Benefits of Community Evacuation Drills

- Calm Reactions: Practicing helps you stay composed and take action.
- Clearer Evacuations: Knowing the plan ensures smoother, safer exits.
- Improved Emergency Plans: Drills reveal weaknesses before real incidents occur, such as unclear routes, bottlenecks, and weak points, before they become real problems.
- Inclusive Training: Everyone learns their role, from parents to kids to neighbors needing help.
- Stronger Community Bonds: Preparing together builds trust and teamwork.
- Personal Empowerment: Gain confidence by knowing what to do in an emergency.
- Wildfire-Ready Skills: Practicing evacuation is essential as wildfire seasons worsen.



#### A Safer Valley Starts With You

Preparedness isn't just a concept—it's a culture. And every single resident who joins the drill helps make our Valley safer, stronger, and more resilient.

So, grab your shoes, grab your neighbors, and meet us on January 31th. Your participation matters—and yes, so does your free ice cream. Let's show the Capay Valley what community strength really looks like!

The graphic is a colorful, horizontal banner with a blue background and white arrows pointing right. It features a large blue arrow pointing right with a white silhouette of a person running inside it. The text "GUINDA AREA EVACUATION DRILL" is prominently displayed in the center. To the right, there are several circular icons: a question mark, a bell, a clipboard, a gear, and a clock. Each icon is accompanied by text: "SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2026 10 am GUINDA GRANGE HALL", "ALERT WHEN YOU GET THE YOLO ALERT- EVACUATE TO EVACUATION RALLY POINT @ GRANGE HALL", "PLAN AHEAD HAVE YOUR GO BAG / BOX READY", "SUPPORT OUTSIDE AGENCIES PARTICIPATING / WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION", and "TIME COMMITMENT ONE HOUR TIME COMMITMENT OR LESS ANTICIPATED". A small "LET'S GO!" sticker is also visible on the right side.

## Prescribed Grazing in the Capay Valley: Learn How!

(**Capay Valley**) – Wildfire threatens every community in the Capay Valley. How will you plan for this upcoming fire season? Perhaps after the rainy season comes to a close, you will pull out the lawnmower and weed whacker to manage dry fuels. However, there is an alternative – prescribed grazing using cattle, sheep, or goats!

Even if you have no experience with grazing, the Yolo County Fire Safe Council is here to help! We have funding from CAL FIRE to facilitate prescribed grazing projects for fuels management in the high fire areas of Yolo County. Prescribed grazing uses ruminants to consume fuels that propel wildfire (grasses and other groundcover) to lessen the amount of fuel available for wildfires. Well-managed grazing has other benefits for the land beyond fuels reduction, such as weed management, soil health, and reduced erosion.

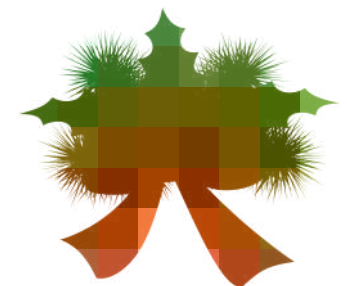
The Yolo County Fire Safe Council, in partnership with grazing expert Sarah Keiser (Wild Oat Hollow) is hosting the Capay Valley Grazing Workshop: Managing Wildfire Fuel with Grazing Ruminants on January 24, 2026, from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM. This hands-on grazing workshop is open to anyone in the Capay Valley and broader Yolo County interested in learning about prescribed grazing for fuels reduction, animal husbandry, and community grazing cooperatives. The workshop will be presented by Sarah Keiser and Roselle Busch, DVM with UC Davis and will feature information and hands-on opportunities on:

- basic animal stockmanship
- animal husbandry (hoof trimming, inoculation, breeding programs)
- feeding and care (small ruminant health, teeth and age, mineral needs, managing health and care)
- prescribed grazing overview and portable electric fencing
- community grazing cooperatives

Join us on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM; location in the Capay Valley TBD. This event has a cap of 25 people and there is no cost to attend. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**

To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/yolo-grazing-school> or contact Tanya Meyer, Fire Resilience Program Manager, at [meyer@yolorcd.org](mailto:meyer@yolorcd.org) or call 530-661-1688 ext 2.

Children's  
Shopping  
Day  
Photos





## The Yolo County League of Women Voters welcomes 2026

By Jessica Smith

The Yolo County League of Women Voters wants to welcome everyone to the New Year! In 2026, there is a June primary and, later in the year, November midterm elections. This means the League will be planning more opportunities for the community to meet their candidates and discuss local issues.

### 32nd Annual State of Community Luncheon

We'll be kicking off the year with our 2026 State of the Community Luncheon featuring California Senator Chris Cabaldon, District 3. Now in our 32nd year, this luncheon is an event the League has been proud to host to give the community an opportunity to hear more from their elected representatives. This year's event will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Feb 27, at the Yolo Event Center, 1225 E. Kentucky Ave. You can find out more about the State of the Community Luncheon at our website [bit.ly/soc2026](https://bit.ly/soc2026).

### See you at the Almond Festival

We're excited to be coming to this year's Annual Almond Festival on Saturday, Feb 22. If you're in Esparto, please drop by our table and say hello. Come talk to us to learn more about League activities, and to let us know which county public policy issues you feel are important for our League to address. In addition to voter education and election participation, our 2026 issue priorities continue to focus on housing and healthcare, so stay tuned for updates on those topics.

### Youth Outreach and Advocacy Continues

We're proud to announce our League is partnering with students at UC Davis who have officially registered a new UCD League of Women Voters Student Club. LWV has been working hard to promote youth voter registration and turnout. We are now working with these students who are passionate about defending democracy and ready to begin their own initiative. We are also currently working with staff at Woodland Community College to bring a student civic engagement and voter registration event to campus in February. The event is still in its planning stages, but we are hoping to have more information soon.

### The National League Wants Your Help

Help the League reject anti-voter policies.

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 is now under review in the Senate. It needs 60 votes to overcome a potential filibuster, a high bar. If you haven't already, learn more and use the League's form to tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act. <https://bit.ly/lwv-save>

~ ~ ~

The League of Women Voters is committed to informing voters on local politics and increasing access to voting and information. It is a non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to voter education and empowering citizens to create better communities, not just in Yolo County but throughout California and the United States.



## YOUR VOICE DRIVES YOLO'S CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FUTURE!



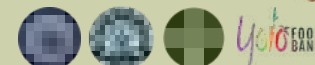
Take our 5-minute survey by  
**January 31, 2026** for a chance to be  
entered into a gift card prize drawing!

Yolo County is developing a **Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Action Plan** to make clean transportation more **accessible** and **equitable**. Your input will help us identify where **EV chargers, e-bike hubs, and carshare services** are most needed.



Scan the QR Code or visit [dks-engage.com/yolo-zev](https://dks-engage.com/yolo-zev) and select **"Click here to take the survey!"** to share your ideas and enter the prize drawing.

Questions? Email:  
[Sustainability@yolocounty.gov](mailto:Sustainability@yolocounty.gov)



## ¡SU VOZ IMPULSA EL FUTURO DEL TRANSPORTE LIMPIO EN YOLO!



Responda nuestra encuesta de cinco minutos a más tardar el **31 de enero de 2026** para participar en el sorteo de una tarjeta de regalo.

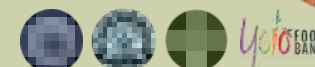
El condado de Yolo desarrolla un **Plan de Acción de Vehículos de Cero Emisiones (ZEV)**, por sus siglas en inglés) para que el transporte limpio sea más **accesible** y **equitativo**. Su opinión nos ayudará a identificar dónde **se necesitan más cargadores para vehículos eléctricos, estaciones de bicicletas eléctricas y servicios de vehículos compartidos**.



Escanee el código QR o visite [dks-engage.com/yolo-zev](https://dks-engage.com/yolo-zev) y seleccione **"¡Haga clic aquí para participar en la encuesta!"** para compartir sus ideas y participar en el sorteo.

ESCANEE AQUÍ

¿Preguntas? Escriba a  
[sustainability@yolocounty.gov](mailto:sustainability@yolocounty.gov)



# Annual Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, January 14th, 6 pm  
at the Esparto Library**

Join the group that sponsors Children's Shopping Day,  
the Almond Fest Book Sale, and more!

Board positions are available.

FRIENDS OF THE  
ESPARTO REGIONAL  
LIBRARY

Supporting Library programs for  
everyone in the Capay Valley

ferl95627@gmail.com



CAPAY VALLEY  
FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

## Esparto - RISE, Inc.

### January 1st - CANCELED

Thursday, January 15th  
starts @ 9:30am

~~~~~  
Monday, January 26th  
starts @ 10:30am  
~~~~~

### Food Pantry

Every Friday, 2:00pm - 5:00pm  
( 17317 Fremont Street, Esparto CA )

### Madison Community Committee Food Closet

Monday, January 12th and 26th  
starts @ 4:00pm

( 28963 Main St, Madison, CA )

### Guinda Grange Hall

Monday, January 12th and 26th  
starts @ 9:30am

( 16787 Forest Ave, Guinda, CA )



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May it be filled with  
new adventures  
and good fortunes.

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17309 Fremont St.  
Esparto, Ca, 95627

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## 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





### **Esparto's Local Meat Market and Taqueria**

- Party trays Available
- Rice and Beans
- Chicken Fajitas
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- Carnitas

Tables now available  
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eltorofood@gmail.com

Online ordering available at  
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**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**



## 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](http://espartocountrysidechurch.org)

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Call Candice Schaer: 858-232-1005  
for exact time and place (varies with weather)

## 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 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.