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The Valley Voice

Serving Madison, Esparto and the Capay Valley

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

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Esparto Healthy Start Teams up with Americorps

Debbie Kaake

A partnership between Yolo Connections and Esparto Healthy Start has brought for our community members new jobs. The AmeriCorps program began October 3rd, 2000 with a week long orientation provided by Lorraine Frias, the AmeriCorps Coordinator at Yolo Connections. The Americorps workers' primary service is in the Healthy Start After School Program, but it also includes other community service projects, such as collecting clothes as well as helping with food baskets give-aways.



Americorps workers from left to right: Betty Girtman, Mary Meyer, Amanda Fletcher, Carrie Mosher.

The mission of AmeriCorps is to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages. AmeriCorps helps to improve the nation through community service, making our environment cleaner, our children healthier, our schools better, and our streets safer. A special emphasis of AmeriCorps is on the critical needs of our children and youth, and the importance of all young people to serve, not just be served. Large proportions of AmeriCorps members serve in programs that aim at achieving the goals for America's youth set at the 1996 President's Summit for America's Future. The AmeriCorps Programs works on the simple idea that those who take responsibility for their com-

munity ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. In exchange for a year of service equaling 1,700 hours, AmeriCorps members earn a living allowance and an education award, which may be used to pay back student loans or to finance college or vocational training.

Our local program provides job experience, leadership skills and team building. We are very fortunate to be a part of this state and sational program.

The After School Program is a Success!

Carol Souza Cole

The After School Program continues to be very popular. Carrie Mosher, the after school leader for 4th and 5th graders, reports that 126 students are enrolled in the program. Trudie Hunter, coordinator of the program, reports that most sites are participating in community service projects, and welcomes suggestions from community members for future projects.

Currently, program participants are making items for the children's holiday shopping day. "If anyone has any interesting gadgets or crafts we could use, please contact us. We encourage donations," added Hunter. The program runs daily during the week from after school until 6:00 p.m., and a nutritious snack is served.



Parents who want to enroll their children are encouraged to come into the Healthy Start office and fill out the registration forms to guarantee a spot in the program. For more information on volunteering or enrolling children in the program, please contact Trudie Hunter at 787-3519.

School Bulletin and News

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES A GREAT SUCCESS!

Trina Eason

Student-Led conferences are part of the new Goal Organization and Learning System (G.O.A.L.S.) program implemented this school year at Esparto Middle School. This innovative program was created and developed by Middle School Principal Carole Hiltman and her staff. The student conferences took place December 6th, 7th and 8th, and they had a 99% parent-student turnout!

WHAT IS A STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE? Student-led conferences were developed to help students take more responsiveness to their learning and to increase parent participation, awareness and responsiveness to their child's education at Esparto Middle School. The conferences were directed by the student using an instruction sheet. Each student sat one-on-one with their parent/guardian and reviewed their "Tool Kit." Each "Tool Kit" contained an Individual Learning Plan, current report card, the student's daily planner and the student's quality assessment sheet (completed by each student and his/her teachers). The students also shared portfolios from each class, which contained samples of their work. The students explained all the information and discussed their educational, personal and professional goals in life. When the students were finished conducting their conferences, they and their parents were able to talk with each teacher and the principal as well.

The students also had the opportunity to display their Science Fair's projects for parents after the

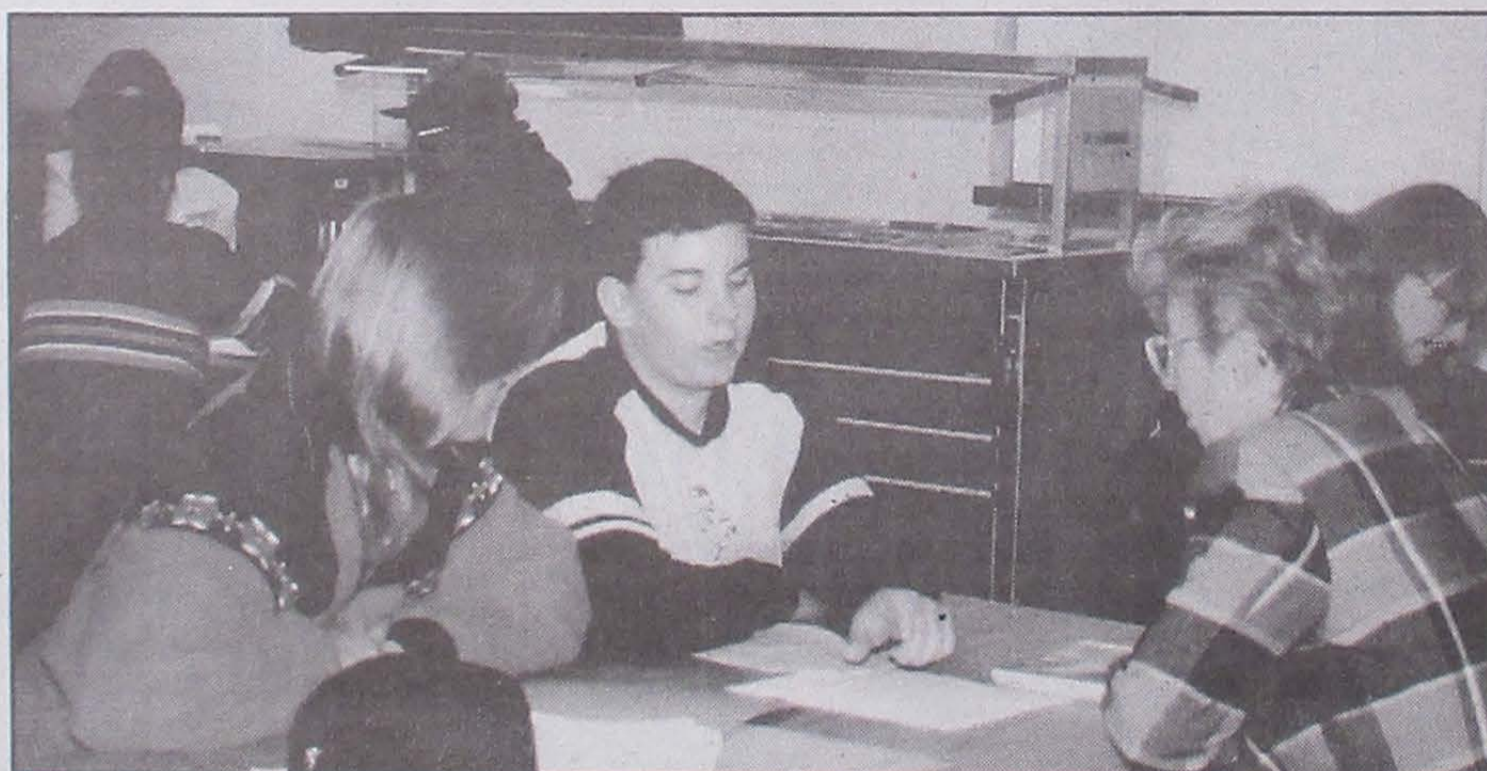
conference. The winners for each grade level were:

6th grade, 1st place Anyon Harrington, "Snail feed trail" and Alex Winter, "Density"; 2nd place Charlie Bassett, "When do plants grow better?"; 3rd place Sabrina Albrecht, "Carbon Dioxide" and Edith Virgen, "Plant Growth."

7th grade, 1st place Oliver Hayes, "Electric Motors"; 2nd place Kevin Jin, "Flight"; 3rd place Christopher McKinney, "Bacteria invasion."

8th grade, 1st place Jose Zavala, "Stronger food scents for better rat traps"; 2nd place Eddie Trujillo, "Flammability of different fabrics"; 3rd place Jessilyn Dennis, "Dancing Raisins."

Many thanks to the parents who participated in these conferences. And we also greatly appreciate the Esparto Middle School Aides and the counseling interns from California State University at Sacramento, who were present each night to help with translation; to the students who helped in the childcare room, and to the Parent Teacher Student Association representatives for helping with refreshments. Congratulations to the students for their hard work and effort in preparing these conferences. Finally, thanks to Mrs. Hiltman, the teachers and clerical staff for creating such a wonderful program.



From left to right, Kathy Perez, Nathan Shaw, Mrs. Hiltman

The Tradition Continues



Capay Valley students

Trina Eason

If you were anywhere but at The Grange Hall in Guinda on Saturday, December 9th, 2000 you missed out! That was the night of the annual Capay Valley Christmas play and it was absolutely wonderful! Two months of hard work and practice by the children of the Capay Valley really paid off. This year's play was entitled, "Two Nights before Christmas," and was performed almost flawlessly by these very talented young actors.

Several of the children performed in what will probably be their last year having a speaking roll in the Christmas Play, since they will be moving on to the High School next year and will be unable to make the practices. These young actors include: Jessica Wilson (narrator), Reina Fortin (Sugar Queen), Kindra Perez (Annie the Doll) and Jessilyn Dennis (Kelly the Clown). Three "former" actresses—Hallie Muller, Kera Eubank and Bonnie Scott, all of whom are current High School students—returned to the spotlight to participate in the choir. Their beautiful voices were greatly appreciated and hopefully all of these young talents and other High School students in the Valley will return in years to come to partake in the Choir.

Very heartfelt thank you and recognition goes out to Linda Perez and Tracy Shera for their dedication and their months of hard work. They work tirelessly every year directing the children. A special thank you to Linda Wilson, Mike Perez and Steve Shera for all of their time and elbow grease. They work behind the scenes to make the background, lighting and "special" effects as wonderful as they are year after year.

Congratulations to all of the children and everyone who participated in this year's program. We hope the tradition continues for another 50 years or more!

More School and Educational Stuff!

FAMILY FUN

Trina Eason

Tuesday, December 12, 2000 was the PTSA's annual Ornament Night at the Esparto Elementary School. Ornaments were made by the students. Children ran from table to table to make reindeer, christmas trees, and photo frames for their picture with Santa Claus.

Several 8th graders were at the festivities selling delicious homemade treats to benefit the 8th grade's Washington D.C. trip. They made over \$150.00, which will be a great help to the students.

The Ornament Night is intended to be enjoyed by the entire family. Join the fun next year!



Esparto kids and families participating in the Ornament Festivity

Two New Library Programs in Esparto

The Esparto Regional Branch of the Yolo County Library would like to announce two new series of children's programs beginning in January 2001.



First, we will be offering a preschool story time for children ages 3-5. This program will be offered every other Wednesday morning from 10:15 until 10:45 am. The series will be on the following dates: January 24th, February 7th, February 21st, March 7th and March 21st.

Second, we would like to announce a series of after school programs for elementary school age children. *Second Tuesdays* will be a series introducing children to various sections of the library, through crafts, stories, games and other activities. *Second Tuesdays* will be offered between 3-4 p.m. during the months of January, February, March, May and June. It will take place on the second Tuesday of those months. The first program will begin on January 9th. We invite all children of The Esparto Region to come and have fun afternoons in the library.

Registration is not required for these programs, but it is desirable (so we can prepare sufficient materials for each activity). For more information, call the library at 787-3426. The library is located at 17065 Yolo Avenue in Esparto.



Local Library

News

Lighting Up Our Library

The Friends of the Esparto Regional Library held a tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 3, to honor special people in our community. During the ceremony, FERL President, May Gillham, read the names of those honored and remembered, while the tree was lit and adorned with ornaments. Refreshments followed the ceremony. The lights and ornaments purchased for the ceremony will help the Friends to continue to offer more library hours and services.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

Don't miss the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library annual meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alice Marsh Hall. Come share a meal, visit with friends, vote for new board members and find out what's happening at the library.

Our Community Reads!

The Esparto/Capay Valley Literacy Program has made great strides in 2000. We now have adults and teens meeting regularly with their tutors. All of them are happy with the program and they are reporting progress. There are currently some adults enrolled who are waiting to be matched with their tutors. Yes, we have a waiting list and we will need more tutors. Plans are underway to start a Family Literacy Program, which targets pre-school children. If anyone is interested in becoming a literacy tutor or helping with the program in any other way, please call Pat Meade at 662-8630.

Health and Safety Page

Red Cross Offers Tips For A Healthy Lifestyle and New Year Resolutions

Kathy Coulter

As we start the New Year, many of us are making resolutions to have a healthier lifestyle. Here are some tips to make achieving this year's resolutions a little bit easier.

- Make concrete resolutions for things that you can control, such as losing 15 pounds or taking a break 3 times a day to relax and to reduce stress.
- Do not be afraid to make resolutions that take a long time to accomplish. For example, reducing your cholesterol level.
- Break larger resolutions into small, easy-to-achieve steps. If you want to lose 30 pounds, break it down into losing 6 pounds a month for 5 months.
- Surround yourself with people who will



give you the right feedback on your progress.

- When making your list of resolutions, start with those that are easy to accomplish and then move down to more difficult ones.
- Develop a written plan, outlining the steps to accomplishing your goals.
- Do not worry if you do not accomplish a resolution in the time period that was set. Just continue to work towards success.

This year, make a resolution to take an American Red Cross course! Whether it is getting in shape with our swimming program or being prepared with First Aid and CPR, Red Cross has a program that is right for you. For more information, contact the American Red Cross of Yolo County at (530) 662-4669.



Citizens Take Local Action to Reduce Injuries

Martha C. Stiles

The Highway 16 Safe Communities Coalition including several local residents have been invited to assist CalTrans in assessing the best ways to reduce crashes in Capay Valley on Highway 16. Thanks to the persistent efforts of concerned citizens, Cal Trans is exploring ways to improve the highway.

CalTrans began by reviewing the Safe Communities Highway 16 Crash Profile and discovered that more than 800 crashes occurred in less than 10 years. Then, Jim Davis, Cal Trans Project Manager, facilitated a town meeting so residents could discuss the problems and especially solutions to the numerous crashes. Among the many suggestions citizens offered were: more lights and signs, wider shoulders, raised roads for flood reduction, removing vegetation/trees for increased visibility, and turning lanes.

Now Cal Trans has created the Highway 16 improvement task force and invited several local residents to participate over the next two months in offering ideas to reduce the injury rate on the highway (SEE the MAP). Kris Carpenter and Pam Welch from Capay Valley are members of the task force as well as Martha Stiles, UCD Safe Communities. Any further ideas that residents have can be given to these individuals, and they will then pass the suggestions along to Cal Trans.

The Safe Routes to Schools committee has met several times in November and December. The next meeting is January 5, 2001, 1:00 p.m. at the Public Works Building, 292 Beamer St., Woodland. Again, Cal Trans is being very helpful in providing guidance with the proposal to install sidewalks, signage, and crosswalks at Esparto and Knights Landing Elementary Schools. We have a new collaboration with Winters Waggoner Elementary School, which will also participate in this grant. Everyone is encouraged to help out with this important program, especially school personnel and parents.

For information on these projects call Martha Stiles, UCD Safe Communities, (530) 752-2606 or mcstiles@ucdavis.edu.

Safety Corner From Officer J.D. Cunningham



Officer J.D. Cunningham

Are you concerned about traffic safety on county roads in Yolo County and along Highway 16 in the Esparto-Capay Valley? If so, you may feel safer after hearing about the California Highway Patrol's new safety program. Guess what? The CHP has just initiated the Community Oriented Program (COP) on December 1st, and Officer J. D. Cunningham, a local Esparto resident and member of the CHP for 20 years, has been designated to carry out this new program. The purpose of this program is to decrease traffic-related

problems along rural county roads as well as areas of Highway 16. Officer Cunningham's service area—that is, Yolo County roads and Highway 16—will begin outside of Woodland and span out to the Capay Valley Canyon, just a few miles short of Highway 20.

While it may be somewhat intimidating to approach an officer parked in a CHP vehicle, Officer Cunningham, however, highly encourages local residents to approach him during his service hours and to ask him any questions. He will be more than glad to assist you with your inquiries, whether you need help with directions or need assistance reporting a traffic incident. Currently, Officer Cunningham is working a swing shift—beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m.—, but he will adjust his service hours after he assesses when the Esparto community needs the greatest patrolling.

Community Services

Child Care Center Coming Soon to Esparto!



Esparto children ready to learn

Are you an Esparto working parent or guardian who has to travel into Woodland or nearby 'urban' cities for childcare services or who wants their child to acquire preschool experience? If so, you may soon find a solution to your childcare dilemmas.

After months of countless meetings, discussions and negotiations, the Esparto

Child Care Planning Committee—whose members include Esparto Healthy Start, Rise, Inc., ER-FINEST, Countryside Community Church, School Board members, Neighborhood Toddler Group, and local parents—has successfully organized the opening of the long-awaited Esparto-Capay Valley Neighborhood Child Care Center. This has not been an easy task in the least. It has been a complicated and nerve wrecking process. The Planning Committee greatly appreciates the community's patience and sincerely apologizes for the delays in the center's opening.

Currently, the Planning Committee anticipates having the center in full operation by April 01, 2000. For all you interested parents, this will be a childcare center with preschool services for

both toddlers—potty-trained two year olds—and preschoolers. The preschool curriculum will include a variety of activities—art, music and playtime—with the primary goal of strengthening each child's learning capabilities and socialization skills. The staff will incorporate into its teaching method an array of creative, yet challenging ideas. The center staff will include a fulltime director, head teacher and teacher's aide. The center will be located at the local Countryside Community Church in Esparto. To better serve working parents, the center will be open a full twelve hours from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It will have space to enroll 25 children, and admission will be based on the date of application, so we highly encourage you to sign-up as soon as possible. This will be a private childcare center open to the general public, meaning that there will not be income-based eligibility requirements to enroll. Actual tuition costs are still pending. Be aware, however, that this will be a self-sustaining childcare facility just like any other privately owned childcare business, so expect to find competitive, yet reasonable tuition costs. Please consult your individual needs with the director upon submitting your application.

If you would like more information, please contact Debbie Kaake at 787-3519 or Wendy Casas at 787-4110. If you are interested in working at the center, job descriptions and applications will soon be available.



Esparto Little League Sign-ups

When: January 9th—February 13th
Where: Marsh Hall (Esparto High School)
How much: early enrolment \$40.00
Late enrolment \$45.00

For more information, please contact Shelia Smith at 787-4045. Please bring birth certificate.



Free Spanish Classes Coming to Esparto!

Adult Spanish Classes will begin February 5th.

When: every Monday night
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Esparto Elementary School room #18

If you would like to register, please call Esparto Healthy Start at 787-3519 or drop by the office, which is located on the Elementary Campus, room # 16.

Come and practice your Spanish skills. There will be both beginner and intermediate levels. Free childcare will be provided.



Local Office Dedicated to Helping Families and Youth

Are you having trouble finding employment? Would you like to find information about college and educational programs? Would you like to enroll your kids in a low-cost health insurance program?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should contact the friendly staff at the Esparto Region Family Incentive Network and Employment Services Team. The Community Workers at ER-FINEST can assist you with the following services:

- ◆ Finding employment for adults and youth
- ◆ Finding information about educational programs and college requirements
- ◆ Enrolling children in low-cost health insurance programs
- ◆ Locating childcare providers
- ◆ Accessing the local food and clothes closet



And the best thing of all, these services are free of charge. Yes, you read correctly. ER-FINEST provides free, ongoing services to Esparto residents.

You need not make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcomed. You can call ER-FINEST at 787-4110 or come directly to the office, which is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Esparto, just two doors down from the post office.



ER-FINEST
PHONE NUMBER: 787-4110

Business Ventures

REGION'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BURSTS INTO THE NEW YEAR!

Cathie Wicks

The Esparto District Chamber of Commerce celebrated the holiday season with a special December meeting at the R.H. Phillips Winery, and is excited about greeting in the Year 2001! Membership has been increasing by 10% monthly for four months straight; members seem to be enjoying the new meeting format implemented by the Chamber Board for 2000-2001, and rural businesses are thriving. As the end of the year approaches, the Chamber is optimistic about the Region's business vitality as an addition to its natural beauty, and has planned several new projects in response to business needs.

The December meeting at R. H. Phillips Winery, which was hosted by R.H. Phillips Hospitality Manager Gretchen Wilcox and staff of the new Hungry Hollow Cooking School, was a tremendous success. Seven wines were tasted along with a "talking tour" of their particular taste and viticulture heritage. The wine history of Yolo County was blended into the wine tasting experience, and Chamber members were delighted to ask questions with a typical homegrown flavor. The tasting extravaganza was followed by a culinary cooking demonstration; tasting the braised short ribs with sauces and accompanying dishes was certainly the best part! A special thanks goes to the winery for a wonderful Chamber meeting event! (For those interested in the new culinary school, call Gretchen Wilcox at 662-3215 ext. 325. January's calendar of events is available!)

The Chamber Board is pleased to announce some upcoming projects to watch for in the Year 2001. A map project initiated by Tom Taylor and Pat Harrison is working through the review process, and has the potential to show street formats for



each community and highlight successful business clusters and regional attractions. An important survey is another project due for release in early January - watch for it in your mailbox. The survey focuses on technology marketing and tapping the technological potential for the Region. It can have benefits for everyone and the Chamber has ideas for breaking into local technological cooperation! Along

those lines, a special thanks to Board member Jim Haag for his efforts to bring along the updating of the Chamber's own Website!

The community, service group by service group, is working through the multi-organizational sponsorship of the Almond Festival. Watch for more news next month. The Almond Festival falls on February 25th this year. In the absence of another emerging group, the Chamber has sent out invitations for booth space in the park in Esparto. It will be smaller, more "home-grown or home-made," and definitely family-oriented space. Other groups are still considering their plans for the day, but the Valley seems to be continuing or expanding its usual activities, to everyone's delight. A Queen will still be crowned a week ahead of the Festival. Set aside the dates to see your local friends in the old style format of the Festival!

You can send your ideas, comments, or can join your Chamber for \$25 per year by sending all correspondence to the EDCC, P. O. Box 194, Esparto, CA 95627. Thanks to everyone for contributing to the local Chamber and/or our Valley Voice paper! Happy New Year!

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



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

Countryside Community Church

Everyone Welcome!



Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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Anuncios:

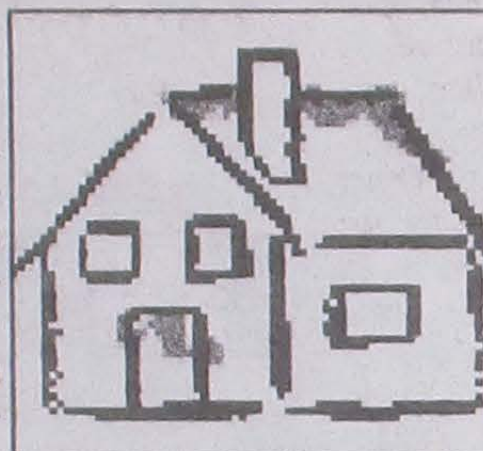
- ◆ Quiere practicar y aprender inglés? Venga y participe en las clases de inglés. Estas se administran cada lunes, empezando a las 7:00 p.m. en el salón #27 de la Escuela Primaria en Esparto. No se preocupe, si hay cuidado de niño.
- ◆ Necesita ayuda con su búsqueda de empleo para usted o para su hijo/a? Comuníquese con Wendy Casas al número 787-4110.
- ◆ Si desea información sobre el programa de seguro médico llamado Familias Saludables o Medi-Cal, comuníquese con Leti al 787-3519 o con Wendy al 787-4110.
- ◆ Si desea información sobre cómo donar u obtener comida y ropa, comuníquese con Leti al 787-3519 o con Wendy al 787-4110.
- ◆ Muy pronto habrá un nuevo centro de cuidado de niños en Esparto. Este será un centro particular que proveerá servicios de cuidado de niños y preescolares a niños/as mayores de 2 años. Si usted desea información sobre la apertura de este centro, comuníquese con Wendy al 787-4110.

Noticias sobre construcción de casas

Wendy R. Casas

Con la llegada del invierno y la temporada de lluvias llegan bastantes problemas. Entre el más común, y tal vez el más complicado, es el problema del desempleo y falta de vivienda. En un área rural como Esparto la posibilidad de comprar una casa parece una idea imposible. En mis seis meses trabajando aquí en Esparto he conocido a varias familias que buscan comprar su primer casa en Esparto. Desgraciadamente, sólo les he podido informar muy poco sobre cómo proceder con su búsqueda de vivienda, ya que aún no tengo noticias sobre cuándo empezarán la construcción de casas en Esparto.

Me he dado cuenta que ultimamente vienen más y más familias a mi oficina a preguntarme si les podría informar sobre la construcción de las casas nuevas en Esparto. Sólo les he dicho que si hay planes para construir aproximadamente 60 unidades en Esparto, de las cuales seis deberán ser para familias de bajos ingresos. Ha habido mucha controversia en la comunidad porque la agencia que planea llevar a cabo la construcción de dichas casas propone limitar esas casas para



familias de bajos ingresos. El problema es que hay quienes se abren a esta idea porque creen que al hacer una vecindad de casas de bajos ingresos se les devaluaría el valor de su casa. Es por eso que no han habido más avances en la construcción de estas casas. Por lo tanto, no sabría decirles cuándo empezarán la construcción y cuánto costarán dichas casas? Tampoco sé qué agencia estará vendiendo las casas.

Les aseguro que les avisaré en cuanto sepa más noticias sobre cuándo empezarán la construcción y sobre dónde se debería de llenar la aplicación. Por lo tanto, sólo les podría ayudar a llenar la aplicación para el programa de vivienda para familias de bajos ingresos y además a buscar información sobre otros programas en el área que ayuden a familias a comprar su primer casa.

Con mucho gusto les constestaré sus preguntas si me hablan (mi número de teléfono es 787-4110) o acuden a mi oficina, la cual se encuentra a dos puertas de la oficina de correo de Esparto.



Happenings in the Valley

Ardi Laing

Santa Claus is coming to town! This is the season for cookies and candy making! The Seniors are at it again—they are busy, busy, busy making holiday treats as a fundraising activity.

Attention community members: we need to join together in order to stop the destruction of property and graffiti around town.

Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for donating bulbs to our school.

Good luck to Rachael Kieng, who will be attending the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

All the hard work paid off! On December 16th, local volunteers gathered at the Countryside Community Church to distribute 45 holiday baskets to needy families.

Happy Holidays! Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this publication possible.

Trudi Hunter, After School Program Coordinator, would like to apologize for changing the time of the Nativity Pageant, which was held on December 17th, from 6:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. She apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Mast & Son

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Esparto, Ca. 95627
662-8811
787-3372

Cowles and Calvin Mast

The Valley Voice Community Calendar
January/enero 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i> <i>Feliz Ano Nuevo</i>	2 Friends of the Esparto Regional Library meeting 7:00 p.m.	3 School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	4	5	6
7	8 Return from winter break Comienzan clases de nuevo	9	10	11	12 Semester Ends—Minimum Day Healthy Start Meeting 10:00 a.m. at Library	13
14	15 <i>Marin Luther King Day</i> Library closed No school No hay clases	16 Esparto Advisory Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. (location TBA)	17 School Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	18	19	20
21	22	23 Friends of the Library Annual Potluck 6:00 p.m. at Marsh Hall	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 PTSA meeting 6:00 p.m. (location TBA)			
						7