

**Free**

# The

# Valley Voice

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#### Inside this Edition:

- Yolobus Line is Extended to Capay Valley!
- Updates on your favorite school organizations
- Cheerleaders go from Berkeley to Hawaii
- What you should know about Highway 16
- Introducing ER-FINEST

## Serving Madison, Esparto, and the Capay Valley

Presented by a community partnership between Healthy Start, Esparto Unified School District, ER-FINEST, and RISE, Inc.

### Yolo Bus extends its Transportation Services into the Capay Valley

Are you worried about traffic safety on Highway 16, about how to get to and from your home without overburdening yourself with high gasoline prices, and adding extra wear and tear on your vehicle? Worry no longer. Yolo Bus has come to the rescue. Starting last month, Yolo Bus initiated its one-year trial run of the new 215 route, also known as the Cache Creek Shuttle. The 215 route provides a cost-effective, safe, and time-efficient transportation service to residents traveling throughout the Esparto region along Highway 16.

Beginning at the crack of dawn in Woodland, the Cache Creek Shuttle makes four daily trips up the Capay Valley and back into the Woodland area. It travels west bound along Highway 16, stopping in Madison, Esparto, and continuing onward until it reaches its final destination at the Cache Creek Indian Bingo & Casino.

For those of you who work, attend classes, or make frequent stops in the Woodland area, the Cache Creek Shuttle may be a plausible, and inexpensive solution to your daily transportation routine. The 215 route affords passengers the convenience to access most of Woodland's main attractions--such as the city's downtown business district, Woodland Community College, the Department of Employment and Social Services, the County Fair Mall, and Woodland

Memorial Hospital--within a reasonably short period of time. For only one dollar, passengers boarding in the Esparto region can arrive at their Woodland destinations simply by requesting the friendly bus driver to issue them a free



of charge transfer ticket to either the 210 or 211 routes. However, passengers should keep in mind that transfer tickets are only valid for one-way trips. If you have any questions as to how to use these transfer tickets, do not hesitate to ask the bus operator for assistance. I am sure the driver will be more than happy to answer any questions or give

you any additional information.

This new innovative transportation system will not only alleviate traffic problems--such as decreasing congestion and reducing automobile accidents--along Highway 16, but will also provide passengers with access to the convenient, and easy to use Sacramento and Davis bound routes. People needing to catch a flight at the Sacramento International Airport, going shopping at the downtown Sacramento shops, or hoping to enjoy a nice, and relaxing day with the friendly college students in the Davis area can do so simply by hopping on the 215 route, and transferring onto the 42 route at the County Fair Mall in Woodland. With the purchase of a one-dollar fare, passengers can obtain transfer tickets valid for a one-way east or westbound trip on the clockwise or counter clockwise Sacramento and Davis bound routes.

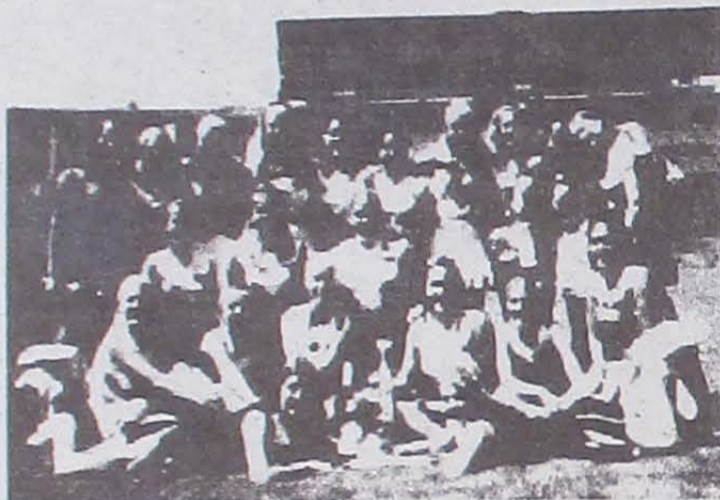
The Cache Creek Shuttle offers many advantages. One of the best features of this new route, is that it provides working residents with the opportunity to access jobs not only in Woodland's industrial area, but also at the Cache Creek Indian Bingo & Casino. The first eastbound shuttle heading into the Woodland area arrives at the Esparto Community Hall at 7:24 a.m.--a perfect time for those planning to take a

*(Continued on page 5)*

## EHS Cheerleaders have a great time at camp

By Carol Heil

On July 21, 24 excited cheerleaders loaded up their belongings for a stay at University California Berkeley. From July 21-25 Esparto High School cheerleaders spent a fun and thrilling week at camp while they learned new cheers, stunts, and dances that they can use to cheer on their team. What made the week so special was the last day of camp when they were awarded a superior trophy and invited to be a part of the Pro Bowl half-time show in Hawaii. So the first week of February they will once again load up their belongings. This is a very big accomplishment considering there were 300 cheerleaders at this camp. While they are in Hawaii they will be a part of the Pro Bowl half-time show, attend a luau, and go on tours including one to Pearl Harbor. The cheerleaders will be having many fund-raisers to support this trip so watch out.



From left to right, back row: A. Abughosh, K. Lindsey, D. Pereira, S. Jull, M. Sanchez, P. Aguirre, C. Gerken, C. Heil, A. Lua, K. Burton. 2nd row: V. Smith, K. Shank, S. Labrecque, M. Martinez. 3rd row: K. Sharp, V. DeGand, L. Thompson, J. Martinez, A. Nichols. Bottom row: M. Domann, L. Medina. Not pictured: J. Herbst, J. Taylor, J. Vieira

## Highway 16 Safe Communities: A Community-Driven Project

By, Martha C. Stiles, Project Director

The Highway 16 Safe Communities Project began its important work in 1997 with a core group of local residents in the Capay Valley along with some safety-conscious individuals from UC Davis and Yolo County public agencies. In 2000, we are looking forward to our third year of activities in helping to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle injuries and fatalities along Highway 16. In addition we will extend safety projects to other parts of rural Yolo County.

During the last two years, the Safe Communities Project has contributed to increasing awareness of safety issues and has built a strong coalition of individuals to address specific problems.

We started with a comprehensive examination of about 9 years of CHP crash data. This showed that over 800 crashes occurred on Highway 16 during that period. This Traffic Profile was widely disseminated, which heightened awareness and concern of residents and law enforcement alike about specific driver and road hazards.

The initial core group of less than 10 quickly grew. The Safe Communities Coalition now has some 40 members, including residents, local law enforcement, Cal Trans, Migrant Camp directors, casino representatives, flood control, Healthy Start, school and public health officials. This group has successfully addressed speed limit, seat belt, car seat, safety education, and engineering issues. The Traffic Profile has been the impetus for Cal Trans to make Highway 16 a priority in Yolo County to reduce those 800+ crashes.

The success of the Coalition is due in large part to the partnerships have forged by various members. Safe Communities partnered with the Yolo County Health Department (Cheryl Boney and Diane Sherwin) to form the Yolo County Car Seat Coalition (YCCSC). YCCSC, again partnered with

CHP and now there exists a county-wide car seat trainer program, staff who do regular seat check-ups throughout the county, and a violator's school. (For information call 666-8645).

Partnering with Yolo County Public Works, Healthy Start, and the Health Department resulted in a design for safer pedestrian and bike infrastructures for Esparto and Knights Landing elementary school kids. The Coalition was also a partner in the Esparto Healthy Start Health and Safety Fair and the school district's Every 15 Minutes program coordinated by CHP and other local entities.

After working with Safe Communities members, regional Cal Trans representatives chose to nominate the group for the regional SACOG award. These are but a few of the myriad of activities in which Coalition members have been engaged. The Coalition was also featured on radio and television, including an appearance on National Public Radio and KCRA television.

The year 2000 hopes to bring more people together to address the common goal of reducing crashes and fatalities. Through Coalition meetings and strategic planning, Safe Communities hopes to extend safety restraint training (belts and car seats) to rural Yolo County with the YCCSC. This includes providing low-cost seats to those who need them. Building bilingual safety resources will help to include all residents in safety programs. Increased partnerships with CHP will provide school kids an opportunity to participate in their own risk reduction when walking or riding bikes to school. Another Goal 2000 is to assist local law enforcement in designing safety awareness projects to reduce DUIs, especially during the holidays. A continued effort with the residents, Cal Trans, and local businesses will help to keep a steady eye on crash problems that have engineering solutions.

Highway 16 Safe Communities looks forward to all of the challenges for the year 2000! Anyone interested in more information about Safe Communities and the meetings, please call Martha Stiles, 752-2606.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ESPARTO/CAPAY VALLEY  
HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

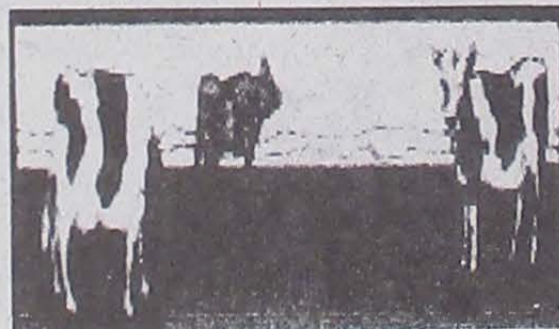
Esparto Community Park, September 24, 2000  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MEDICAL SCREENINGS  
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Local residents Pam Welch, Joyce Gordon, and Pat Harrison are interviewed by a KCRA reporter.

This Yolo Bus is headed for Capay. It's part of a new service that extends bus lines into the Capay Valley. For more information, see article on page 1!



Wondering when you can catch the bus? Pick up a schedule at the ER-FINEST office (16858 Yolo Ave.).

Route 11 - Redwood Valley, Ukiah, Ukiah, Ukiah, Ukiah			
Stop	Time	Time	Time
Ukiah	7:00 AM	7:30 AM	8:00 AM
Ukiah	8:00 AM	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
Ukiah	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Ukiah	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ukiah	11:00 AM	11:30 AM	12:00 PM
Ukiah	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	1:00 PM
Ukiah	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
Ukiah	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Ukiah	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
Ukiah	4:00 PM	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Ukiah	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
Ukiah	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Ukiah	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM
Ukiah	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	9:00 PM
Ukiah	9:00 PM	9:30 PM	10:00 PM
Ukiah	10:00 PM	10:30 PM	11:00 PM
Ukiah	11:00 PM	11:30 PM	12:00 AM

## HEALTHY START AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GROWS

The Esparto Unified School District recently received a State Department of Education grant which will expand the District's after school programs. A new after school program for middle school students will be offered, and more students will be enrolled in the elementary program. "Another one of the goals," according to Superintendent Jerry Elmore, "is to place the after school program closer to our student's homes." After school programs will be available in Guinda and Madison. When programs are full, 45 students will be enrolled at each Esparto center, middle and elementary, while 30 elementary and middle school students will be enrolled at the Guinda Center and 24 at the Madison center.

The new after school programs will follow the format of our already successful Healthy Start after school program at the elementary school. Debbie Kaake, Healthy Start Coordinator, pointed out that, "our elementary and middle school students will be provided with a safe supportive learning program in which they can receive tutoring in reading, writing and math, study skills, homework assistance and enrichment activities in arts, crafts, gardening, science, computer related activities, and 'After School Adventures.'"

The School District is currently seeking an After School Coordinator who will supervise and provide leadership to the elementary and middle school centers as well as the satellite centers at Guinda and Madison. The after school centers will be staffed with additional instructional aides, tutors and volunteers. New instructional materials will be purchased, materials that complement and extend classroom instruction.

The after school program promises to be a fun place for kids to "hang out" after school. The Healthy Start center is complete with games, puzzles, books and magazines, and tons of great toys. Snacks, recess, and games are certain to be just some of the highlights for students in the program.

It is planned that the after school programs will begin October 1, 2000. More details about the after school programs will be sent to parents from each school during the first weeks of school. If you are interested in additional information, or volunteering and employment opportunities, please phone Debbie Kaake at 787-3519.

### WARNING

It has come to the attention of the Esparto Fire Department that an adult male may be fraudulently calling residents of Esparto to solicit cash donations for the **Esparto Fire Department**.  
**PLEASE DO NOT CONTRIBUTE.**  
Notify the Department at 787-3300 as soon as possible.

*What do you suppose these foster grandparents are up to?  
Learn about their most recent event on page 7.*



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## National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) 2000 was a Huge Success!!!


By, Letty Mata

We are happy to announce that there were 280 students enrolled in the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) this summer. Students age 10 to 16 attended from Esparto, Guinda, Madison, Woodland, Winters, Vacaville, Dixon, and West Sacramento. There were 30 students from Esparto School District that attended, thanks to the recruitment efforts of the Esparto Healthy Start office.

The NYSP day camp took place in Davis at the UC Davis Campus. Free transportation and 2 meals a day were provided, along with other incentives. The program is made possible through a federal grant and donations. The program spanned 5 weeks from June 26 to July 28 and ran from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The bus arrived at the Esparto Elementary School to pick up the children at 7:15 a.m. every morning and returned around 3:00 p.m. This made a full day of activities for the kids. Among the activities they offered Golf,

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Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Aquatic games, Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco awareness and prevention classes, math and science. The four most popular sports from our survey of the Esparto kids were: Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, and Tennis. The things they all enjoyed were the prize giveaways. The kids all received lanyards, water bottles, T-shirts, and hats. Many kids enjoyed the food which included fast foods from Taco Bell, Carl's Jr. and Pizza Hut three days a week. At the end of the program the NYSP gave away bikes to the kids with perfect attendance.

Towards the end of the program the students went on two field trips. The first one, on Saturday, July 22, was to San Francisco Science Academy & Aquarium. The second field trip took place on the last day of camp, Friday, July 28, and it was to Water World in Sacramento.

We would like to thank counselor Victor Quintana for the good work he did supervising the kids on the bus. We also want to thank Debbie Kaake for being on the advisory board and for having it available to kids in the EUSD. We want to thank all the kids that participated: Carlos Torres, Sabrina Albrecht, Veronica Hernandez, Samantha Senkbeil, Courtney Stalder, Kacey Kaake, Jack McNamara, Jose Al-



*NYSP 2000 Esparto Team*

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## Volunteers needed at dental clinic

The Esparto Dental Clinic opened its doors to the general public last September. As such, our one-year anniversary of providing dental services to Capay Valley residents—including both children and families—is rapidly approaching. We attribute the success of our first year in service to the widespread support we have received from the community as well as from the staff at Esparto Healthy Start.

Like any new business, we automatically undertook an ambitious publicity campaign to promote our location (corner of Fremont and Woodland Avenue), office hours and make the community aware of the various services we offer. We credit the high turn out of our February 15<sup>th</sup> house-warming party, which was attended by County Supervisor Lynnel Pollock, to the success of our publicity campaign, to the public announcements broadcasted on Cable View's Community Access Channel 55, and the rapid spread of information amongst community members of the services offered at the clinic. We hope to have the opportunity this year to expand our services in order to meet the increasing demand of dental services in the community.

Many Esparto Elementary and middle school students now benefit from medical insurance, in part because of the rigorous efforts of the Esparto Healthy Start staff to enroll as many children as possible in the Healthy Families Insurance Program. We very much enjoy serving the wide array of clients of the Esparto area, which include, among others, Esparto school children, Madison Migrant camp children, older siblings and parents.

The Smile Saver Program is a service operated by Community-Care Health Centers that provides Esparto Elementary School children not only with toothbrushes, fluoride, and oral hygiene products, but also with information about tooth injury prevention and nutrition education. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Esparto Clinic was home to "Sealant Saturday," a day in which dental providers from the Smile Saver Program provided free dental sealants (plastic coatings placed on teeth to prevent tooth decay) to Esparto residents.

We hope that the dental providers from the Smile Saver Program will provide free dental services to a greater number of people at the Second Annual Healthy Start Health Fair, scheduled for Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with yard work around our clinic. Dr. Lara is great with dental procedures, but he does not do yard work! Would any students consider doing volunteer yard work at the dental clinic? If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call me at (530) 758-1510, ext. 1300. Not only will your efforts be greatly appreciated, but they will also stand out on your resume and college applications.

## Campers Circle 'Round the Reading Fire!

By: Shannon Fralish  
Summer Program Administrator

This year's elementary/middle school summer program, Summer Reading Camp, has been a big success! On average, 160 students attended the program every day to improve their reading and writing skills. Students had the opportunity to utilize new supplemental materials designed to enhance reading/writing intervention programs. Many hours were devoted to direct instruction, a strategy that allows students to work as a whole group with the teacher concentrating instruction on a single lesson. This practice has been shown to be very effective in research, and it appears it has been effective with our own students. Time on task has been dramatically increased and students feel confident in accomplishing their assignments.

Students were invited to attend the program based upon their SAT/9 test scores in Total Reading and language, as well as teacher recommendation. This helped our staff design an effective program utilizing strategies and materials geared to help remediate students in the areas of reading and writing.

The theme, Summer Reading Camp, also gave instructors the opportunity to teach students about our National Park System. Each room, or "cabin," was named after a National Park—Yosemite, Sequoia, Yellowstone, etc. Often reading and writing assignments were designed to incorporate the parks.

At the end of the program assessments will be completed in order to determine the amount of growth students made in their four-week intensive program. We anticipate some

marked improvement. As a reward for students' hard work teachers developed a Field Day for the last day. This session included fun, outdoor activities and a BBQ lunch for all students. This was in line with the federal feeding program in place to serve breakfast and lunch each day to all children 0-18 years old. The Summer Reading Camp has proven to be a successful intervention program in reading and writing. We hope to expand this program to include math next summer.

Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, was the final day of Esparto Unified School District's "Summer Reading Camp." The culminating activities included a Field Day with face painting, sack races, body bubbles and cookie decorating.

After the fun-filled activities, an awards ceremony was held to honor those students with perfect attendance throughout the program and to honor those who achieved highest improvement. There were approximately 90 students with perfect attendance, constituting over half of the entire enrollment!

The nine students awarded as "Most Improved" included: Gabriel Pimentel, Fabiola Marquez, Humberto Gamino, Isabel Castro, Angelica Ramirez, Jennifer Sanchez, Abel Lopez, Rosa Marquez and Miguel Figueroa.

After the awards ceremony the Summer Feeding Program sponsored a BBQ lunch, and everyone enjoyed hot dogs, watermelon and ice cream desserts!

Early analysis of the end-of-program assessments indicates that the Summer Reading Camp was instrumental in assisting the students improve their reading and writing skills. Both the children and teachers enjoyed the four-week program and feel it was very helpful to the students.



Two summer school participants show off their face painting on the last day of the program. In addition to the face painting, students participated in games and ceremonies.



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### Guinda Community Methodist Church 16681 Forrest Ave. Guinda Ca. 95637

Childrens Sunday School 8:45

Sunday Worship Service 9:00

Wednesday Night Service 7:00

Every Third Wednesday 6:00

Ed or Pat Coker 796-2188

Yolo County Tobacco Education Program, 10 Cottonwood Street, Woodland (530) 666-8448



### ANNOUNCES THE FIRST ANNUAL YOLO COUNTY FAIR ANTI TOBACCO GEAR AND CHEW EXCHANGE

**WHAT IS A GEAR EXCHANGE?** Your Opportunity to bring us anything like a t-shirt, hat, or any similar item with a pro tobacco message and exchange it for one of our cool anti tobacco items.

**WHAT IS A CHEW EXCHANGE?** If you are trying to quit using chew tobacco we have an exchange item to help you quit. We will give you a sample of mint snuff, a natural all mint product to help you kick the chew habit!

**WHERE AND WHEN IS THE CHEW AND GEAR EXCHANGE?** In front of the Grandstands of the Woodland Fairgrounds Arena on Sunday August 20, 2000 from 7-9 p.m.

**WHY SHOULD I GO TO THE CHEW AND GEAR EXCHANGE?** Because I want to be smoke free and the event is spotlighting local racer, Jason Lloyd. Jason's cool race car will be on display to help us celebrate the Demolition Derby and an anti tobacco future!



### THE COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

is accepting clothing donations at this time.

Please call **Esparto Healthy Start Family Resource Center** to arrange a drop-off time at 787-3519.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated — your generosity is what keeps

(Continued from page 1)

9:00 a.m. class at Woodland Community College or likewise entering work at this time. Another great feature of the Yolo Bus system is that it is wheelchair accessible.

Its affordable fare, extended hours, wide coverage area, and daily service makes the Cache Creek Shuttle a great alternative for Capay Valley commuters. I highly recommend that everyone hop on and test ride the 215 route. Who knows? Perhaps you too will realize how convenient, easy to use, and efficient this transportation system is, and decide as a result to set aside your car keys, and instead go down to Yolo Bus and purchase a monthly pass. What can you lose? Absolutely nothing. On the contrary, you'll be saving money, avoid wear and tear on your vehicle, and helping to reduce traffic problems along Highway 16. From what it appears so far, the 215 route has been a complete success. Serving an average of 50 passengers per trip, the Cache Creek Shuttle is on its way to becoming a permanent feature of the Yolo Bus transportation system.

The Esparto Region Family Incentive Network Employment Services Team (ER-FINEST), which is located two doors down from the Esparto post office, can assist you with any questions you may have regarding the transportation system. Feel free to call the ER-FINEST at (630) 787-4110 or stop by the office, or call Yolo Bus directly at (530) 666-2877.

### The PTSA Welcomes You Back to a New School Year

The Esparto Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to school. We cordially invite you to join the PTSA in its concerted effort to develop a nurturing educational environment, one that will lead to the improvement in the quality of life for all children. The PTSA is a great opportunity for parents and community members alike to make new friends, work with one another, and most importantly to actively partake in children's educational careers.

We realize the importance of education for future success in life, and we know that every parent most certainly wants its child to receive a solid, healthy education. As such, the PTSA takes pride in saying that it can true heartedly help parents achieve an active role in their children's lives. It is an established fact that a healthy, friendly, and welcoming learning environment, one in which parents, students, and community members work together, helps children to learn more and likewise lead healthier lives. By bringing parents, students, and community members together to express their ideas about programs and activities, the PTSA hopes to provide the bases for the development of future plans that will benefit the lives of every child.

Because the PTSA is loyal to its ongoing commitment to helping children and families, it has sponsored and will continue to sponsor the following programs: Middle School Dance, Family Fun Nights, Staff Appreciation Lunch, 5<sup>th</sup>

### Firemen's barbecue a big success

About 200 locals attended the yearly volunteer firemen's and family barbeque. Guests were immediately put in the Fourth of July spirit when they first sat down thanks to the volunteer firemen's wives who decorated the tables with a patriotic motif. Games were organized by Bernie Zentner to entertain children until it was dark enough for the free fireworks. The fireworks were a huge success and brought smiles to the faces of children and adults attending the barbeque. Mrs. Hurmado was wearing a particularly large smile, as she won the drawing for an outdoor barbeque.

Dishes of corn on the cob, salad, string beans and bread were plentiful. For dessert everyone helped themselves to a bowl of cool ice cream. Thank you to the community for having a quiet and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. We are happy to announce that no fire calls were received during the event.

Many thanks and appreciation to everyone who made donations — you truly made this a successful and fun event!

**Be a reporter for the Valley Voice!** The Valley Voice is looking for articles for its next installment. To submit an article, please call Letty Mata at 787-3519.

and 7<sup>th</sup> grade D.A.R.E. Program, School Beautification/Elementary Marquee, Healthy Start Safety Fair, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Blue and Gray Ball, and Sober Grad Night.

The PTSA has set its goals for the upcoming school year, which include participating in both the School Beautification and the Middle School Marquee.

We urge everyone to join the PTSA and become active members in children's educational lives. Your membership in the PTSA will solidify our support, thus bringing us one step closer to achieving our goals. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Regional Library, located next to the Esparto High School.

As a reminder, if you show your PTSA membership card at our annual Sock hop and Christmas Ornament night, you and your family will get in for free.

The following is a list of the names of the PTSA officers:  
Mae Darling, President (787-3565)  
Pixie Madigan, Vice President (787-3975)  
Ginger Schnieder, Secretary (787-4720)  
Diane King, Treasurer (796-2211)  
Sara Robles, PTSA membership (787-4610)  
Carole Hiltman, Middle School Principal (787-4151)  
Greta Taber, Elementary School Principal (787-3417)

*These kids are all smiles at their last day of summer Reading Camp! Perhaps it's because they just finished a round of games and a hearty barbecue meal. Read about their summer experience on page 4*



### Time change announcement from Guinda Community Church

The Guinda Community United Methodist Church will be changing service times beginning September 2, 2000. Sunday School will start at 9:00 am on Sunday morning, worship will be at 10:30 am, and Wednesday Evening Bible Study will be at 6:00 pm. To kick off the new schedule, they will be having special refreshments at 10:15 am on Sept. 2. Please come and enjoy the refreshments, then stay and worship as a family at the 10:30 service.

The church will also be starting a Sunday Evening Social for the community which will be held the last Sunday of each month. A potluck dinner will start at 5:30 pm with activities and programs following. On Sept. 24, they will be showing the film *A Spiritual Tour through the White House Facility* by David Barton for the adults. Youth activities are being planned.

The Guinda Community Church hopes the time changes and added activities will make it easier for you to take part in the Christian Community. For more information, feel free to contact Pastor Ed Coker at 796-2188.

### Guinda Contra Dance a Big Hit

By, Kacey Kamrin

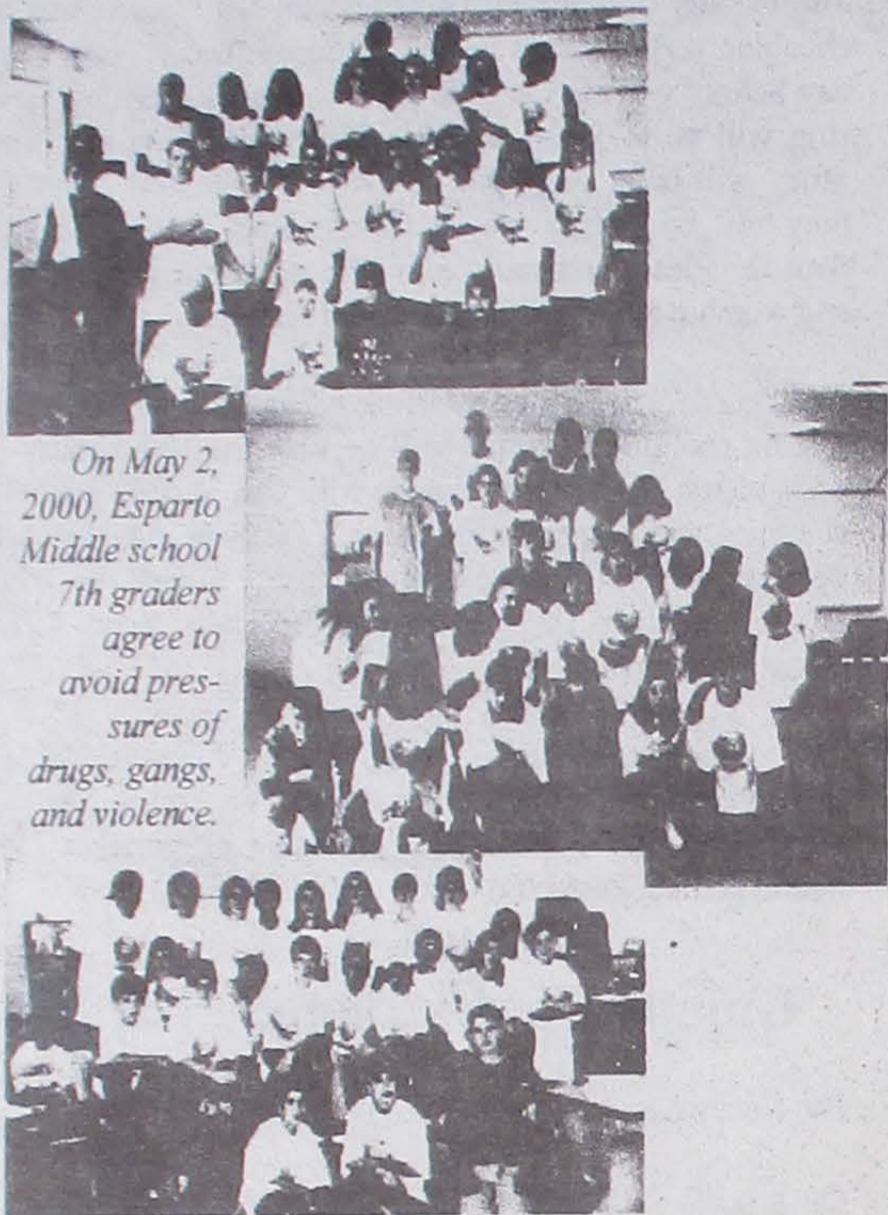
On July 29, 2000 the Guinda Community Contra Dance held a huge contra dance extravaganza. Over 75 people beat the heat and attended this year's dance, with attendees coming from all over the Capay Valley, Sacramento and Woodland regions to participate.

Similar to square dancing, Contra Dance is a group dance that utilizes a caller and live music to facilitate the movement. What makes Contra dance unique is that everyone dances together instead of breaking off into groups or pairs. The Guinda Community Contra Dance provided a half hour lesson before the dance began. Afterward, everyone danced the night away to live music provided by *Prairie Pete and Friends*.

Guinda Community Contra Dance holds four dances per year. Annie Main of Guinda Community Contra Dance encourages newcomers to attend next month's dance, which will be held on September 30, 2000. She points out that you do not need a partner for Contra dance, you just need to come ready to have fun. "You're not talking politics or religion," says Main, "you're just dancing!"

Coming off of July's extravaganza, the Guinda Community Contra Dance is getting prepared for their September 30<sup>th</sup> event. Perhaps it's time you learn how to contra dance!

## Congrats to Esparto Middle School 7th Grade DARE Graduates!



On May 2, 2000, Esparto Middle school 7th graders agree to avoid pressures of drugs, gangs, and violence.

## Booster Club Holds Tournament

By: Jerry Elmore

The Esparto Athletic Booster Club held its eight annual golf tournament on June 17 at the Lighthouse Golf Course in West Sacramento. Over 120 golfers participated in the annual event which made the day and the tournament a total success.

Placing first with a score of 14 under, was the team of Todd Barth, Michael Lindsey, Tobin Barth and Ed Centers. Participating in the tournament were many alumni from Esparto, current students and parents and business affiliates for Esparto.

The Booster Club did an outstanding job with all of the arrangements for and during the tournament. There was a huge raffle and dinner after the tournament where folks had the opportunity to win prizes that total up to \$1,500.00. We would like to thank all of the hole sponsors and businesses that contributed to the gifts for the raffle.

Please be on the lookout for flyers about the ninth annual tournament in 2001. With the amount of golfers we had this year, it will definitely fill up fast.

## Development Meeting Needs Community

By, Ron Voss

The Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee continues to receive input from the Valley community regarding issues of concern to our residents. The monthly meetings provide a forum for information exchange, discussion, and formal recommendations to the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and other Yolo County agencies.

Four new housing developments have been proposed for Esparto. The first, Country West II, has received final Board of Supervisor approval and preparation for construction should begin before the summer ends. It will have approximately 70 houses and will be located directly west of Country West I. Parker Place, with approximately 60 houses, is expected to receive final approval in late August or early September. Parker Place will be built north of Country West I, with Highway 16 on the east and north. The third development, Wildlife Artisans, with as many as 130 houses, is proposed to be located directly west of Country West II, extending to the Winters Canal on the west and County Road 20A (Grafton Street) on the south. The Advisory Committee at previous meetings has discussed this development proposal, and the August 15 meeting will focus on further discussion. Traffic, buffer zone between houses and agricultural land, house design, and drainage/flooding are among the issues under discussion.

A fourth development has been discussed, but not yet formally proposed. It is on the east side of Highway 16, on the north side of Esparto, directly north of Herbst Manufacturing. This land is zoned for commercial use. Several types of development have been discussed, including a small office complex, houses, mini-mart gas station, and self-storage. Traffic and the most appropriate kind of business have been the focus of discussions to date.

With all of the currently proposed development in western Esparto, and the probability of more than 200 new houses to be built (a 40% increase in Esparto's current size), the need and the opportunity for new parks and recreation facilities have become obvious. Each new house that is built requires a deposit of \$2,150 into a park fund that can only be used to construct new parks and other open space areas in the Es-

parto town. The first of several community discussions on parks and recreation was held at the July 18 Advisory Committee meeting. No final decisions have been made regarding location, size, or components of the park(s). A sub-committee consisting of members from the Esparto Unified School District, the Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Regional Recreation Center non-profit organization will meet on August 10 to prepare recommendations regarding our future parks and recreation facilities. Everyone's input is valued. Contact anyone on those groups for more information.

The Granite Construction petition for the addition of a concrete plant, asphalt plant and 20% annual variance in amount of gravel mined has been discussed many times as an Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee. The Yolo County Planning Commission has voted 4-3 to recommend that all requests within the application by Granite be denied. The Board of Supervisors will now make the final decision. Granite has asked for an extension on the date for that final decision while they decide whether to modify their proposal. Many community residents question the fairness of allowing the petition to be modified at this stage. Two other alternatives are to make a decision on the petition as it was submitted and discussed at numerous public venues, and to require Granite to withdraw the application and start over again with full payment of application fees, complete or supplemental EIR, etc. An update on this issue will be presented at the August 15 ECAC meeting.

Zoning within the town of Esparto was substantially changed when the new General Plan was adopted in 1997. Numerous questions have arisen regarding some of the current zoning, including the definition PD (Planned Development), the difference between R1-PD and R2-PD (Residential). Planning Department Director John Bencomo and Assistant Director David Morrison will present clarifying information and discuss these issues with the ECAC and community either at the August 15 or September 19 meeting.

A sub-committee of the ECAC has been actively working with Supervisor Lynnel Pollock and Health Department Director Tom To to "Clean Up Esparto". Alleys, abandoned vehicle parts, and general trash are being targeted. If everyone in the community supports this effort, Esparto can continue to be the wonderful place to live that we want it to be.

The community is encouraged to attend monthly Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee (ECAC) meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month at the Esparto Regional Library Wintun Conference room. Look for specific agendas posted at the Esparto firehouse, in the Sunday Daily Democrat, on the Capay Valley website, and on local cable television. Questions or comments can be directed to any of the ECAC members. Ron Voss (787-3510) is the current chair, Jonathan Durst (787-3100) is the current Vice-Chair.

Bald Mountain Communications  
John Stephens, Owner  
P.O. Box 509  
Esparto, Ca. 95627  
Phone: (530) 662-2061  
Fax: (530) 787-3267  
email: mks@afes.com



Catch-up on the progress of the Esparto Dental Clinic on page 4. Have you been brushing twice a day?



A new community resource organization is in Esparto. Find out what they can do for you on page 7!



**ER FINEST**  
Esparto Region Family Incentive Network and Employment Services Team

16858 Yolo Avenue, 787-4110, fax: 787-4104

## Foster Grandparents Get Recognized

By: Ardith Laing

On June 28, 2000 the Esparto Healthy Start staff and the Sacramento Foster Grandparent Program invited our local Foster Grandparents to a luncheon in honor of their participation in the program. It was held at El Charo's restaurant in Woodland. The tables were nicely decorated and every guest received a canvas bag containing candy and the Sacramento Foster Grandparent Appreciation & Recognition book, which featured pictures and information about the Esparto senior program. At each place setting was a lovely package containing a beautiful glass jewelry box.

The site supervisor, Debbie Kaake, presented the grandparents with a gift bag full of make-up. Guests checked out each other's colors like children, everyone wanting to trade colors. All of the grandparents left with multi-colored nails!

Everyone enjoyed the meal and after all stomachs were filled, Karla Crawford, Director of the Sacramento Foster Grandparent Program presented everyone with pin awards. A fun time was had by all. We can't wait to go again!

The Foster Grandparent Program has provided academic and emotional support to children and teens, but there is another benefit. When seniors get involved in this program, they find themselves among friendly peers who are supportive and loving. They are concerned about each other and look out for each other. Foster Grandparents genuinely care about the success of their "grandchildren" and their new friends. If you are a senior and have any spare time, would like to get out of the house for a while, help the children in your community, and earn a few dollars at the same time, please call the Healthy Start office at 787-3519. We would love to have you join our team.

From the Foster Grandparent Recognition Book: "Years from now... It will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

## Happenings in the Valley

By: Ardi Laing

Our Summer School "Open House" had a large parental attendance and was a success. Students were enthusiastic for their parents to view their accomplishments with their art and schoolwork. Their art work conformed with the individual theme of each classroom.

A new look will be added to Esparto Parks with the pasting of no Littering or Parking signs after 10:00PM by the County Parks and Recreation Department in Woodland.

Families and friends anxiously awaited the appearance of Julio and Yolanda Cota in the Madison Hall to bring surprise birthday wishes to Yolanda. While we were waiting for the couple's appearance, we were very curious about the ceramic tiles, pieces of lumbars, cans, various colors of paint, and miscellaneous arts and crafts items placed on the table in Madison Hall. How unique our entertainment was! We had fun showing off our art expertise. There were sodas, sandwiches, and pizza provided for everyone to enjoy. After Yolanda blew out the candles, a beautifully decorated cake was served accompanied by ice cream. We will not mention how many candles were on the cake. The planning of the party was done by Julio via invitations, decorations, entertainment and refreshments. His wife didn't have a clue. Good for Julio!

A turnout of thirteen boys and girls gathered to discuss their duties for vacation Bible School at Countryside Community Church. Please be aware that egg throwing and graffiti have invaded Esparto.

Rattlesnakes and swarms of bees have been sighted along the creek banks. Parents, please advise your children to be careful.

Glad to see Zack Zentner is up and about after his automobile accident and is able to attend Yuba College.

The newly painted building along Yolo Street Highway 16 is pleasing to the eye. It is outrageous that one of the buildings has already been vandalized. Two of the boarded windows have been knocked out and graffiti has been found on the side of the building.

The bright colored balloon flying in the breeze on Madison Street is to signify Esparto Baptist Church Vacation Bible School's enrollment.

Don't forget the Western Yolo Grange potluck dinner with business meeting following will be held in Guinda, Sept. 20 at 6:30PM. They will be discussing plans of sending a delegate to Chico State Grange.

If you have any news you would like to put in the Happenings in the Valley column, please call Letty Mata at 787-3519.

## New Service Organization Settles in Esparto

By: Kacey Kamrin

August 7, 2000 marked the opening day of Esparto's brand new social services organization, ER-FINEST (Esparto Region Family Incentive Network and Employment Services Team). ER-FINEST was created through a grant proposal jointly written by RISE, Inc. and Esparto Healthy Start. Funded by county welfare incentive funds, ER-FINEST will be working with other local agencies to improve resources and services in the Capay Valley.

The staff at ER-FINEST hope to provide local residents with information about new child care operations, job skills training and work experience opportunities, adult education, English as a second language, Spanish as a second language, medical care, and job skills for youth. They will also be working one-on-one with local CalWORKS recipients, helping them to find employment opportunities and job skills training so they can receive aid.

In addition to working with clients individually, the staff members at ER-FINEST have been networking with other

local agencies to bring more resources out to the Esparto region. The staff has even joined in a partnership with Healthy Start to produce this edition of *The Valley Voice*!

ER-FINEST is located at 16858 Yolo Avenue. Please feel free to stop by the office at any time - any questions or comments about how they can serve you are always appreciated.

### CHAVELA'S GRAB & GO MARKET

Mo. - Thur. 5:30am - 10:00pm  
 Fri. - Sat. 5:30am - 11:00pm  
 Sun 7:00am - 10:00pm

Services: Money Orders,  
 Check Cashing, U-Haul  
 Also Loto & Scratchers

Liquor, Beer,  
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(530) 787-4624 16814 Fremont Street Esparto, Ca. 95627

#### You Can Touch A Child

Are you a grandparent or a senior that can spare some time to help the children of your community? We have a job for you! Senior Mentor Program is connecting seniors with meaningful work, in our schools or afterschool program. Help young people grow, gain confidence and become more productive members of our community. You could also earn extra "Non Taxable" income at the same time. Interested? Contact Debbie Kaake @ 787-3519

Sponsored by Healthy Start and the Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Mentor Program

#### Be on the Look-Out!!



There has been widespread vandalism throughout the town of Esparto: The Countryside Community Church, Public Schools, and the Community Park. If you notice any vandalism, please report it to the police.



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#### Attention Local Businesses!!

What better way to get information about your business out to the local community than to advertise in the *Valley Voice*. If you'd like to place an advertisement in *The Valley Voice*, please contact Letty Mata at 787-3519.

## Esparto Unified School District MODERNIZATION UPDATE

The elementary school modernization project is in full swing and will be completed by the first week in August. The main building is going through renovation for the air condition/heating units in each room, and the secretary's office. The office window is being lowered and new carpeting will be installed. The kindergarten bathrooms are also being worked on and improved. The old middle school now known as the "elementary school's south wing" had central air/heat installed last summer, which has been a big improvement for summer school students and staff this year. Additionally, the outside of the building is getting a "face lift" with a couple layers of paint.

The high school modernization project will be starting during the week of July 17. The school board awarded the

contract to the lowest bidder, which was Broward Brother Inc. They are the contractors that built the new Esparto Library last year. This project calls for installation of air conditioning/heating units in all the classrooms and offices. It also includes renovating the secretary's office and moving the principals' office to the old library space. The agriculture science and home economics classrooms have plans for improvement, so look for changes in them. The main building classrooms will get new carpet, paint and low drop ceilings.

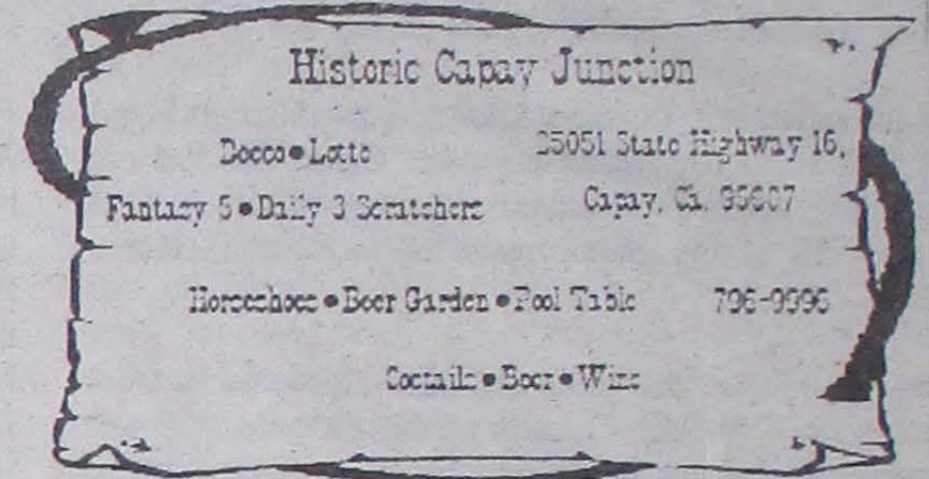
The last part of the modernization project is to install conduit lines for technology purposes. Each classroom will be wired for the Internet and networking usage between computers. It is expected to take approximately a year to complete this project.

The Alice Marsh Hall has new Plexiglas Windows installed, without wire racks outside. This is a nice improvement to

the hall.

The middle school has received a new classroom and the faculty room has been remodeled to include two additional office spaces. The lawn will be growing well, since a new sprinkler system has been installed. With the first year of operation out of the way we expect things to run smoothly for the staff and students in middle school next year.

The Esparto School District was fully funded by the state, along with the bond money, for all the modernization projects at the Office of Public School Construction Board meeting on July 7, 2000.



## 8th Annual Sober Grad Night a Big Success

The Esparto High School held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Sober Grad Night, sponsored by Esparto Healthy Start to provide a safe, fun and healthy evening in celebration of our graduates. The all night party was held at the Country Oaks Racquet Club in Woodland on June 9. The event was a huge success with close to 200 students attending. One unique thing about Esparto's small school district is the whole High School and Madison High are invited to celebrate with our graduating seniors.

We would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to all the businesses, organizations and individuals for their generous support of Esparto Sober Grad Night 2000. We could not provide this evening full of activities without your help. We deeply appreciate all the following who were able to lend a helping hand. Please accept our apology if we have omitted anyone in error.

Parent Planning Committee: Debbie Kaake, Vickie Garza, Lori Ronchetto, Debbie Beckman, Wendy Zentner, Georgette Bailey, Teri Wright, Dwight Barnes, Madi Anguay and student Anita Lua.

A special thank you to the chaperones the evening of June 9, and the morning of June 10.

The High School Office Staff was very helpful. Teachers Ms. Smith, Mrs Howard, Mrs. Hickman, Mr. Raine, Mr. Samons, and Mr. Glover were great sports and volunteered for a 20 minute turn in the dunk tank. Thank you!

Our sponsors:

Esparto Leo Club, Esparto Lion Club, Esparto PTSA, Esparto High School Athletic Booster Club, Pepsi Cola of Woodland, Jeff Goeman & Robin Haines, Capay Valley Vol. Fire Dept. Women's Aux., Larry & Becky Carson, Esparto Volunteer Fire Department, John Schneider, Trish & Bob Eason, ECONCO, Dan T's Custom Jewelers, New Reflection Hair Salon, The Burger Barn, Taylor Auto Parts, Subs To Go, Loanna Harden, Jerry Elmore, Randy & Anna Bushner, Carlos Vedar, David Hatanaka, Teri Mckinney, Georgia Horst, Jet Express, RISE, Inc., Joanie Tompkins, B&B Party Rentals, Cowles & Dona Mast, Mary Rodegerdts, Rosy Wanshop, Julio Cota, Barbara Durst, Esparto Super Mkt., Jack Huie, Viking Propane, Woodland Tractor & Equipment, Granite Construction, Ben Adamo, Solano Concrete, Cache Canyon River Trips, Capay Fruits and Vegetables, Wahl Trucking, Woodland Elks Lodge, Nugget Market, Dependable Sheet Metal - Vacaville, Cache Creek Bingo & Casino, Valley Tire Co., Walmart, Rose Valley Group, Inc., Sterling May Co., Wonder Bread, AMF Woodhaven Lanes, Safeway - Davis, Target, Gottschalk's, JC Penney, CHP, AAA CA Automobile Assoc., Precision 6 - Raleys ctr., Ludy's Main Street BBQ, Coyote Roadhouse & Den, Youngmark's Gifts & Nursery, Classic Hair Supply & Salon, Les Schwab, The Buckhorn, Raleys, Longs Drug Store, Allen & Pat Reinor, Ramos Oil, and Kragen Auto Parts.

These sober grads are warming up in the hot tub at the Country Oaks Raquet Club



### State of California Department of Transportation **Public Notice** Caltrans Seeks Public Input on Highway 16 Improvements

**Project:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is initiating a project to address traffic concerns on Highway 16 between Interstate 505 and the community of Brooks.

**Workshop:** A public information workshop ("drop-in" basis) is planned to allow area residents, local public officials, and other interested people to identify issues or problems related to this project within the limits identified.

**When:** Tuesday, August 22, 2000, 4 p.m.—8 p.m.

**Exhibits:** Exhibits of the existing route will be on display at the public workshop. Caltrans staff will be available to talk with individuals, answer questions, and accept comments. There will be no formal presentation.

**Comments:** Written comments can also be mailed to Caltrans, District 3, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Attention: James E. Davis, Project Manager. Your comments will be included as part of the workshop record.

### ESPARTO HIGH CLASS LIST OF 2000



Sherman Baker  
David Barajas  
Franco Bargaglioli  
Jolene Berg  
Maria Borges  
John Centers  
Emily Cooper  
Evangelina Cota  
T.J. Crider  
Cassie Dutton  
Sergio Elizarraraz  
Miguel Fernandez  
Gilberto Figueroa

Eric Fitzgerald  
Kendra Flower  
Sheena Garcia  
David Garrison  
Nick Gonzales  
Vanessa Guerra  
Thomas Haren  
Wayne Hatanaka  
Sean Hayes  
Jeffrey Hell  
Aimalinda Heredia  
Hernan Hernandez  
Marco Herrera

Steve Holland  
Graciela Ibarra  
Seth Johnson  
Jennifer Kelly  
Josh Kendrick  
Joey Kinser  
Harrison Mast  
Ana Rosa Mendez  
Veronica Mendez  
Gualberto Mendoza  
Elizabeth Miranda  
Mike Muller  
Ryan Noman

Myra Portugal  
Victor Quintana  
Lugardo Robles  
Jerry Rodriguez  
Pamela Rodriguez  
Ban Sotelo  
Joseph Tomek  
Angelica Torres  
Fabiola Torres  
Dustin Van Liew  
Monique Wyrant  
Zach Zentner

