

Valley Voice

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February 2018

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The Capay Valley Almond Festival Celebrates 103 Years

The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the **103rd Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival** on Sunday, February 25, 2018. It a fantastic time to view the incredible bloom of the Capay Valley's Almond Trees and celebrate the rich heritage of the Capay Valley. We are all looking forward to events and activities all members of the family can enjoy. Don't forget you can pick up your **PASSPORT** for Town Stamps at any of the 5 PASSPORT locations noted below. Get your Passport stamped at all 5 locations and submit your completed PASSPORT at any of the 5 locations to participate in the contest.

Here are the day's events, starting at the top of the valley and working towards Esparto:

RUMSEY ACTIVITIES include a PASSPORT Location at the Rumsey Hall, music by the Mike Osborn Band, Food & Drinks include wood fired pizza, sliders and various foods (notably almond petal ice cream), handcrafted items by various vendors, lavender products, art show, a children's play area and local almond harvesting equipment. The vendor time is 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m..

GUINDA ACTIVITIES include a PASSPORT Location at the Guinda Community Grange Hall, music by the Capay Valley Chorus & various instrumentalists & vocalists, Grammy Wyatt's Famous Almond Rocca, Nona's Walnut Rocca, homemade Almond (+ chocolate, vanilla & almond Rocca) ice cream, various food & beverages, olive oil tasting, children's petting zoo & pony rides, various displays of farming equipment & machinery, bat & bird houses, leather crafts & ironworks, jewelry, embroidery, handmade glass, specialty soaps, art auction and much, much more. The Vendor Time is 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Local businesses that will be open include the Commons Farm Kitchen and the Corner Store. The Guinda Volunteer Fire Department will be selling their popular BBQ Oysters & other BBQ treats with various beverages.

BROOKS ACTIVITIES include a PASSPORT location at the Seka Hills Olive Mill, guest musicians and food & drink. Of course, the Casino is always open for business.

CAPAY ACTIVITIES include a PASSPORT location at The Road Trip Café and The Honey Store across the street. The Road Trip Café will have live music and Native American dancing in addition to their menu of food and drink.

ESPARTO ACTIVITIES include a PASSPORT location at The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce tent. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) Breakfast is from 7:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. at the Esparto High School Cafeteria. After Breakfast the Almond Festival Queen and her Court will be introduced at the Esparto Park.

Tri-Tip sandwiches & beverages will available at the Esparto Volunteer Fire Department. The Park will be hosting activities including various professional musicians throughout the day, various vendors, carnival rides, Dilly Dally the Clown and the Vendor time is 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Cont. on the 2nd column)



The Almond Festival is on February 25.

The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce will host the *Annual Almond Cooking and Bake-Off Contest*: "EAT MORE ALMONDS" (\$100 and \$50 cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place!) Stop by the Chamber's tent to get information on the entire day's activities.

Additionally, the Countryside Community Church's Country Store will hold the Annual Giant Quilt raffle and have various craft & food vendors. Lastly, both El Toro Mercado and Hog Canyon will be open for business.

MADISON ACTIVITIES include The Car Show to be held in Esparto and sponsored by the Madison Fire Department.

The Almond Festival is also a gathering place for various motorcycle groups and car clubs from the surrounding region. Attendees will be treated to a wide range of tricked out and souped-up vehicles throughout the valley.

To find out more about the Almond Festival activities, call (530) 787-3242 or visit www.espartoregionalchamber.com. Submitted by Kim Kersten, Media Coordinator Cell: (707) 372-0742

Volume 20, Edition 2, February 2018

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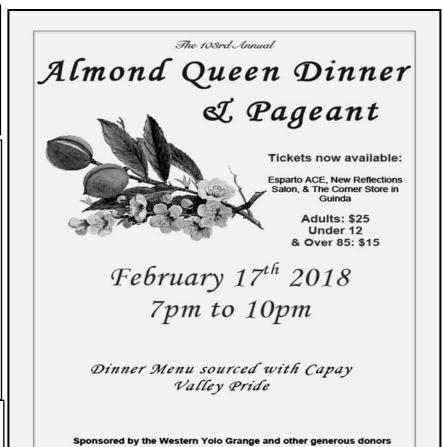
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You may also sign up for the RISE e-newsletter on the RISE, Inc. website at www.riseinc.org. When you enter you e-mail address under the Get E-mail Updates promote you will receive our e-newsletter with links to the Valley Voice so you can read it online.

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

For article inquires, call (530) 787-4110, or send an e-mail message to Greta Taber, Editor, at ValleyVoice@RISEinc.org For billing inquiries or ad rates, call (530) 787-4110. All articles are due by the 20th of each month. Ads must be paid in advance and accounts must be paid up to date by the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit articles at our discretion, due to space limitations and other criteria. Articles published do not necessarily express the views of the Valley Voice editor. The Valley Voice is published monthly in partnership with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, RISE, Inc., and Esparto





Invitation by Countryside Community Church

We love this quote by Greek writer, Nikos Kazantzakis: "I said to the almond tree, 'Friend, speak to me of God,' and the almond tree blossomed."

We at Countryside Community Church, are inviting you to share your artistic interpretations of those words and we will display them at the Almond Festival.

Someone may make a needlepoint, or a quilt. A child may make a crayon drawing, someone may sculpt, or do calligraphy, or water color, or whatever pleases you. Every piece of art needs to be signed and, if you want to sell it, give a price. We will treasure them and display them carefully.

Our Valley is so full of talent, let's celebrate it!



The Valley Voice has a new email address which is: Valley-Voice@RISEinc.org



Ceramic Tiles Available for Donor Wall at the Aquatic Center

The Western Yolo Recreation Center Association is selling ceramic tiles for the Donor Wall that will be permanently installed in the entranceway of the Esparto Park and Aquatic Center. Tiles may be purchased with the words "In Honor of", or "In Memory of" friends or family members or with a name printed on them.

Come to the Esparto Regional Library to purchase your tiles on any of the following days:

- Thursday February 1, 2018 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday March 2, 2018 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A 3" x 6" tile is \$100. A 6" x 6" tile is \$200. Tile purchases support the Esparto Park and Aquatic Center Endowment Fund which will provide annual revenue for the park's operations and maintenance. There are also naming opportunities for the key park features. Please contact Trini Campbell for more information at (530) 249-0903.

Submitted by Trini Campbell



President's Day is on February 19

Esparto School District News Diego Ochoa, Superintendent



Annual Board of Trustees Goals Workshop

The Esparto Unified School District held the 2018 Board Goals Workshop on January 11 in Alice Marsh Hall. Board of Trustees Pam Miller, Bonnie Simas, Becky Schwenger, Nancy Pennebaker, and Wendy England were joined by Superintendent Diego Ochoa, Nena Michel, Becky Spiva, and Debbie Howard. The workshop was facilitated by former Superintendent Aida Buelna.

Members of the Board reviewed the district's progress since 2016 and discussed areas for continued growth. The Board of Trustees selected the following goals for the 2018 year:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Complete Reorganization of District Office for 2018-2019

- **A.** Reorganize information technology department and include updated job descriptions for district departments and staff.
- **B.** Provide August 2018 District Organizational Report. Include financial costs and positions.
- C. Create a process for the CBO position to receive coaching support.
- 2. Establish Conditions of Learning to retain staff, build strong collegial relationships, implement standards, and offer broad course access.
 - **A.** Improve the district's school nutrition program through menu improvements and marketing of the food program. Utilize student surveys to address the quality of food served, increase participation at all sites and encourage nutrition instruction.
 - **B.** Identify professional development needs through a needs assessment.
 - C. Improve district maintenance and grounds.
 - **D.** Increase student access to technology. Research providing wifi access to students Beyond the School Day. Survey students to determine levels of home internet access and data access.
- 3. Raise achievement across the curriculum and maintain a primary focus on literacy.
 - **A.** Educate parents and provide professional development to staff about the importance of 0-5 education, specifically academic and social readiness.
 - **B.** Increased achievement on the English and math CAASPP assessments.
 - **C.** Increased quality instruction in physical education, technology, visual/performing arts, science, and history to support all students.
 - **D.** Improved vertical articulation based on development of a district Vertical Teaming Plan and a Career-Technical Education Plan
- Continue to promote school attendance, ensure graduation, encourage parent involvement, and create support structures for needy students.
 - **A.** Utilize social media to effectively communicate with the broad community. Create official Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. Evaluate district web presence.
 - **B.** Provide effective student wellness programs through RTi and SST models.
 - C. Support continued efforts to increase student attendance.



Esparto Elementary School News Erika St. Andre, Principal

Esparto Elementary and Esparto Middle Schools have been the fortunate recipients of a grant that was written in collaboration with Ruth Rosenberg, of the Mondavi Center for the Arts in Davis. The grant includes free tickets for students to attend three shows at the Mondavi Center this school year. The first show was Dorrance Dance, a tap dance troupe. All students in grades 3-8 attended the performance and got to speak with the performers after the show. The second show is Circa, Carnival of the Animals, is a dancing and acting performance that was held on January 29. All kindergarten-6th grade students attended. The final show will be in March.

Esparto Unified School District is very proud and grateful for the continued support and partnership from the Mondavi Center, and the access it allows us to provide our students to high-caliber performances on a university campus.



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Students i

Esparto Middle School News Sherrie Vann, Principal

Esparto Middle School Students Face New Challenges

Students in Mr. Krautkraemer's Robotics classes have been working on a variety of projects. As students master early concepts they are able to work on fairly complex tasks. Classes organize into a series of challenges that are designed to invoke the students' creative thinking and problem solving skills.

Some challenges require students to program their two-wheeled robotics to navigate a course, but in order to write a program to navigate the course the students must first calculate the distance the robot will travel. Connecting skills from mathematics and communication are essential to the programming process.

Come May 19 a few teams of students will take a trip to UC Davis for the RoboPlay Competition. There is a video competition where students can have fun and explore their creativity in writing, storytelling, art, music, choreography, design, video editing and film production and at the same time seamlessly learn C-STEM subjects. There is also a challenge competition for students to showcase their real-world math problem solving skills in a competitive environment. This competition simulates a real-world problem, such as space exploration, where a robotic solution must be quickly developed and deployed, using only existing resources with the constraint of time.

We are so excited for our students and the great learning experiences they are receiving!

Pictured left: Esparto Elementary Students at the Mondavi Center.







Pictured left and above: parents participating in the **SUNRISE Preschool program** activities. Parents **are** the first teachers of their children.

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Esparto High School News Jennifer Wiese, Principal

The first semester of the 2017-18 year has finished and parents should have received student report cards in the mail. If you have not received one, please contact the main office. If you have questions about your student's progress, please contact your student's teachers. We look forward to working with you regarding your student's success here at Esparto High School.

EHS Freshman Preview Day - Welcome Class of 2022!!

On Thursday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m. Esparto High School Auditorium incoming freshmen will learn about graduation requirements at EHS; what sports are available and how to get involved; elect Class of 2022 ASB Officers; take a tour of the campus led by EHS student ambassadors; and choose their elective courses for next year. Parents are welcome to join us in the auditorium at 9:00 am.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

This year all sophomores at Esparto High School will be participating in the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam on February 1. The ASVAB is a comprehensive career assessment that will evaluate not only a student's academic potential, but also individual skills and interests as they relate to the world of work. This assessment can help students as they begin to explore what career path and/or college major they wish to pursue. This exam will benefit students by providing them with valuable information about their strengths and aptitudes as they relate to careers, and results from the exam will not be shared with outside schools or agencies.

February Dates:

February 1: ASVAB Administration

February 7: Freshman Preview Day

February 8: Academic Awards Assembly

February 12: No School-Lincoln's Birthday

February 14: Minimum Day

February 16: Progress Reports

February 17: Almond Queen Pageant

February 19: No School-President's Day

February 25: Almond Festival FFA Breakfast

e exam win

FFA Almond Festival Breakfast

FFA members are beginning to plan the annual Almond Festival Breakfast. The Breakfast will be held in the Esparto High School Gym from 7:00 a.m.-11:a.m.

The Omelet breakfast includes an Omelet made by a FFA member, pancakes and sausage and the cost is \$8.00. The Express Breakfast which is \$6 includes eggs, sausage and pancakes. Both breakfasts also have coffee, milk and orange juice available. Submitted by Amber Charter, FFA Advisor

Donkey Basketball Wednesday March 15

Esparto High School FFA members will once again battle another chapter of Donkey Basketball. The game will be at 7:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased from FFA members or in the High School Office. Ticket prices will go up at the door so make sure you purchase yours in advance. Advance Ticket Prices: Adults \$8, Students (7th-12th) \$6, and children (K-6) are \$4. If you would like to be a sponsor for donkey basketball and have your name on the annual shirt please contact Mrs. Charter at acharter@espartok12.org. Submitted by Amber Charter, FFA Teacher/Advisor

Spaghetti Feed Dinner for "Success Group"

Please support **RISE's SUCCESS Group** on its journey to Disneyland! RISE will be taking a group of 20 SUCCESS students to Disneyland this March. We are hosting a to-go Spaghetti feed fundraiser on February 21. RISE staff will be taking pre-orders from now through February 16. Dinner will include spaghetti, salad, and dinner rolls. You will have an option of a dinner platter for 4 for \$20 or individual plates for \$8. Please call the RISE office at **(530) 787-4110** to place an order. Payment also needs to be turned in to the RISE office by **February 16**. Then you may pick up your order on February 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the RISE office. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

¡Apoye al **Grupo SUCCESS de RISE** en su viaje a Disneyland! RISE llevará a un grupo de 20 estudiantes del grupo SUCCESS a Disneyland este mes de marzo. El 21 de febrero organizamos un evento de recaudación de fondos de Spaghetti para llevar. El personal de RISE recibirá pedidos anticipados desde ahora hasta el 16 de febrero. La cena incluye espagueti, ensalada y panecillos para la cena. Tendrás la opción de un plato de cena para 4 por \$ 20 o platos individuales por \$ 8. Por favor, siéntase libre de llamar a nuestra oficina de RISE al **(530) 787-4110** para hacer su pedido. Esperamos con interés escuchar de usted pronto!







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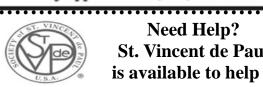
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www.calvarywoodland.org

On Facebook:

Calvary Baptist Church of Esparto

Pastor Kris' Office Hours: Wed-Fri 1-4pm or by appointment (530) 383-2106



Need Help? St. Vincent de Paul is available to help those in need.

For more information, call (530) 312-8967

mRelief Launches End-to-End Mobile Tool to Enroll Californians in CalFresh

mRelief's easy-to-use web and text messaging platform, launched in partnership with the California Department of Social Services in February 2017, helps low-income Americans find out if they qualify for food stamps. Today, they launch an end-to-end process which is being utilized to address the barriers eligible users face securing CalFresh benefits. After low-income families discover eligibility, they can now use a mobile-responsive platform to apply, schedule an interview and submit necessary verifications for CalFresh benefits - the three required steps to receive food benefits.

After submitting an application for CalFresh benefits, applicants must complete a required interview. The mRelief tool has an adaptive SMS (text messaging) flow to facilitate the applicant's preferred experience. Via the mRelief platform, applicants can receive reminders, text required documents ahead of their interview and receive updates on delays and outstanding documents. In initial testing of the tool, more than 70 percent went on to attend the required interview.

The pervasiveness of student hunger underscored the need for this technology on local campuses. A 2016 report by Students Against Hunger showed that 48 percent of students were food insecure in the past 30 days. In September 2016, AB 1747 was signed into law in California requiring campus eateries to register to accept purchases under CalFresh. "We are really excited to partner with mRelief to leverage SMS and its power to help serve students in need, and the overall community," said Nolan Sullivan, Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency, service center branch director.

The process has been made possible by collaborations with county employees to ensure that optimizations to CalFresh enrollment are consistent with existing business processes and do not involve extensive manual work by case workers. Overall, the application tool eliminates manual follow-up that is currently done to facilitate scheduling and long term case management that requires in-person help. Submitted by Beth Gabor, Yolo County Information Officer

February Regular and **Extended Hours for RISE**

The regular hours for RISE are Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This coming month the Esparto RISE Office will be also be open on Saturday, Feb 10 from 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. and on Monday, Feb. 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Make an appointment now to meet with our Resource and Referral Specialist. Call (530) 787-4110. RISE is located at 17317 Fremont St. in Esparto.

Welcome to St. Martin De Porres Catholic Mission Church 25633 W. Grafton Street - Esparto, CA

Holy Eucharist Saturday 7:00 p.m. Spanish Sunday 8:30 a.m. English

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 6:30 p.m.

We welcome visitors to our community.

If you are Catholic, but have not been to church lately, come by and see what your Church is like today.

> Rev. Perlito De La Cruz, Pastor (530)795-2230

stanthonystmartin@stanthonystmartin.org



Countryside Community Church

Where community-- hospitality and spirituality-- come together Everyone is invited

Worship Service and Sunday School Sundays at 10 a.m.

Followed by coffee, refreshments and conversation

House Church Wednesday at 6 p.m. An opportunity to engage in the spirit of community. 530-787-3586 26579 Grafton Street Esparto, CA 95627 countrysidechurch@outlook.com

m faceb

Community Improv Theater

Come join us for community improv theater at the Rumsey Hall on Saturday February 10 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The Rumsey Hall is located at 14380 Manzanita St. in Rumsey. All skill levels and ages are welcome and the event is free. We will talk about the ideas behind improv and play improv theater games. Donations will be accepted to support the use of the hall.

Improv, short for improvisation, is a type of performance art in which the character, plot, dialogue and scene are created on the spot. Once the participants have the information for the scene, they "play" together to create an interesting skit. Improv requires teamwork, patience, creativity, and the willingness to "go with the flow". Some of the basic rules of improv are that 1) everyone's a genius, there are no bad ideas, 2) always say "yes", and while on stage, don't deny the ideas of others on stage with you, 3) play and enjoy yourself, and 4) let yourself fail, learning improv isn't easy. Contact Nina 530-796-4084 with questions.

Submitted by Nina Andres

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BBQ Burgers on Thursdays!

Time: 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes:

Burger, chips & a drink for \$5.50



We are now serving Breakfast Burritos 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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Manas Ranch

Fred and Alice Manas, Owners 25838 County Road 21A Esparto California 95627 (530) 787-3228 Fax: 787-1878 fjmanas@sbcglobal.net

"THE BEST PEACHES IN THE WEST"



Rebecca Bravo



Rebecca Bravo

Rebecca Bravo lives in Esparto with her parents, Ramon and Teresa Bravo. She has 3 sisters, Alma, Ariana and Maria. She also has two brothers Valentin and Angel. Rebecca is very involved at Esparto High School. She is a member of the EHS MAD Club, the Spanish Club and the FFA. She is an agriculture Mechanics student, is a part of the Research Technology & Bioengineering program at EHS. Rebecca had a supporting role in the EHS production of Aladdin, in which she won a MAD club actors award for her role. She is involved with the Esparto Regional Library page and is a Teacher's Aide for the Esparto Library Children's Art classes. In addition to her many extracurricular activities, Rebecca has remained in high academic standing being on both the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll. Rebecca has applied to three CSU's and plans to study Nursing. She would like to be a nurse so that she can help people who are in need and give her future patients the motivation to get strong and healthy. Rebecca enjoys spending time with family and friends. She enjoys cooking, baking and being outdoors. Rebecca is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant because she feels this pageant is an important part of our community and celebrates the history of the Capay Valley. She thinks this will be a fun and memorable experience. Thank you to Rebecca's sponsor: Simonis Ranches.

Alyssandra Decontreaus

Alyssandra DeConteaus

Alyssandra DeContreaus lives in Woodland with her parents Marc and Roumelia. She has an older sister Julianna and a younger brother, Nicholas. An active senior at Esparto High School, Alyssandra is a member of the local Leo's club, Musical Arts and Drama Club, Spanish Club, the National Honor Society and the FFA. She has been a member of the Vaca Valley Figure Skating Club and received the U.S. Figure Skating Seniors Program Silver Level Award. She was crowned Miss Teen Vacaville for 2015 2016. In addition to her many activities, she is an active member in the community. She has helped organize birthday parties for homeless children through Project Birthday at St. John's shelter for Women and Children. She has donated her time to help with the Esparto Elementary Fall Festival and the Full Belly Farm Aquatic Center Dinner. Her beautiful voice can be heard singing the National Anthem at all home football games, but her musical ability doesn't stop there. She has won "Excellent Technical Advancement" and "Excellent Performance Preparation" in the school of Piano from the Young Artists Conservatory. She has also won many scholastic awards in the FFA and athletic department as well as being on the Honor Roll. She received recognition from the Young Women Camp of the church of Jesus Christ of LDS Level 4 Achievement. In the future, Alyssandra's plans are to attend the 2022 Olympics as a U.S. Synchronized Figure Skating representative while focusing on her Academic Career. Alyssandra enjoys singing, cooking, drawing and putting on makeup with her sister. Alyssandra is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant to inspire others and create one of the greatest memories she could ask for. Thank you to Alyssandra's sponsor: Marc DeContreaus.

Estrella Figueroa

Estrella Figueroa is an active EHS senior. Her parents are Jorge Figueroa and Maria Conrique. She has two brothers, Angel and Cristian. She is a member of the Esparto High School Spanish club and FFA. She is an Agricultural Mechanics student and is currently working on her FFA State Degree. Estrella has already earned the Future Farmers of America Greenhand Award. Estrella has had the opportunity to participate in the harvesting and wine production at Capay Valley Vineyard and has done tomato harvesting at C Farms. Estrella has earned perfect attendance and has been on the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll. Estrella has many interests outside of school, including spending time with her family, playing basketball and horseback riding. She has been riding horses since she was seven. Estrella's future plans include attending a community college with the goal of transferring to a four year university. She would like to major in Animal Science or Veterinary Science to become a Veterinarian. Her long term goal is to open her own Veterinarian business to help animals that are in danger. Estrella is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant to experience something new and gain experience with public speaking and interview skills. She believes the Almond Queen represents all the good things about the Capay Valley and is looking forward to participating in this tradition.



Estrella Figueroa



Melissa Flores

Melissa Flores lives in Esparto with her Mother, Lourdes Flores and her sister, Alejandra. Melissa is a very active senior at Esparto High School. She is a member of the FFA, student government, AG leadership class, Spanish Club and the Esparto High School Floral program. She was the Homecoming court chair and raised an animal for the Yolo County Fair. She received First place in Market Lamb at the 2017 Yolo County Fair. Melissa has earned Honor Roll and High Honor Roll and is a cheerleader. She loves cheerleading, spending time with family and makeup. After high school Melissa plans to attend a four year university, either Sacramento State or Chico State. She plans to major in Criminal Justice and minor in Sociology. Her goal is to become a crime scene investigator or a criminal profiler. Melissa wants to be successful in her career and make her mom proud. Melissa is participating in the Almond Queen pageant to get more involved in her community and to step out of her comfort zone to help build her confidence and speaking skills. She has many great things about the pageant and looks forward to the fun experience and bonding with the other contestants, who are close peers. She wants to make the most of the time with her classmates before their senior year comes to an end and each takes their own path.

Melissa Flores





Almond Queen Pageant

The time has come to celebrate a handful of incredibly talented young women in the Esparto and Capay Valley community. This year, eight brave and strong young ladies will compete for the title of 2018 Almond Queen. The pageant will be held on Saturday, February 17 at the Western Yolo Grange Hall in Guinda at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at Esparto Ace Hardware, New Reflections Salon in Esparto, and the Guinda Corner Store. They are \$25/adult and \$15/children. Any former Almond Queen who attends the event will receive one free ticket. The menu for the dinner features produce from local farms and will be prepared by members of the Grange. The Rumsey Improvement Association sponsors the pageant.

This year's pool of qualified candidates includes athletes, scholars, leaders, and community oriented seniors, all at Esparto High School. Join the entire Capay Valley in honoring these remarkable young women and celebrating this important community tradition.

Submitted by Caitlin Zavala, Almond Queen Pageant Coordinator



Elizabeth Ibarra



Angelina Jaramillo



Elizabeth Ibarra

Elizabeth Ibarra lives in Esparto with her parents, Salvador and Maria Elena Ibarra. Her two siblings are Erica and Art. Elizabeth has competed on the Varsity Volleyball and soccer teams. She was named Captain of the Soccer Team. Elizabeth is very involved at Esparto High School. She is a Class Officer as well as a member of the local Leo's club, National Honor Society and Spanish club. She holds many offices such as National Honor Society Vice-President, Spanish Club Treasurer and Leo Club President. Elizabeth's future plans include attending a 4 year university with a major in the Medical field, but her continued love of agriculture has motivated her to possibly pursue a minor in that field, but most of all she wants to make sure that no matter what she does in the future, she is helping people. Elizabeth enjoys playing soccer, reading self-motivating books and, of course, lending a hand whenever she can, which always brings a smile to her face. She is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant to further her involvement in the community but also to assist her in venturing out of her comfort zone and to create a memory she will treasure. Thank you to Elizabeth's sponsor: Art Hair and Makeup Lounge.

Angelina Jaramillo

Angelina Jaramillo lives in Madison with her Parents Irene and Bernard Jaramillo. She has two older brothers, Isaac and Nathan as well as an older sister, Karisa. Angelina is involved in many clubs at Esparto High School including FFA, student government, Spanish Club and the local Leo's Club. She plays softball and is a cheerleader. She works very hard academically and is on the Honor roll. She earned most improved for softball and most diverse for cheerleading. Outside of school some of her favorite activities and hobbies include spending time with friends and family, baking and doing her makeup. Angelina plans to attend Woodland Community College to work on her general education requirements before transferring to a four year university. She would like to study the anatomy of animals in pursuit of becoming a Veterinarian. Angelina grew up in Madison and has always known the Almond Queen pageant to be a big deal and a big part of the Capay Valley history. To her, the Almond Queen symbolizes a young woman focused on community and trying to make a difference and she is excited at the opportunity to participate in this event.

Olivia Read

Olivia Read is a talented athlete and active Senior at Esparto High school. Her parents are Jerry and Tiffany Buenvenida as well as Emilio and Belinda Jimenez. She has three brothers, Jerry, Emilio and Elias and one sister, Lily. Olivia is a member of the local Leo's Club, the National Honor Society, Associated Student Body and the Science Club. She is currently ASB Vice-President and has been President and Secretary of the National Honor Society. She was a homecoming queen candidate and an FFA sweetheart contestant. She practices her cooking skills as a member of the EHS Culinary Program and was a member of the School Newspaper, the Spartan Scroll. She is a EUSD Student School Board Representative and a multiple sport athlete. She has thrived in athletics, earning captain in both volleyball and softball, Volleyball All League, twice, and the scholar athlete in softball. She was also the Girls State Delegate for Esparto High School. After high school, Olivia plans to attend a four year university and study Sociology. She hopes to become a counselor and spend her days relaxing on a beach. Some of Olivia's favorite hobbies are traveling, baking, swimming, volleyball and softball. Growing up in Esparto the Almond Festival and Pageant have been an intricate part of Olivia's life and our community, she wants to continue to deepen her involvement in the community and its traditions. She has known many women who have participated that were admirable role models and cared for the community and she too would like continue this tradition.



Olivia Read



Anet Santos



Anet Santos

Anet Santos lives in Esparto with her parents, Jose and Ramona Santos. She has two siblings: a brother, Paul, and a sister, Ruby. Anet is an active senior at Esparto High School. She is the Secretary of the Student Body, a member of the Spanish Club and a part of AG leadership. Anet has been on the Honor roll all four years at Esparto and earned the MAD Club Art Award for Excellence in Art. Anet is a member of the Varsity Cross Country team and the Varsity Girls Basketball team. She was named captain and MVP of the JV Basketball team. She earned coaches' award for Varsity Basketball two years in a row. She was also awarded with the Cross Country Lady Spartan Award this year. In addition to Basketball and Cross Country, Anet enjoys drawing and modeling. Her goal after high school is to attend a four year college and graduate with a business degree. She would like to use that business degree to create a business that brings jobs to a community and can really make a difference. Anet is a very shy person and looks forward to this pageant helping her to improve her public speaking and interview skills. Being her senior year she wants to make the most of it and have as many opportunities and memories as possible. Prior to moving to Esparto in 3rd grade, Anet lived in Riverside, so was not used to living in a small town, but since living here she has learned how special our little community is and she wants to participate in the pageant to represent this unique place.

It's Teacher Grant Time

The California Retired Teachers Association is offering their final statewide grant program for this school year. Here's the link for the 30-sec application: http://s.heyo.com/740813.

No strings ... use the money for your classroom. Deadline to register is February 7, then 25 teachers will be randomly selected and will be notified via email. You can also log on to the CalRTA Facebook page and register there. Questions about this or anything related to CalRTA ... reach us at outreach@calrta.org. Good luck! (Reminder - click http://s.heyo.com/740813 to register or use the tab on the left side of our CalRTA Facebook page. Last November, Justine Luna, a second grade teacher from Waggoner Elementary in Winters was a winner.

Members of CalRTA also funded more than \$600,000 in grants and scholarships to schools as well as to current and future teachers. CalRTA's mission is to protect and advocate for retired and active educators, pensions and other retirement benefits, and to support public education in California communities.

Submitted by Bob Gonzalez, CalRTA Communications Area III –Division 83



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> please call 530-787-3454 17050 Grafton Street Esparto, CA 95627

CLINIC HOURS - HORAS de CLINICA Monday 9-6 Tuesday 9-1 Wednesday 2-6 Thursday - CLOSED Friday 8-5

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February Programs at the Esparto Regional Library

All are welcome to participate in the following special programs held during the month of February at Yolo County's Esparto Regional Library, located at 17065 Yolo Avenue in Esparto:

February is Black History Month! Join us in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. Check out our book display and bibliography.

Happy Lunar New Year 2018: Year of the Dog!: Look for our display table with resources, coloring pages, and a take home craft.

Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspot & Chromebooks. These are now available for check out. Contact the Esparto Regional Library for details.

February 8: Afternoon Movie, 3:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to view a family friendly (G or PG) or teen appropriate (PG-13) movie. Contact the library for the title.

February 13: Free Computer Class, 10:30 a.m. Basic computer class covering simple tech support, beginner terminology, library computer resources, and a Q&A session. Registration is required and will be limited to the first ten signups. To register call (530) 787-3426 or sign up at the library service desk. This class will be offered on the second Tuesday of each month.

February 13: Valentine's Day Crafts, 3:30 p.m. Share the love and have fun making Valentine's Day cards, bookmarks, and more. All ages welcome. February 22: Children's Art Class with Julie, 3:30 p.m. Join us for a relaxed art class featuring India ink on rice paper. No experience is necessary and beginners are always welcome.

February 28: Adult Art Class with Julie, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a hands-on class featuring drawing on glass jars. No reservations are required and all ages are welcome.

The following ongoing programs continue in February:

English Conversation Group, Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. Converse and improve your English in a fun and relaxed setting with the aid of a group facilitator. Drop-in visitors are always welcome.

Hora de Cuentos / Bilingual Spanish Story Time (Ages 0-5), Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Children (ages 0-5) and their parents or caregivers are invited to join us for stories, songs, movement, rhymes and finger-plays. All bilingual story times are provided through a grant from First 5 Yolo. Note the new time

NOTICES: The Yolo County Library's branches will be closed on February 19 for Presidents' Day.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library, are free to attend and, unless otherwise stated, no registration is required. For more information about events at the Esparto Regional Library, contact library staff at (530) 787-3426 or visit the Yolo County Library at www.yolocountylibrary.org (see calendar for Esparto Regional Library-specific events). Connect with Yolo County Library Facebook at www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.



Pictured above left to right: Mark Fink, Malinda Baker, Crista Cannariato, and Scott Love. Mark is the new librarian for Yolo County; Malinda is the Esparto Regional Library Supervisor; Crista and Scott are from the Yolo County Library staff.



Pictured above: Friends of the Esparto Regional Library Board members: L-R top row: Jim Schulte, President; Gretchen Paddock, Board Member; Nina Andres-Berrelleza, Secretary; Julia Berrelleza, Student Board Member. Front row L-R: Randy Byrne, Vice President; Pamela Marvel, Treasurer; Virginia Toby, Board Member; and Denny Boydstun, Board Member.

FERL Almond Festival Book Sale: Books in Bloom Sunday February 25, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Esparto Library

While attending the Almond Festival, stop by the library to peruse the FERL book sale. Find treasures to read: cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. There is something for everyone! Volunteers are needed to help run this popular Almond Festival event. Book donations are also needed and can be delivered to the library during open hours. All book sale proceeds help support programs and services at the Esparto Library. FERL would like to give special recognition to volunteer Betty Koeppen for her dedication and longtime commitment to orchestrating the book sale. Contact Jim Schulte at jschulte_611@hotmail.com to sign up for a volunteer shift. Submitted by Randy Byrne



February 2 Groundhog Day

On this day in 1887, Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring. (from www.history.com)



Patrick Scribner

Certified Public Accountant 624 Court Street, Suite A (530) 666-2727 Woodland, CA 95695 Fax: (530) 668-6822

email: pscpa@scribnerranch.com

Area Food Distributions

RISE, Inc. manages several food distributions each month. Madison Community Committee sponsors a Food Closet in Madison. Below is a summary of these opportunities. They are also announced in other places in this paper.

- Food Bank Give-Away on the 4th Monday of each month at the RISE office from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Volunteers are urgently needed to help with this distribution
- Food and Clothes Closet is open on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon, and on Fridays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Call RISE office for more information: (530) 787-4110
- Madison Food Closet is open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 6:30 p.m. to Madison residents. Submitted by the RISE Staff

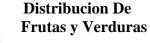
Free Produce Distribution

When: 1st and 3rd Thursday of month

Where: RISE, Inc.

17313 Fremont St., Esparto, CA Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1 PER HOUSEHOLD / BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Any Family in Esparto or Capay Valley are Welcome!



Cuando: 1^{er} y 3^{er} Jueves del mes Donde: La Oficina de RISE 17313 Fremont St., Esparto, CA Hora: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1 POR FAMILIA / TRAIGA BOLSA Familias en Esparto y Capay Valley son Bienvenidas!







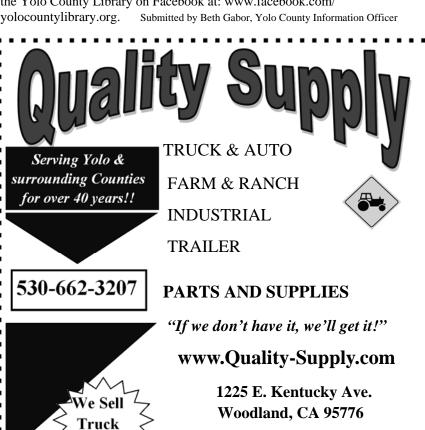
Make Career Online High School Your New Year's Resolution

Join Yolo County Library in celebrating the new year by earning an accredited high school diploma and career training certificate through **Career Online High School.**

With the new year is a great time to focus on education, career prospects, and free opportunities. The Yolo County Library has free scholarships to award to Yolo County residents looking to earn their high school diploma and advance their careers through Career Online High School. This completely free online program is brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, and it comes with an academic coach who assists with developing career plans, offers guidance and encouragement, and connects the learner with resources needed to demonstrate mastery and completion of course materials.

Interested residents can contact library staff at diploma@yolocounty.org or Joan Tuss at (530) 757-5588. For more information about Career Online High School visit: www.yolocountylibrary.org/diploma.

The Yolo County Library fosters personal and workforce development by providing learning opportunities that can change lives. This project is supported in part by the Yolo County Office of Education and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the California State Librarian. For more information about the Yolo County Library visit: www.yolocountylibrary.org or connect with the Yolo County Library on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/volocountylibrary.org. Submitted by Beth Gabor, Yolo County Information Officer





TRAILER PARTS



VALLEY SENIORS PROGRAM AT RISE Schedule for February 2018 SPONSORED BY THE YOCHA DE HE COMMUNITY FUND

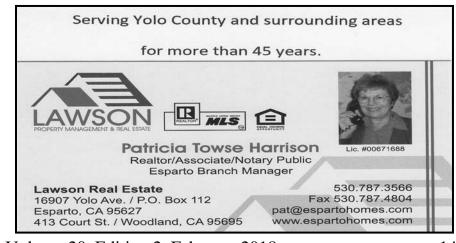
If you are a senior citizen interested in having fun, learning and socializing, please join us at the RISE Office, 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto.

JOIN US ON TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, FROM 9:00 a.m.—NOON For Guest Speakers, Movies, Arts & Crafts, Games, Day Trips, Health and Exercise Classes. We also serve Lunch.

- February 1: Legal Services Speaker/ Orador Invitado de los Servicios Legales
- February 6: Exercise Class (Chair Yoga) & Games/Ejercicio de Yoga y Juegos
- February 8: Candy Making/Haciendo Dulces
- February 13: Yoga Class w Laura Martinez/Clase de Yoga con Laura Martinez
- February 15: Field Trip TBA/Paseo
- February 20: Exercise Class (Chair Yoga) & Games/Ejercicio de Yoga y Juegos
- February 22: Kevin Clark, Dist. Attorney's Office Speaker, Potluck & Birthdays, Orador Invitado, Kevin Clark de la Oficina del Fiscal del Distrito, Intercambio de Comida y Celebracion de Cumpleaños
- February 27: Exercise Class (Chair Yoga) and Games/Ejercicio de Yoga y Juegos

FOR QUESTIONS & UPDATES, PLEASE CALL RISE Inc. @ 530-787-4110. SI TIENE PREGUNTAS O PARA ACTUALIZA-CIONES POR FAVOR LLAME A RISE

Submitted by the RISEStaff





This Autistic Life

The Yolo County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) hosted an event titled "This Autistic Life" at the Yolo County Office of Education in Woodland on January 8. Approximately 100 people gathered to hear the father-son duo Hank Smith (above, left) and Ian Smith (above, right) speak about their experiences with Autism. Hank, Ian's father and an elementary school teacher, revealed personal accounts of his family's experiences raising Ian, who has Autism. Hank brought some audience members to tears as he described the rages that characterized many of Ian's formative years, the idiosyncrasies of Ian's development, and the sacrifices the family made for Ian. More tears came as Hank explained if there were a pill he could give Ian to cure him of his Autism, he wouldn't use it. "Too much would be lost," Hank said, and further explained, "The gifts that have come with his Autism are just too great." Hank particularly admires Ian's kindness and nonjudgmental attitude toward everyone he meets.

Ian has grown into a 25-year-old man who lives independently, works as a math tutor, and attends Santa Rosa Junior College. Ian is a sponsored and nationally ranked yo-yo player who enjoys many activities including juggling, gymnastics, and dancing. Ian described how he enjoys doing handstands and being upside down as a way to calm himself when he is overwhelmed by sensory input. Hank further explained that Ian is also calmed by his new kitten and by physical activity. Ian and Hank concurred that Ian's yo-yo prowess, enabled by Ian's ability to hyper-focus on building his skills, has provided an avenue for Ian to make friends and socialize with many different groups of people.

Hank and Ian Smith travel around California presenting "This Autistic Life" to help raise awareness about Autism in a positive way that does not overlook the challenges. Event participants in Woodland, many of whom have a child with Autism, reported relating to many of Hank's stories and being touched by Hank's raw and honest personal accounts. Participants were also dazzled by Ian's yo-yo skills and inspired by the amazing man he has become.

You can learn more about Hank and Ian Smith at: http://www.thisautisticlife.com/. Please see the Yolo SELPA website at: http://www.ycoe.org/selpa for more information about other presentations for families and educators in Yolo County.

Reminder: All articles, ads, and announcements and payments for this paper are due to the following email address by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month's Valley Voice.

Send to Valley Voice@RISE inc. org (new email address).

Payments for ads are due by the 20th of each month.

Spring Salad Luncheon

St. Martin Altar Society

Saturday, April 14, 2018

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

At

St. Martin Parish Hall

25633 West Grafton Street Esparto, CA

Donation: \$10.00/per person

Door Prize and Raffle Prizes

Spring Salad Luncheon

St. Martin Altar Society

Sabado Dia 14 de Abril del 2018

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

En El Salon Parroquia

de St. Martin

25633 West Grafton Street Esparto, CA

Donacion: \$10.00/por persona

Premio de Entrada y Premios de Rifa

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Community Calendar For February 2018

February 1: Ceramic Memorial Tiles can be purchased at library 5-7 p.m.

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 7: Freshman Preview Day at Esparto High School

February 8: Afternoon movie at the Library at 3:00 p.m.

February 10: Community Improv Theater at Rumsey Hall 7:00-9:30 p.m.

February 12: Lincoln's Birthday holiday for Esparto Schools

February 13: Free computer class at 10:30 at the library

February 13: Valentine's Day Crafts at the Library at 3:30 p.m.

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 15: Groundbreaking at new Aquatic Park in Esparto 4:00 p.m.

February 17: Almond Queen Pageant at the Guinda Hall 7-10 p.m.

February 19: President's Day Holiday

February 21: RISE Success Group Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner

February 22: Children's Art Class at the Library at 3:30 p.m.

February 23: RISE Bingo Night at Esparto Elementary School at 6 p.m.

February 25: Almond Festival

February 25: Almond Festival Breakfast at EHS Gym from 7 to 11a.m.

February 25: Books in Bloom Sale at Esparto Library from 10 to 4 p.m.

February 28: Adult Art Class at the Library at 10:30 a.m.

Coming up

March 15: Donkey Basketball at Esparto High School Gym at 7:00 p.m. April 14: Spring Salad Luncheon at St. Martin's Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m.













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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA: Countryside Community Church, located at 26479 Grafton St. on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Call 1-800-970-9040 for more information.

Spanish AA: Alcohólicos Anónimos: Detrás de El Toro. Los lunes, miércoles, y viernes a las 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Al-Anon: Countryside Community Church on Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Calvary Baptist Church: meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday at 17050 Omega Street in Esparto.

Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: 11:00 a.m. adult Sunday school; 11:45 a.m. social; 12:10-1:10 a.m. worship and children's Sunday school at the Guinda Community Church

Capay Valley Fire Commission Meeting: meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Guinda Fire Station.

Capay Valley Garden Club 4th Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., location varies, see Facebook page for more information.

Capay Valley General Plan Advisory Committee: meets every 1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall in Guinda. Open to all.

Capay Valley Science Club, 4th Mondays, 6:00 p.m., location varies.

Capay Valley Vision Board: meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the CVV office at 6:30 p.m. (Meetings are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.)

Cottonwood Cemetery District: will meet January 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm. #204 at the Woodland Administration Bldg. at 625 Court Street in Woodland

Countryside Community Church: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School.

Esparto Ag Boosters: meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Ag Department at the high school.

Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee Planning Council: meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Esparto Regional Library.

Esparto Community Services District: meets on the 2ndWednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Esparto Family Practice: open: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-6:00 p.m. and Thursday from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Esparto High School Ag Boosters meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Ag Classroom at the high school.

Esparto Lions Club Meeting: meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the VFW hall 7:00 p.m.

Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce: meets every month on the 4th Thursday at the Chamber Office at 16858 Yolo Avenue. (787-3242)

Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Alice Marsh Hall.

Food and Clothes Closet: open on Wednesdays 9:00-12:00 p.m. and Fridays 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Countryside Community Church. Contact RISE Inc. at 787-4110 for information.

Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors' Meeting: meets on the 2nd Thursday at 5:00 p.m. at the Library.

Legal Services in Esparto: free services offered on the 1st Thursdays of every other month at the RISE office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Call 787-4110 for appointment.

Guinda Community Church: Sunday Service at 9:00 a.m.

Madison Advisory Committee: 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District. No meetings in May, November or December.

Madison Community Committee: 3rd Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Madison Community Services District.

Madison Fire Commissioners Meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Madison Fire Department at 17880 Stephens Street.

Madison Food Closet: open the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District Building

Madison Service District Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the District office at 28963 Main Street in Madison.

New Life Christian Center in Madison: Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m. with Jr. Church for ages 5-12. Home Bible Studies on Wednesday.

 $\textbf{On Fire Fellowship of Esparto:} \ Sunday \ service \ at \ 9:00 \ a.m. \ Bible \ Study: \ Wed. \ at \ 6:30 \ p.m. \ Youth \ Group: Fri. \ at \ 6:30 \ p.m.; \ Ladies: \ 1st/3rd \ Tues. \ at \ 6:30 \ p.m.$

Play School Experience: held from 8:30-10:00 am on Thursdays and Fridays at the On Fire Fellowship Church.

RISE Collaborative Meeting: meets the 3rd Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the RISE office (except August and December).

Rumsey Improvement Association: Potluck dinner and meeting on the 1st Monday. 6:00 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. dinner; 7:10 p.m. meeting at the Rumsey Hall

St. Martin's Catholic Mission Church: English Mass: 8:30 a.m. on Sundays; Spanish Mass: 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays at St. Martin's Catholic Mission, 25633 W. Grafton St.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Western Yolo Post 7143, meets 2nd Monday each month, at Post Home, Orleans St. and Highway 16.

Western Yolo Grange: meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:00: social, and 6:30 p.m.: potluck dinner and meeting at the Grange Hall at 16787 Forrest Ave. in Guinda.

4-H: meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Community Center in Esparto.