Valley Voice

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2016 Almond Queen Pageant

On February 20, the Guinda Grange Hall was filled to overflowing with family, friends and community members who had joined to experience the 101st anniversary of the Almond Queen Pageant. A delicious meal, prepared by members of the Guinda Grange and organized by Grange Member Pamela Bateman, was enjoyed by attendees.

After dinner the lights were dimmed and Thaddeus Barsotti, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, proceeded to open the pageant. The Almond Queen Candidates were: Jynelle Brilliantes, Julianna DeContreaus, Amanda Gallardo, Sabrina Jones, Jessica Paddock, and Allyah Perez. All are seniors in high school residing in the Esparto Unified School District.

Each of the six contestants had worked very hard to prepare for this special night. An essay had been written and judged by members of the Esparto High School staff, the topic being "The Capay Valley is a unique place to have grown up. From the tight-knit community to the rich agricultural region, it is difficult to imagine a place similar to this in the world. What are three lessons have you learned as a citizen of the Capay Valley that you hope to carry with you after graduation?" They also each had personal interviews with each of the judges prior to this evening, which were held at Esparto High School.

The topic for the speech given at the Pageant was "Imagine that you have returned to the Capay Valley for your Tenth High School reunion. What three businesses, services, or community activities do you hope to see in our valley that are improving the quality of life for everyone that lives here?" Each young woman gave a heartfelt and dynamic speech on the topic. At the end of the speech several other questions were asked of them, some fun, some current events. Though the contestants knew the list of questions beforehand, they did not know what question they were to answer.

At the end of the speeches the judges retired to make their decisions. During this time a raffle was held, led by members of the Rumsey Improvement Association. Donations from many valley residents and farmers were won by many of the attendees. Proceeds from the raffle tickets, purchased by those present, went to support the on-going work on the Grange Hall. A special addition for 2016 was the beautiful almond and nature art pieces that graced the walls of the Grange Hall, submitted by local artists. The art was available to purchase, with all proceeds benefiting the Guinda Grange Hall and the artists.

The judges were Christine DiMaria, Jordan Dixon, and Erika St. Andre. They had a difficult role to play in deciding the winners. At the end of the raffle the winners of the pageant were announced. As the contestants arrived on stage for the crowning of the Almond Queen, each was given a beautiful bouquet. Last year's queen, Erika Barajas, gave a heartfelt recap of her year as the Almond Queen before the awards were bestowed. The awards were: Miss Congeniality (voted on by all contestants), 1st Runner Up, and the Almond Queen.

Miss Congeniality was awarded to **Jessica Paddock**, 1st Runner up was given to **Allyah Perez**, and the Almond Queen title was given to **Jynelle Brillantes**.

Coordinators for this event were Alexis Kersting, Esparto High School Counselor, Hallie (Muller) Ochoa and Hannah Muller, from Full Belly Farm. Flowers and table decorations were done by Full Belly Floral; the limousine for the Queen and her court will be provided by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; the program printing was done by Full Belly Farm; and the event was sponsored by the Rumsey Improvement Association and the Western Yolo Grange #432.

Submitted by Hallie (Muller) Ochoa

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Pictured above are the winners of the Almond Queen Pageant: left, Jessica Paddock, Miss Congeniality. center, Queen Jynelle Brillantes; right, Runner Up Allyah Perez.

Pictured below are all of the contestants of the Almond Queen Pageant. From left to right: Julianna DeContreaus, Sabrina Jones, Jessica Paddock, Queen Jynelle Brillantes, Amanda Gallardo, and Allyah Perez.



All are welcome to send in pictures and stories of the Almond Festival, and other related events for inclusion in the April edition of this paper.

(Space permitting) Email to this address: valleyvoice2@hotmail.com.

Volume 18, Edition 3, March 2016

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Document Shredding Event

Mark your calendars for <u>April 19, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</u> for a Document Shredding Event here in the RISE parking lot located at 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto. This is a FREE service offered through RISE by the District Attorney's office of Yolo County. There is no limit to the amount of documents you can bring that you are in need of shredding. There will be staff members from the DA's office on site to answer any questions about crime and fraud prevention as well. Questions? Call the RISE Inc. office at (530) 787-4110.



Many, Many Thanks!

The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its gratitude to all who helped make this year a really happy and successful Almond Festival.

Thanks to Cache Creek Casino and Resort for their support of the Almond Festival.

Thank you to Tommy Bright for a beautiful and wind-proof banner; thanks to Mike Leonard and Mike Hill of Cache Creek Casino Resort and the crew from engineering who put up the banner, with nary a glitch. And thanks to Barry Burns for helping with traffic while the large banner was being installed.

Thank you to Devon and Tom from Ace Hardware for putting up our Almond Festival light-post banners. It made our street look very festive.

Thank you to Capay Valley Vision for sending us Maya Walker to put out publicity and advertising.

And a giant thank you to our new Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Kelley, who jumped in and began putting things in order and essentially saved the day.

Thank you to everyone who have helped and supported the Capay Valley Almond Festival year after year after year.

Submitted by Pat Harrison of ERCC



Visit RISE Online at riseinc.org

Did you know that you can read the Valley Voice on your cellphone? RISE, Inc. has been updating our website to include archive editions of the Valley Voice.

The website also includes contact information for RISE, Inc. staff in Esparto and Winters. Under our list of services you can learn more about the services RISE, Inc. provides. We also have an e-mail newsletter (e-newsletter) which includes updates and program highlights.

We hope you will check out our website at **www.riseinc.org** and sign up for our e-newsletter. If you have a question our Resource & Referral Specialists look forward to helping you in Esparto at (530) 787-4110 and in Winters at (530) 794-6000.

Submitted by RISE, Inc. staff

News from Esparto Unified School District Diego Ochoa, Superintendent/Principal



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT DATA

A recent lawsuit against the California Department of Education (CDE) is impacting all school districts across the state. In April 2012, two organizations, the Morgan Hill Concerned Parents Association and the Concerned Parent Association, filed a lawsuit against the CDE alleging widespread, systemic noncompliance by local education agencies with special education laws.

The suit also alleged that the CDE failed to monitor, investigate and correct such non-compliance in accordance with the law. The CDE denies these allegations and is actively defending the litigation.

The Esparto Unified School District was not involved in this lawsuit and is not the subject of any of the suit's allegations. Nonetheless, as a part of this lawsuit, CDE has been ordered by the court to release *all data it has collected on general and special education students since Jan.1*, 2008 to the Morgan Hill Concerned Parents Association, the plaintiffs in the case.

For more information regarding the release of this data and how parents can file an objection with the court to consider not releasing your child's data, visit: http://www.cde.ca.gov morganhillcase. You may also contact the California Department of Education at (916) 319-0800.

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HORA: 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.



Esparto Elementary School News Erika St. Andre, Principal

The month of March brings many exciting events to Esparto Elementary School! At the beginning of the month Esparto Elementary School and the Esparto Combined PTA will be partnering to kick off two events, **Read Across America Day on Wednesday, March 2,** and a **Read-a-thon Fundraiser starting Friday, March 4.** You can find out more information about the fundraiser at http://www.read-a-thon.com/. Students will also be coming home with information about how to get started.

March also marks the end of our second trimester. Parents will receive their child's report cards and should review the information with their children and talk to their child's teacher about any questions they may have. On **Tuesday, March 15 at 12:30 p.m.** we will have our **2nd trimester Awards Assembly** to honor students who have demonstrated Proficiency in English/Language Arts and Math as well as students with Perfect Attendance. We are very proud of our scholars and their dedicated teachers!

The week of March 21-25 is the Esparto Elementary Career Week. We are seeking parents and community members willing to come into classrooms to give short (10-15 minute) talks about their job. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the principal, Erika St. Andre, at (530)787-3417 or estandre@espartok12.org. On Thursday, March 24, we will host Explorit Family Science Night from 6:00-7:30 p.m. There will have various science demonstrations and experiments set up in the cafeteria. Please plan to bring the whole family!

Finally, we have several minimum days and non-students days to remember:

3/14/16: Minimum Day-12:40 p.m. dismissal

3/18/16: Non-student day for teacher training

3/25/16: Minimum Day-12:40 p.m. dismissal

3/2816-4/1/16: Spring Break

Esparto Elementary Preschool Enrollment

The Esparto State Preschool will soon be enrolling children ages 3-5 for the 2016-2017 school year. Families must be income-eligible to enroll in the program. Enrollment begins April 4, 2016 **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Registration packets are not issued in advance. Please call 787-3417 x500 between 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p,m. to receive more information.

La Escuela Preescolar Estatal de Esparto muy pronto estará inscribiendo niños/as de 3-5 años de edad para el año escolar 2016-2017. Las familias deben tener ingresos elegibles para calificar en este programa. Registraciones comienzan el 4 de Abril, 2016 **SOLO POR CITA**. No se otorgan por adelantado paquetes de registración. Por favor llame al 787-3417 x500 entre las 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. para más información. Submitted by Esparto Elementary



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Registration/Registración For Kindergarten/para Kinder

2016-2017 TK (Transitional Kinder) and KINDER registration will begin mid-March. Registration packets will be available for pick up at this time.

To be eligible for **KINDER** a child **must** turn 5 by September 1, 2016.

To be eligible for **TRANSITIONAL KINDER** a child <u>must</u> turn 5 between Sept. 2 - Dec 2, 2016. These are state guidelines, therefore, no exceptions will be made

There will be a Transitional Kinder and Kinder Information Meeting and Tour on April 14, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. in the Esparto Elementary cafeteria. Please plan on attending. Please call the office at 787-3417 for more information.

Registración para KINDER y KINDER TRANSICIONAL 2016-2017 comenzara a mediados de marzo. Los paquetes de registración para el TK (Kínder Transicional) y KINDER estarán disponibles para recoger en este tiempo. Para ser elegible para KINDER los niños <u>deben</u> cumplir los 5 años para el 1º de septiembre, 2016.

Para ser elegible para el **KINDER TRANSICIONAL** los niños <u>deben</u> cumplir los 5 años entre el 2 de septiembre y 2 de diciembre, 2016. Estas son normas estatales, por lo tanto, no se harán excepciones. Habrá una Junta de Información y Repaso del Kínder Transicional y Kínder el 14 de abril, 2016 a las 8:30am. en la cafetería de la Escuela Primaria de Esparto. Por favor planee en asistir. Llame a la oficina al 530-787-3417 para más información. Submitted by Esparto Elementary School





Pictured above left Trini Campbell sharing plants at Esparto Middle School, and right, EMS students learning about gardens.



Madison High School News Veronica Michael, Principal

March will be a busy month. The Madison High School students will be attending an Alternative Education Youth Conference on Wednesday, March 2, at the Yolo County Office of Education. This conference is called, "Be The Change". Students will listen to a keynote address by Mauricio Gonzalez, followed by workshops and lunch. The workshops will focus on careers, higher education and life skills. The students will be joined by other alternative education schools in the county.

Friday, March 18 is a student holiday.

The third quarter ends on March 25. Grades and credits will again be reconciled for your students. The students continue to work hard to knock out those credits.

Spring break is March 28-April 1. I hope that everyone is able to enjoy a pleasant holiday and gets prepared for the last quarter of school.

Esparto Middle School News Hortencia Phifer, Principal

Esparto Middle School has some exciting things happening on campus. This year, EMS added Intro to Ag as an elective course for students, along with Gardening to 6th graders, which is being taught by Mrs. Julie Sagara. This past summer Mrs. Sagara attended a week-long training in Sonoma County to incorporate agriculture into education. Mrs. Sagara was excited to come back and teach our students about the benefits of having a school garden.

As the Esparto K-8 School, there were several gardens on our campus, which were started by RISE Inc. personnel, Cathy Wicks and Chelsea Becker. These gardens were sustained by the some of our very own Esparto K-8 students, the RISE afterschool program and the Senior Center. Since we separated schools and became our own Middle School, we realized we needed our own gardens on our campus. Having searched the campus and had student input on where the best places would be, the decision was to create our own garden boxes on site. Esparto High School has added beautiful garden boxes to their campus this year, thanks to Mrs. Teresa Warde. Mrs. Sagara and Mrs. Warde collaborated and talked Gardens, and Mrs. Warde was able to build EMS a garden box to get us started. Our EMS students are super excited and have been pulling weeds on campus to clear an area for more garden boxes to come.

This past week we were super excited to have a local organic farmer visit EMS students and bring in samples to taste, starters, and to share some of her great knowledge with us. Trini Campbell of River Dog Farm, was a great treat to our students. They heard about all that is happening right here in our Capay Valley. EMS is proud to teach our students through the hands-on approach, about the benefits of having their own garden here on campus. This is an essential way of preparing our students to learn valuable lifelong skills. (See pictures on pg. 4.)

"The fundamental rule of farming is that it takes responsibility and teamwork. If you don't water your garden, your plants will die. If you don't weed the garden, the weeds get worse and you have to work harder later to get the job done. Children learn how to be responsible by taking care of something and seeing the consequences when they don't do the work. Gardens also provide a wealth of opportunities for teamwork. Students need to work together to prepare the soil, plant the seeds, water the plants and stay on top of the weeding. These opportunities to take responsibility and work with others can build students' self-esteem, and watching their garden grow is the sign of their success." Marika Bergsun, from The Benefits of a School Garden.

Our EMS Wrestling team, under direction of Coaches Curtis Lawrence and Jeff Farnham, attended the league Championships in Winters. Esparto Middle School was one of eight middle schools who attended the Regional Championships. Our dedicated wrestlers, coaches and families were there in support. Our athletes endured a long, arduous day which started by 7:00 a.m. and went long past 4:00 p.m. The EMS wrestlers did a FANTASTIC job and gave their all on the mats! Our EMS Wrestling team placed 3rd in the League and I could not be more PROUD of their dedication their team mates, coaches and the sport! I am so proud of all of our ESPARTO MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM! Congratulations, you are all CHAMPIONS! (See picture below.)



Lions Club Student Speakers Contest Held in Esparto

The 79th annual Lions Club Student Speaker Contest took place on Thursday, February 5, at the VFW Hall in Esparto. Student speakers from Esparto High School gave a speech on this year's topic "Liberty and Justice for All: What does it mean to you?". Six EHS students gave speeches for the allotted 5-10 minutes time, each expressing a unique perspective on the topic given

Each year the contest is open to students in grades 9-12 and students are encouraged to participate to gain experience in public speaking. According to Business Major and Contest Judge, Tanner Bei, "The students that participate in the Lions Club speech contest, benefit immensely—from gaining great experience in public speaking, being surrounded by members of the community that foster an environment conducive to success and ultimately becoming very knowledgeable in relevant and current topics, as they research, prepare and deliver fantastic speeches!"

Five judges scored speakers based upon the areas of text, delivery, and the overall effectiveness of the effort. This year's contest judges were Community Member Shelle Bei, Sacramento State University Business Major Tanner Bei, Community Member Marie Surad-Miller, Full Belly Farm and Community Member Anna Brait, and Retired Esparto Schools Administrator Greta Taber of Taber Ranch.

Submitted by the Esparto Lions Club

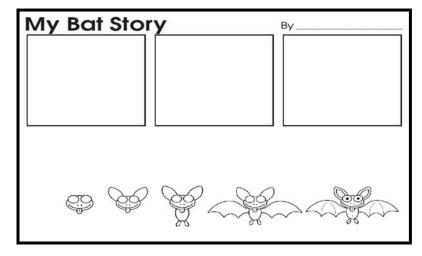
Esparto Elementary First Graders Batty About Writing Buddies

When teacher Esparto Elementary School teacher, Tracy Anderson's first graders visited the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, the docents of the Yolo Basin Foundation were impressed with the students' scientific knowledge and zest for learning. They arranged for Corky Quirk of NorCalBats to visit Esparto Elementary and bring her bats to the first and second graders.

In preparation for the visit, Anderson's students read the picture book *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon. Now they are ready to write their own bat story, with the help of 17 Writing Buddies, all volunteers from Davis. On Friday, February 26, 2016, each student showed the adult volunteer a storyboard illustrating his or her story. The Big Buddy will transcribed the little Buddy's story. Back in Davis, the volunteers will type up all the stories, scan the artwork, and produce a professional looking book for Anderson's classroom.

Anderson has taught at Esparto Elementary for 11 years. She says, "I'm excited about my students having the opportunity to write one-on-one with a sympathetic adult." Anderson knows about the Writing Buddies program in Davis because one of her close friends is an adult volunteer with the program.

Submitted by Robbie and Toni Fanning of Davis



Volume 18, Edition 3, March 2016



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Pictured above: Left, previous Lions Club International District 4-C5 District Governor and currently Board of Directors Member with the Northern California Lions Sight Association and Lions Education Foundation, Erv Gon, and right, Esparto Lions Club Charter Member Nordstrom Johnson (right).

Remembering Nordstrom Johnson

On March 13, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., the Esparto Lions Club will host a gathering to celebrate the life of Esparto Lions Club Charter Member, Nordstrom Johnson, at Madison Hall in Madison, CA. Please attend to share stories and memories of an individual who made tremendous impact in service for the good of many communities.

<u>Reminder:</u> All articles, ads, and announcements and payments for this paper are due to the following email address by the <u>20th of each month</u> for publication in the next month's Valley Voice. Send to valleyvoice2@hotmail.com. Payments for ads are due by the 20th of each month.







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Dr. Jane Stallings January 10, 1929-January 31, 2016

Jane Stallings, former dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University, passed away Sunday, January 31, 2016. Dr. Stallings was a distinguished educator and author whose career involved the improvement of education for students while elevating the teaching profession. She served on the Esparto Unified School District Board of Trustees for several years and took an active role in the Esparto Schools.

A native of South Bend, Indiana, Dr. Stallings received her B.S. from Ball State University in elementary education and science education in 1951. Afterward, she moved to Long Beach, California to work as a teacher. She later enrolled at Stanford University where she obtained her M.S. and Ph.D. in education and child development. Her ambitious career blossomed as she sought work at various higher education institutions across the nation.

Her efforts eventually led her to Texas A&M, where she made Aggie history. In 1990, Dr. Stallings was selected as Dean of the College of Education — the first female to ever hold a deanship at the university. "She paved the way for women in leadership positions across the university," said Dr. Joyce Alexander, current dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

During her time at Texas A&M, Dr. Stallings helped establish many programs including the Dean's Roundtable which continues to honor educators who are role models to their students and peers, mentors for new education professionals, servant leaders in their communities and examples of what the college hopes its Aggie graduates will become. This event has recognized hundreds of individuals for the past 25 years and has raised thousands of dollars for the college.

In 1995, she was elected president of the American Education Research Association (AERA) – another first for Texas A&M University. Her role in the organization assisted her in continued strong faculty recruitment through various seminars and educational showcases.

Dr. Stallings also helped establish the Learning to Teach in Inner City Schools teacher program at Texas A&M. Through this program, Dr. Stallings focused on giving student teachers the tools necessary for educational outreach to inner city minority students.

"Her biggest passion was that she developed a way to evaluate teachers in the classroom and make a difference in how they worked with inner city students and minorities," said Dr. Becky Carr, assistant dean for finance and administration. "She was interested in doing whatever it took to make sure students had access to education."

In 2001, Dr. Stallings and her husband David Markham purchased a ranch with an almond orchard in Guinda, CA. While living in the Capay Valley, Dr. Stallings served as a school board member of the Esparto Unified School District for many years. A strong believer in human potential, Dr. Stallings supported many non-profit organizations, sponsored Almond Queen contestants, and provided academic scholarships to graduates of the Madison High School. She wrote a fiction novel called *Bridges to Survival*, published in 2013. At home, Dr. Stallings enjoyed lively gatherings filled with delicious food, singing, music, friends, family and laughter. Those who knew Dr. Stallings were fortunate to experience her love of life; it was contagious.

Dr. Stallings is remembered by her four children: Lisa Stallings, Larkin Stallings and his wife Jacqueline, Joshua Stallings and his wife Erika, and Shaun Anzaldua; her grandchildren Dylan, Jared, Monica, Nicole, Jordan, Joshua, David, Sophie and Jillian; her brothers Dan and Stan Smith and the many lives she touched.

In honor of Jane Stallings a celebration of life will be held on Sunday March 6, 2016 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Full Belly Kitchen, 16090 County Road 43 in Guinda.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heifer Project at heifer.org http://heifer.org/.

Submitted by Trini Campbell

ESPARTO SPARTANS

Pictured above are Haleigh Bei (middle), her parents Shelle and Tom Bei on the left, and Steve Valenzuela and Aida Buelna on the right.

Esparto Student Receives Golf Scholarship

Three years ago, Aida Buelna and Steve Valenzuela felt there was a need for a golf program at Esparto High School. The two stepped up to the plate, or the tee as the case may be, and the Esparto High School Golf program was born.

Under the guidance of these coaches, the golf program attracted several students, and began to grow. This month, the program has reached a notable milestone. Senior Haleigh Bei recently accepted a golf scholarship for Southwestern Community College in Oregon. She credits the adults in her life for her success as an avid golfer. "I would like to thank my parents and coaches for the years of coaching time, and also for being proud of me," said Bei.

Support for the golf program came from many places. Coach Buelna expressed appreciation and gratitude for the staff at the Yocha Dehe golf course driving range that "helped out in making sure everything was ready."

Coach Valenzuela says that golf is not just a walk in the park. "No time off means conditioning. In golf you must have dedication and hard work." Coach Buelna adds, "In order to improve in golf you have to hit over 10,000 golf balls. Haleigh has improved; she has definitely hit that amount,"

As Superintendent and Principal Diego Ochoa read Miss Bei's acceptance letter from Southwestern, several individuals in the room took in every word, including current athletes at EHS. The message was clear from Mr. Ochoa. Students can make a huge impact on their future by staying committed to their education and staying dedicated to their passion in life.

"Hit them far and straight," commented Ochoa to Bei.
Submitted by Jennifer Weise, EHS Vice Principal



Some of the art work for sale at the Almond Queen Pageant. Proceeds benefited the renovations on the Guinda Grange Hall. See article on Pg. 1.



Pictured above are the Almond Queen Contestants and their Escorts, from left to right: Sabrina Jones escorted by James Nofziger; Jessica Paddock escorted by Brian Paddock; Julianna DeContreaus escorted by Marc DeContreaus; Queen Jynelle Brillantes, escorted by Vincent Medalli; Amanda Gallardo escorted by Dan Gallardo and Allyah Perez, escorted by John Perez.

2016 Yolo County Master Gardener and Woodland **Community College Agriculture Department Workshops & Plant Sale**

All events will take place at Woodland Community College Greenhouse Facilities or Building #400, Room 402. The event will not be cancelled if raining. This is located at 2300 E. Gibson Road in Woodland. Contact: For events at Woodland Community College: basmus@yccd.edu or jschulte 611@hotmail.com.

For events labeled Master Gardeners: jmbaumbach@ucanr.edu

February	13:

February 13:		
Floral Design	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	WCC
Valentine's Day Arrangemen	nts (Vase & supplies will be f	urnished)
March 5:		
Propagation:	9:00 a.m.	WCC
Composting/Vermicosting:	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	MG
Plant Sale Dates: Mar. 26, April	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May 7 9 a.m	. to noon
(April 2nd 9:00 a.m. to	o 1:00 p.m.) WCC and MG; N	/IG: 4/2
April 2:		
Tomatoes/Peppers:	9:00 a.m.	MG
Home Vegetable Gardening:	10:00 a.m.	MG
Pollinators:	11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	
MG		
April 9:		
Bonsai	9:00 a.m.	WCC
Chickens	10:00 a.m.	WCC
Hydroponics	11:00 a.m.	WCC
April 23:		
Plant Exchange	9:00-12:00 noon	MG
May 7:		

Flower Arranging: Mother's Day Arrangements

9:00-11:00 a.m. WCC Submitted by Jim Schulte, Master Gardener

Confirmed Zika Case in Yolo County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that a Yolo County resident has tested positive for Zika virus. This individual recently traveled out of the country and had a mild case of Zika.

Zika virus is a relatively new disease for the Western hemisphere. It first appeared in Brazil in May of 2015. It has since spread to 20 countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, including Mexico. Zika is spread through mosquito bites, not casual person-to-person contact. According to the CDC, the most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain and red, itchy eyes. Symptoms are usually mild and last several days to a week. Many people who have Zika will not experience symptoms. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Zika.

Pregnant women, however, are believed to be most at risk for complications from the Zika virus because serious birth defects have been reported in infants born to women infected with the virus. The CDC is planning studies to learn more about the connection between Zika and children born with these birth defects. In the meantime, the CDC has issued travel guidance for women who are pregnant or who may become pregnant. To stay up-to-date on the CDC's latest travel notices, visit: www.cdc.gov/ travel.

"Yolo County residents traveling to Central or South America or the Caribbean, where Zika is present, should take precautions against mosquitoes," said Yolo County Health Officer Ron Chapman, MD, MPH. "If you are pregnant, consider postponing your trip. All travelers to areas where Zika is present should go to their doctor if they experience any of the symptoms associated with Zika within three to seven days after they return. Pregnant women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika should talk to a healthcare provider about their travel even if they don't feel sick."

Ways to avoid mosquito bites include:

- Using an insect repellant containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus;
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and trousers;
- Using air conditioning or window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside;
- Reducing the number of mosquitoes inside and outside your home by emptying standing water from containers such as flowerpots or buckets. Mosquitoes can breed in as little amount of water as a bottle cap.

To learn more about Zika virus, visit: www.cdc.gov/zika and www.cdph.ca.gov/ HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Zika.aspx.

Submitted by Beth Gabor | Yolo County Public Information Officer

Job Fair March 9 in Winters

Continuing efforts to help meet the labor force needs of employers throughout the region, and to help Yolo County job-seekers find employment, the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board and Health & Human Services Agency, in partnership with the City of Winters and Office of Congressman John Garamendi, are teaming up to sponsor a regional job fair on Wednesday, March 9, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Winters High School, located at 101 Grant Avenue.

Representatives from more than 30 employers and labor apprenticeship programs throughout Sacramento, Yolo and Solano counties are scheduled to participate in the event. Goodwill Industries. Four Wheel Campers. California Conservation Corps. Visiting Angels, Walgreens and are among those scheduled to be in attendance.

Job seekers are encouraged to bring resumes to present to potential employers. Job counselors will be on hand to help job seekers strengthen their resume, cover letters and interviewing skills.

This event is one of many services offered under the guidance of the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board, a coalition of private industry, service, labor and government agencies cooperating to serve residents and businesses of Yolo County through economic development and workforce training.

For more information about the job fair or the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board, visit: www.yoloworks.org or contact Steve Roberts, employment services specialist, steve.roberts@yolocounty.org or call (530) 661-2750 x 4311 or (916) 375-6215.

Submitted by Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer



March Programs at the Esparto Regional Library

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

- March 3: Family Loteria/Bingo, 3:15 p.m.: Families are invited to bingo in English and Spanish.
- Starting March 5: In-N-Out Burger's Cover to Cover Library Reading Program: Children between the ages of 4 and 12 are eligible to participate in this fun reading challenge. For additional details visit the library or call: (530) 787-3426.
- March 10: Container Gardening, 6:30 p.m. This garden program is presented by the UCCE Master Gardeners and is sponsored by the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library.
- March 15: Afternoon Movie, 3:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to view a Family Friendly (rated G or PG) movie. For movie title call: (530) 787-3426.
- March 24: Children's Art Class with Julie, 3:30 p.m. Enjoy a hands-on class making books.
- March 30: Building Strong Relationships through Conflicts, 6:30 p.m. Learn about the nature of conflict, how it impacts our lives and communities, and how we can turn conflicts into opportunities to connect with people in our lives. Presented by the Yolo Conflict Resolution Center.

The following ongoing programs continue in March:

- 'Fifteen Years, 15 Books' Reading Challenge: Sign up to read fifteen books and receive a free Friends of the Esparto Regional Library book bag. Sign-up sheet available at the circulation desk.
- 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.
- **Bi-lingual Story Time, Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.** Children ages 2-6 years old and their parents and caregivers are invited to join us for stories, songs, movement, rhymes and finger-plays. All bi-lingual story times are provided through a grant from First 5 Yolo.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library, are free to attend and 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.

Submitted by Malinda Baker and Beth Gabor



Read to Learn! Leer para Aprender!



24 HOURS
TO GIVE
WHERE YOUR
HEART IS!

bigdayofgiving.org –



Your gift helps provide programs, resources, and educational opportunities to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

Donate online to Friends of the Esparto Regional Library (FERL) on May 3, 2016, at bigdayofgiving.org

FRIENDS OF THE ESPARTO REGIONAL LIBRARY . P.O. Box 787 / Esparto, CA 95627



Rose Propagation Class At Esparto Library

Maryellen Mackenzie, Yolo County Master Gardener, presented "Rose Propagation", the first in a monthly series of garden classes at the Esparto Library from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. She was assisted by Linda Parsons, a co-presenter, and Nancy Gunning, also Yolo County Master Gardeners.

Participants propagated their choice of roses in a mixture of potting soil and Root One. A plastic bottle was used to hold moisture. A great time was had by all. Check with the library for future workshops.

Submitted by Jim Schulte, Master Gardener



ESPARTO FAMILY PRACTICE 17050 GRAFTON ST. ESPARTO CA 530-787-3454







Or. Andy Zhu

Erica Ramirez PA

Susan Torres LCSW

New Clinic Hours Nuevo Horario

<u>Call to make an appointment/llame para hacer una cita: 787-3454</u>

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND FRIDAY—LUNES, MARTES Y VIERNES

9:00 a.m—5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY—MIERCOLES 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY—JUEVES 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

We are committed to providing everyday healthcare that is accessible to all people both adult and children. At Esparto Family Practice, our staff looks forward to partnering with you, and establishing a relationship that will benefit you now and in the years to come. Our providers seek to educate you and your family about health and guide you through illness.

Nos comprometemos a proporcionar atención médica continua que es accesible a la comunidad tanto de adultos como de niños. En la Clínica de Esparto Family Practice, nuestro personal espera colaborar con usted y establecer una relación que le benefician ahora y en los próximos años. Nuestros proveedores buscan educar a usted y su familia acerca de la salud y le guiará a través de la enfermedad.











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New income guidelines for October 1, 2015- September 30,2016 Nuevas guias de ingreso para Octubre 1, 2015 - Septembre 30, 2016

Household Size Miembros del hogar	Gross Monthly Income Ingreso mensual en bruto	Maximum Monthly Benefits Beneficios Mensuales
1	\$1,962	\$194
2	\$2,656	\$357
3	\$3,350	\$511
4	\$4,042	\$649
5	\$4,736	\$771
6	\$5,430	\$925
7	\$6,122	\$1,022
8	\$6,816	\$1,169
Each additional member	+\$694	+\$146

Apply for Calfresh by making an appointment at: Aplique para Calfresh haciendo una cita en:



Esparto Office: 17317 Fremont Street Esparto, CA 95627 (530)787-4110

RISE, Inc.

17317 Fremont Street Esparto, CA 95627 530-787-4110

Earn an Accredited High School Diploma at the Yolo County Library

The Yolo County Library is offering community members an opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School (COHS), a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a for profit company, a part of Cengage Learning.

COHS is a pilot project, recently signed by Governor Brown, with a \$1 million budget aimed at helping Californians earn a high school diploma online. The California State Library is assisting with the program's implementation and working to create partnerships and funding opportunities at the local and state levels. The Yolo County Office of Education has agreed to generously give \$10,000 of the \$17,000 in matching funds required by the State Library. The Yolo County Library is continuing to work with the Yolo County Office of Education and Yolo County school districts to raise the remaining funds.

"Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement," said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. "By offering Career Online High School, we're empowering our residents to seek new opportunities to transform their lives and increase their earning potential."

The Yolo County Library will award 30 scholarships for COHS to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, students will be paired with an academic coach who will provide individual career plans, on-going guidance and encouragement, performance evaluations and needed resources. In addition, students will receive service and support from library staff. Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-demand career fields (from child care and education to certified transportation) before progressing to core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as four to six months by transferring previously earned high school credits.

Candidates must complete a self-assessment to determine eligibility by visiting the library website at: www.yolocountylibrary.org/diploma. For additional information, e-mail the library at diploma@yolocounty.org or contact Scott Love at (530) 757-5595.

The Yolo County Library fosters personal and workforce development by providing learning opportunities that can change lives. 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/yolocountylibrary.org.

Submitted by Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 13.

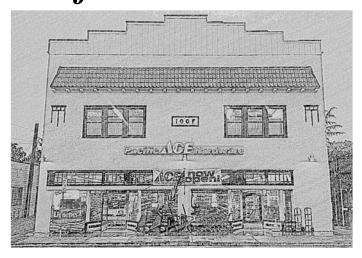




Easter is on March 27.

Esparto Schools are on spring break from March 28 through April 1.

Pacific ACE Hardware





Located at 16851 Yolo Avenue in Esparto Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Phone: 787-3800





Pictured above is the Almond Festival banner in downtown Esparto by Tommy Bright, and put up by a crew from Cache Creek Casino.

Needs and Services

The purpose of this column is to put those who are in need of something specific together with those have a service to render or can fill the requested need.

<u>Needs</u>: for those who may need a place to stay, a house, an apartment, a room; or who need some specific work done; or who need some help with elder care, etc.

<u>Services</u>: for those who would like to do a specific work, or have special skills to offer; or who could help with someone moving; or would like to try the elder care field, etc.

If you would like to participate in this endeavor, it will be \$5.00 for up to two lines of an "ad". The request in writing should be emailed to this address (valleyvoice2@ hotmail.com), or drop a written request at the RISE office at 17317 Fremont St. in Esparto. Payment needs to be made by the 20th of each month to be in the next edition. A contact number or email is necessary for the ad, and for us to be able to make contact, if needed.

Editor

Gardener Wanted - Esparto area

530-312-1574



play the best.







cachecreek.com



"VALLEY SENIORS" PROGRAM AT RISE, SCHEDULE FOR March 2016

SPONSORED BY THE YOCHA DE HE COMMUNITY FUND.

If you are 55 or over, please join us at RISE 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto, next to the Esparto Market and the D. Warren Insurance Agency.

JOIN US ON TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, FROM 9:00 A.M.-NOON FOR FOOD, DAY TRIPS, HEALTH, EXERCISE, CLASSES & INFORMATION:

March 1: 9:00 Picnic in the Park/ Picnic en el parque

Bring your own lunch

March 3: 9:00 Guest Speaker/ Presentador

Lisa Musser Health Workshop/Taller de salud

March 8: 9:00 Coffee/Cafe

Arts & Crafts/ Manualidades

St. Patrick's Day Craft/ Actividad del dia de San Patricio

11:00 Lunch/Almuerzo

March 10: 9:00 Coffee/Cafe

Guest Speaker/ Presentador

Salma Enan Legal Services/ Servicios jurídicos

11:00 Lunch/Almuerzo

March 15: 9:00 Coffee/Café

Outing: Bowling and Lunch in Woodland/Paseo y almuerzo en Woodland San Bruno Bowling Center

March 17: 9:00 Coffee/Café

Irish Themed Party/ Fiesta tematica irelandesa

11:00 Lunch/Almuerzo

March 22: 9:00 Coffee/Café

Arts & Crafts/ Manualidades

Easter Craft/ Craft Pascua

March 24: 9:00 Coffee/Café

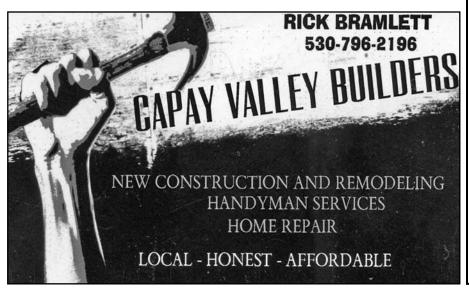
Socialize, Puzzles/Socializar, Rompecabezas

March 29: 9:00 Potluck/Intercambio de comida

Birthday celebrations/Celebración de cumpleaños

No program on March 31

FOR QUESTIONS & UPDATES PLEASE Call RISE Inc. 530-787-4110



Fitness Forever

Located on Yolo Avenue
Across from ACE Hardware
Monday-Thursday 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday 5:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Interviewed and pictured below: <u>Renee Harmon</u> Tell us a little about yourself?

I'm 46 years old and a mother of four and a grandmother of a very active three year old.

How did you get started?

I talked my friend into going with me and after one workout we signed up.

How long have you been a member?

I started from day one of the gym opening.

What motivates you to keep going and push harder?

Results, energy and weight loss.

How many days do you train?

I work out 5 days a week for 1 hour

Favorite workout?

Bench press, can't wait to add more weight.

Where does your motivation come from?

The 5:00 a.m. workout crew: Cathy and Karen.

Any tips or suggestions for others? Get up and

do something for yourself.
It might be hard at first but well worth it.

If we could change one thing about our gym, what would you want it to be?

Nothing, it's perfect for me.

(This is a paid ad.)

Rainfall Report as of February 22

At press time, we have received a little less than an inch of rain in February. The season total is at 9.88 inches which is seven inches below average. If we get average rainfall for the rest of the season, it would make a total of less than 16" for the year, just about the same as last year. That would be a cumulative total of 38 inches below average rainfall for the five years of drought, and 44 inches below average over the last nine years. The twelve years before that were 55 inches above average. And that's what averages are — one foot in a bucket of boiling water and one foot in a bucket of ice.

Submitted by Harmon Taber

Mattresses Recycled for Free at Yolo Landfill

Beginning on March 1 Yolo County Central Landfill will be accepting for recycling old mattresses and box springs from residents at no cost during the normal hours of operation The Central Landfill is located at 44090 County Road 28H in Woodland. The normal hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

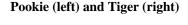
This recycling program will be administered by Bye Bye Mattress Council, a non-profit organization created by the mattress industry. It is certified by CalRecycle to develop and manage California's Recovery and Recycling Act of 2013.

For more information about programs and services provided through the Yolo County Central Landfill, visit: www.yolocounty.org (select the Landfill icon.)

Submitted by Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer

Pet Adoption Corner





Pookie and Tiger

Pookie and Tiger are two beautiful tabby cats that were abandoned a few months ago. They are not siblings, but have lived together for long time. They are both about 4-5 years old. They are very tame and well-behaved, and can be held and petted. They love attention. They are indoor/outdoor cats, who like to be out in the daytime, and inside at night where they can have a cozy and safe spot to sleep. They are both well, and have been neutered/spayed.

Pookie is a very beautiful long-haired tabby female. She loves to be held, and yet is quite independent. Tiger is a short-haired tabby male, who loves attention. They both come when they are called.

It would not take long for them to become acclimated to a new environment. Would you have a home for them???

These are not SPCA cats. If interested call: 796-4983 for information.

Community Calendar for March 2016

- March 2: Read Across America Day at Esparto Elementary School
- March 2: Madison High School students to conference at YCOE
- March 3: Family Bingo at Esparto Library at 3:15 p.m.
- March 4: Read-a-thon Fundraiser at Esparto Elementary School
- March 5: Cover to Cover Reading Program at Esparto Library begins
- March 6: Memorial for Jane Stallings at Full Belly Farm at 3:00 p.m.
- March 10: Container Gardening at Esparto Library at 6:30 p.m.
- March 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins.
- March 13: Memorial for Nordstrom Johnson at Madison Town Hall at 1:00 p,m,
- March 15: Awards Assembly at Esparto Elementary School at 12:30 p.m.
- March 15: Afternoon Movie at Esparto Library at 3:00 p.m.
- March 18: No school for students: teacher training day
- March 20: Spring begins
- March 21-25: Esparto Elementary Career Week
- March 24: Children's Art Class with Julie at Esparto Library at 3:30 p.m.
- March 24: Explorit Family Science Night at Esparto Elementary at 6:00
- March 27: Easter
- March 28-April 1: Esparto Schools on Spring Break
- March 30: Building Strong Relationships through Conflicts at Esparto Library at 6:30 p.m.







Yolo County Animal Services has healthy cats that would flourish in a barn or other appropriate indoor/outdoor location.

All of our cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated. You provide daily food and water, protection from the elements and long-term care. After a short period of secure confinement, your barn cat will be ready to work.



In return for your care, barn cats will help keep rodents away from grain and food storage areas and you will be providing them a much needed home!



Yolo County Animal Services Barn Cat Program Call (530)662-8858 or email ycasrescue@hotmail.com



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 Tuesdays 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. Tuesday, Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Amazing Kids Club at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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

Dental Office in Esparto: is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every Tuesday. Call 787-4972 to make an appointment.

Early Learning Center Program: held from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Countryside Community Church

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 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Esparto Family Practice: open: Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, and Friday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 and Fridays 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Countryside Community Church. Contact RISE Inc. at 787-4110 for information.

Food Bank Food Give-Away: fourth Monday of each month from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. at the RISE office.

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

Home Schooling Cooperative: Call Elvira Paoletti at 796-4676.

Legal Services in Esparto: free services offered on the 1st Thursdays at the RISE office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

MEDI-CAL and Food Stamps Services: Wednesday 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the RISE Inc. office. Call 787-4110 for appointments.

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.

On Fire Fellowship of Esparto: Sunday service at 10:00 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.

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 Church: Spanish Mass: 7:00 p.m. on Saturday; English Mass: 8:30 a.m. on Sunday at St. Martin's Church on Grafton Street

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.

WYORCA: meets on the 2nd Thursday from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Esparto Library.

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

Yolo County WIC Services: located in the Esparto Library at 17065 Yolo Ave., the 1st Wed. 8:00-12:00; and 3rd Wed. of each month from 8:00-4:00p.m. Call (530) 666-8445

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

If you would like to include calendar events or change information, please e-mail the editor of the Valley Voice at valleyvoice2@hotmail.com or call 787-4110.



March Calendar of Events is on Page 15.

