

# Valley Voice

Free

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# Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park Fully Reopens





Supervisor Barajas, Guinda resident Wyatt Cline, Facilities Superintendent Jason Eisenhart, & park staff open the doors to the Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park for the 2022 season.

Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park is located approximately 6 miles north of the town of Rumsey along State Highway 16, providing over 600 acres of natural wilderness. The Regional Park is divided into three use areas: the Cache Creek Upper Park Site, the Cache Creek Middle Campground Park Site, and the Cache Creek Lower Park Site. The three park use areas offer a range of activities such as white water rafting, rural hiking, kayaking, fishing, and nature walks.

Starting Friday, April 1st, 2022, Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park reopens all its 45 campground sites and 4 group sites. Back in April of 2020, when the Yolo County Shelter in Place Order came out, all Yolo county parks closed. Despite parks reopening in May of 2020, Cache Creek Campground remained closed. With high restrictions, the campground reopened some of its sites in late June of 2020.

In August of 2020, the campground had to, once again, fully shut down, due to the LNU fires, and it remained closed until late September of 2020. But then closed for the season only a few days later.

For the camping season of 2021, Cache Creek Campground opened its doors, but once again with limited sites, no group sites and high restrictions.

Today, Supervisor Barajas, residents, & county staff helped open the doors to the 2022 camping season that will be open from April 1st to October 10th with no restrictions.

Campers are encouraged to secure a reservation at <a href="http://camping.yolocounty.org">http://camping.yolocounty.org</a>/ to make your reservation!

#### **CACHE CREEK CAMPGROUND FEES:**

Individual campsites 1-45 for all visitors: \$35.00 per night (no refunds)

Dogs at campground: \$5.00 per dog/night, and each dog must

be licensed - owner must provide proof of license

Dump Station Use: \$6.00 for non-campers Shower token: \$5.00 per five minutes

Firewood: \$5.00 per bundle

Extra vehicles: \$10.00 per vehicle/per night

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

For article inquires, send an e-mail message to Monique Preciado, Editor, at ValleyVoice@riseinc.org For billing inquiries or ad rates, call (530) 787-4110. All articles are due on/before the 15th 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., & Esparto Unified School District.

#### **Valley Voice Subscription Form**

Let all your friends and relatives know that for just \$25 per year we will mail them each month's edition! This is a perfect way to keep up to date with all the Capay Valley news and events. Complete the order below.

Name:

Mailing Address:

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Phone Number:

#### Please Select:

☐ One Year: \$25.00 (12 editions) ☐ Two Years: \$50.00 (24 editions) Please make checks out to **RISE Inc.** Mail to: RISE Inc. at P.O. Box 545, Esparto, CA 95627 or drop off at the office at 57317 Fremont Street in Esparto.

You may also sign up for the RISE e-newsletter on the RISE, Inc. website at

www.riseinc.org. When you enter your e-mail address under the Get E-mail Updates, you will receive our e-newsletter with links to the Valley Voice so you can read it online.



5/5/2022 Hog Canyon All Day



Support in person or **Donate Online** 

## **FERL**

Friends of the Esparto **Regional Library** 

www.ferl.org





# IS YOUR **WELL DRY?**

**Report Dry Wells for Assistance Information** 

Please contact 530-406-4930 or drywells@yolocounty.org

CROUNDWATER MEASUREMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED

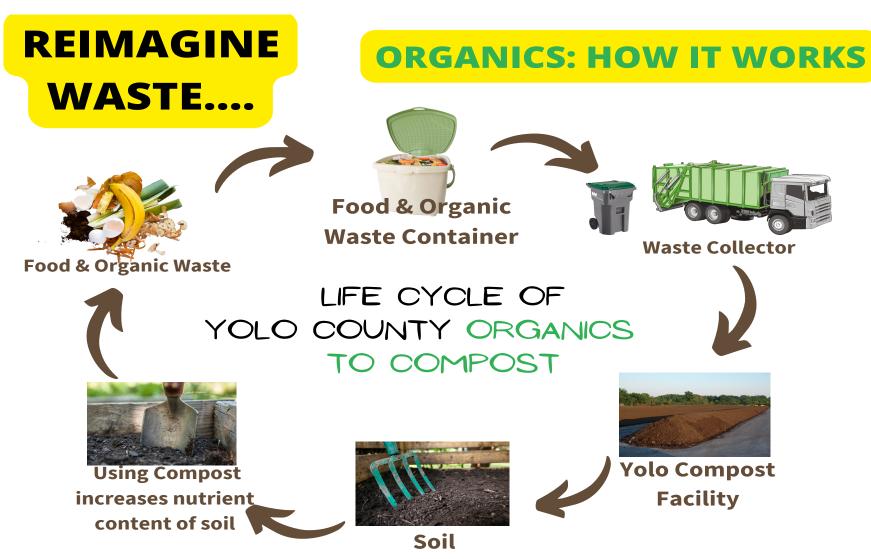
WE WILL NOT SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH ANY STATE OR FEDERAL REGULATORY ENTITIES:











**Capay Valley Emergency Response Auxiliary (CVERA)** 

As described in the April issue of Valley Voice, several members of the Capay Valley Emergency Response Auxiliary (CVERA) were trained to become Defensible Space Ambassadors (more details on this program in a future column). This training involved four hours of video education plus four hours of hands-on site evaluations with firefighters (mostly from CalFire) experienced in conducting such evaluations. Those who attended the training learned quite a lot about the two major arms of wildfire protection: home hardening and creating defensible space, and over the next months, these Valley Voice columns will include tips learned from that training that homeowners can implement on their own.

For this first column, however, we want to focus on a topic that doesn't fall into either category of home hardening or creating defensible space: house numbers. If your house is on fire and you call 911 or the fire department, chances are the first responders will have few problems finding your house in most cases—it would be relatively easy to see the flames and smoke. But with so many large properties in the Capay Valley, some houses may be set quite a bit back from the road. And in other circumstances (e.g., a grassland fire), the fire may not be readily visible from the road. The ONE thing a homeowner can do to insure the fastes response to a fire or medical call on their property is to have large, readable, easy-to-see house numbers! In fact, the importance of house numbers is indicated in recent fire code regulations (see https://up.codes/viewer/california/ca-fire-code-2016/chapter/5/fire-service-features#5).

Houses are now REQUIRED to have house numbers that are visible from the road. House numbers must be at least 4" in height with a minimum stroke width (i.e., the width of the line forming the number) of ½". But the bigger the better! And the numbers should be in a contrasting color (and reflective) to whatever the numbers are attached to. You can purchase numbers from most hardware stores, or you can purchase a custom-made sign, with your house numbers, from online vendors -- for example, search for "911 reflective house numbers" on Amazon.com and you will see many options; another option is from the Graton Firefighters Association [https://www.gratonfire.com/address-signs.html]. In most cases the costs for these custom signs are in the \$20-\$30 range. (Continued on page 12.)



#### **Esparto Unified School District**

#### 2021-2022 School Year Comes to an End

The month of May marks the end of another challenging, but successful school year. We are thankful we were able to offer full days of in-person instruction throughout the year. During this past year, we knew we were venturing into many unknowns and uncharted territory. Our parents, students, teachers, and staff met that challenge head on. I want to thank our amazing staff, students, parents and community for helping us during this time as we navigated this pandemic.

And, while the pandemic created many challenges, we didn't let it stop our spirit. We found ways to move forward and continue to grow excellence in our District community. Among other things, we were awarded several facilities grants, and a food trailer grant. These will allow us to train up our students not just in culinary arts but also business entrepreneurship.

Throughout this school year there have been numerous changes to our guidelines, processes and procedures for our students and staff members. Our staff, students and the community have adapted to these changes with grace.

We accomplished many amazing things within the last year and I could not be happier with the progress we've made. So, to our graduating seniors, it has been an absolute honor to be your superintendent and I cannot wait to see what great things you will do with your futures. To our students who will be returning in the fall, enjoy your summer – you've earned it! To our parents and guardians, thank you for your overwhelming support and understanding. And, last but not least, to our faculty and staff, you are truly rockstars and the backbone of this District.

There are a variety of end-of-the-year traditions and activities at each of our school sites. Please be sure to check with your school site for details



### Esparto Middle School News Aman Kullar, Principal

### **Ending the Year Strong Aman Kullar, EMS Principal**

It's hard to believe that it is already the end of the 2021-2022 School Year! We started the school year off in the middle of a pandemic where students and staff were wearing masks, distancing themselves from each other, taking COVID tests on a regular basis, and missing time in school due to being sick or in quarantine. However, we were all able to work together and overcome all of these challenges. Now, finally, it feels good to see life slowly getting back to normal.

We are in our final month of school and it is going to be a busy one for our EMS Wildcats. We are coming back from Spring Break and jumping into CAASPP and CAST Testing. These state-wide tests will be administered to check our students' understanding in the areas of ELA, Mathematics, and Science. Testing starts on April 25 and continues through to May 6. Seventh grade students are also taking the PFT, Physical Fitness Tests, in their PE class. This is the time for all of our students to demonstrate what they have learned over the school year.

In addition to state testing, May is also going to be full of the following exciting events:

May 10: 6th Grade Field Trip to the Museum of Science and Curiosity

May 18: EAOP 8th Grade Field Trip to UC Davis

May 20: 8th Grade Field Trip to Six Flags

May 26: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony (6:00pm inside the EHS Auditori-

um)

May 27: Day on the Green

As the school year comes to an end, it is a bittersweet feeling. We are sad to see our 8th grade students leave us and go to high school next year. However, we are proud of our students who overcame such a challenging year and are growing up to become mature, wonderful human beings.

Lastly, as we wrap up this year, we are encouraging students to join our Esparto Summer Quest Program that starts on June 2nd. All of the students in our district are invited to participate in this program. We are offering courses in Swimming, Robotics, Karate, Art, Math, Gardening, etc. We will even have instructors from Woodland Opera House and Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts Center here on our campus instructing the classes! The summer program will run from June 2nd through July 15th. Classes will be given to students on a first come-first serve basis. Therefore, make sure you apply ASAP! Please call our office at 530-787-4151 if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you!

# Tuli Mem Park Aquatics Center Opens May 27th at Noon &

# Lifeguard and Swim Instructor Recruitment Is Ongoing By Carine Hines, President of WYORCA

The 2022 swim season at Tuli Mem Park Aquatics Center will kick off on Friday May 27th, 2022 at noon, with free entrance to all patrons! We will offer healthy snacks, free prizes such as swim goggles and pool noodles, a drawing for free swim day passes, and more fun and games. Come celebrate the last day of school and the first day of the pool season at Tuli Mem Park!

The YMCA is still recruiting lifeguards and swim instructors for the summer 2022 swim season. No experience is necessary, ages 15 and up are welcome, and pay starts at \$15.5/hour. We have so many fun and exciting programs to offer the community, but this is only possible with adequate staffing. We highly encourage all to apply! Contact our pool manager Tami Jo at **tjo@ymcasuperiorcal.org** or call 530-787-5145.

The Western Yolo Recreation Center is pleased to announce extended open recreation swim hours this season, and more opportunities to swim for free. Recreation swim will be free every Wednesday evening from 5-7pm, and on Sundays from 11am-4pm. We will also offer a subsidized water aerobics program for seniors (more details to come). With the Esparto Unified School District's Summer Quest Program, over 200 children will receive free swim lessons and access to the pool. Thank you to all our partners and donors for their contributions!

Swim lessons are open to the public T-Sa 11am-1pm or T/Th 5-7pm. To sign up for swim lessons, come in-person to Tuli Mem Park during business hours or visit the YMCA website:

https://www.ymcasuperiorcal.org/tulimem

Tuli Mem Park Aquatics Center Fee Schedule Youth Open Swim \$2 Family Pass \$300 Adult Open Swim \$4 10 Punch Pass \$35 Lap Swim and Water Aerobics \$5 Rental Fee \$300 \$60-90 Swim Lessons Semi-private and Private Lessons \$75-\$110

Look for up-to-date information on open hours and special events at **www.tulimempark.com**, or follow us on Instagram **@tulimempark** or on Facebook at Tuli Mem Park and Aquatics Center

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:30 AM	Swim Lessons for Esparto Unified School District 8:30-11						
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM							
10:00 AM							
10:30 AM							
11:00 AM		Lessons for	Lessons for	Lessons for	Lessons for	Lap Swim & Lessons for Public 11-	
11:30 AM							
12:00 PM							
12:30 PM							
1:00 PM			Rec Swim 1-5 & Water Aerobics 1-2	Rec Swim 1-5	Rec Swim 1-5	Rec Swim 1-5 & Water Aerobics 10-11	
1:30 PM		Rec Swim 1-5					
2:00 PM							
2:30 PM							
3:00 PM							
3:30 PM							
4:00 PM							Closed @ 4
4:30 PM							
5:00 PM	& Lap Swin	Swim Lessons	Free Community Rec Swim! 5-7pm	Swim Lessons & Lap Swim Tu/Th 5-7		Closed @ 5	
5:30 PM							
6:00 PM		Lap Swim Tu/Th 5-7				Private Party Rental Availability 6-8	Private Party Rental Availability 6-8
6:30 PM		TWIN 5-7					
7:00 PM		Closed @ 7	Closed @ 7	Closed @ 7	Closed @ 7		
7:30 PM							



# Friday, June 24, 2022 Sacramento State University

### Imagine care differently...

YoloCares, Northern California's first accredited, community -based palliative care program is hosting a national summit dedicated to exploring emerging ideas and approaches to palliative and supportive care with industry leaders and thinkers.

Feature BJ Miller, MD as the keynote speaker, the Quintessential Care Summit will be an engaging and robust experience for care providers big and small as well as community members interested in the end-of-life experience.

YoloCares is proud to partner with California Hospice Network as well as Sacramento State University, who will host the Quintessential Care Summit on their beautiful campus.



**Teepa Snow**Founder, Positive Approach to Care

Presented in partnership by:



Ticket prices include lunch and access to all scheduled speakers during this exciting one-day event.

Early bird price: \$138 before 4/15

Regular price: \$202

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit **yolocares.org/qc-summit/**.





**Steven Pantilat, MD**Chief, Division of Palliative
Medicine, UCSF Medical
Center



BJ Miller, MD

Pallliative care physician,

author and speaker





June 7, 2022, Statewide Direct Primary Election

V 0 T E

7 de junio del 2022, Elección Primaria Directa Estatal

Choose one of three simple, safe, and secure voting options:

Escoja una de tres opciones simples, seguras y protejidas pada votar:

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Elections Office
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(530) 666-8133

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Por Correo

es su derecho y
responsabilidad!
¿Tiene preguntas?
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(530) 666-8133

Yolo County Elections Office A Voter's Choice Act County!

Oficina de Elecciones del Condado de Yolo !Un Condado bajo la Ley de Elección del Votante!

# **Rumsey Town Hall**

# First Monday Potluck on May 2nd

Meet at 6:00, Eat at 6:30

Rumsey Potlucks are a great way to catch up with your neighbors and to meet new people.

Bring an entrée, side, salad, or dessert to share. If possible, please bring your own plate, utensils, etc.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

At Countryside Community Church corner of Grafton and Fremont

Week of June 6- 10 from 9-12 every morning for Pre-school through Kindergarten children

Crafts, Games, Bible Stories and Lunch
Theme: "Being Friends"
With Ice Cream Social for the whole family on Thursday, June 9

VBS at Countryside-a beloved old tradition of fun for a new generation!

For more information contact:

Jodee Treat or Kathy McIntosh-Smith
kcmcs@sbcglobal.net

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#### NEWS FROM COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Some of you may have noticed the new raised beds on Grafton in front of the Countryside Community Church's manse. Thanks to the hard work of Monica Martin and many volunteers, we are able to use the beautiful organic produce grown there to enhance the "Sunday's Table" food giveaways. In addition, with our neighbor, we have rebuilt the fallen fence between our yards using the same corrugated metal, multi colored and weathered, that forms the raised beds.

Those sheets of metal were once the roofs of a large barn and old tool shop at Hungry Hollow Farms. In the early morning of June 17, 2020, Lynn Hayes was awakened by his dog to see a wall of flame driven by a north wind engulfing the farm buildings. As the sun rose, all that remained were the corrugated metal roofs.

The Hayes family could have taken it all to the dump, but instead, they recreated the metal to give new life in the church garden.

Last month we celebrated Easter, the story of Jesus who was dead and buried, but then raised up by God to glorious new life.

God invites each of us to new life, in this world and in the next. Like the

old metal roof each one of us can be renewed, given a new purpose, a fresh start. We are each God's creation and re-creation, Imperfect, but useful and beautiful.

We welcome you to join us on the journey of becoming.



# **Come Join**





## **Burger Thursday Hours:**

10:00am - 1:30pm

Single Cheese Burger Meal (chips & beverage included) \$9.00

**Double Cheese Burger Meal** (chips & beverage included) \$10.50

26797 St. Hwy 16, Esparto, CA 95627 (530) 787-1740



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PROSCIUTTO & HONEY SANDWICH

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GOAT CHEESE ALMOND SPINACH SALAD

WOOD BOARD PLATTERS

SÉKA HILLS HUMMUSTRIO

Tasting Room Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm 530.796.2810 sekahills com

# 2ND ROUND OF FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 RAPID TESTS

GO TO: WWW.COVIDTESTS.GOV TO ORDER YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S SECOND ROUND OF FREE AT-HOME TEST KITS!

To pick up a COVID-19 at-home rapid test kit locally, stop by Winters Healthcare every Tuesday and Thursday from 5 PM- 6 PM, or on Friday from 4 PM - 5 PM.







James & Deborah Durst 26100 County Road 16 Esparto, CA 95627 530-787-3390





## **Manas Ranch**

Fred and Alice Manas, Owners 25838 County Road 21A Esparto California 95627 (530) 787-3228

Fax: 787-1878 fjmanas@sbcglobal.net

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All our tacos are made with hand made fresh corn tortillas made using Non-GMO corn from California.

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eltorofood@gmail.com

# Taqueria Now Open

- Hand Made Tortillas
  - Tacos
  - Burritos
  - Tortas
- Menudo on Sundays

Store Hours Monday-Saturday: 8:00 AM-9:00 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM-7:00 PM

Kitchen hours may differ from store hours.



### Countryside Community Church

Where Holiness and Wholeness connect-

A safe Harbor where the gifts of human community, abundance, hospitality, and spirituality reside.

Saturday Fellowship Meal: 6 - 7 PM

Potluck meal, singing, conversation, prayer and laughter.

Sunday Worshop Service: 9 AM

Adults and children welcome, followed by coffee, refreshments and conversation.

26479 Grafton Street Esparto, Ca. 95627 www.espartocountrysidechurch.org countrysidechurch@outlook.com

530-787-3586

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



For more information call (530) 312-8967

# **Countryside Community Church**



In partnership with

RISE, Inc.
The countryside Community
Church has changed its Food

Hours of operation (Horas de operacion): Tuesday (Martes) 2p-5p Friday (Viernes) 2p-5p

EXTENDED HOURS

26479 Grafton Street Esparto, CA

Please come on by (por favor vengan)

#### Foods offered when available:

(Comida ofrecida cuando esté disponsible)

Meats (Carnes)

Dairy items (cheese, Milk, eggs)
(productos lácteos (queso, leche, huevos)

Canned Fruits and Veggies

Pasta Sauce (frutos y verduras enlatadas) (Salsa para Pasta) Eroch Produce (asadu

Fresh Produce (productos frescos)



# Welcome to St. Martin De Porres Catholic Mission Church

25633 W. Grafton Street - Esparto, CA 95627

Join us in our celebrations of the Holy Mass Mass Schedule

> Saturday 7:00 p.m. Spanish Sunday 8:30 a.m. English Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Bilingual

> > <u>Confession</u>

Sunday 8:00 a.m.—8:20 a.m.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Parish Office
51 Main Street, Winters, CA. 95694
(530)795-2230

#### **Madison Community Food Closet Distribution**

The Madison Community Committee Food Closet new distribution dates are the second and fourth Monday of each month from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

(Submitted by Rachel de la Cruz)

#### (CVERA from page 3)

Where to locate the numbers? The best location is in front of your house/property close to the road. A 4 x 4 post in the ground would do the trick with the numbers aligned vertically. Having numbers on the house itself may not be very helpful, especially if the house is far back on the road. And one often overlooked point is that the numbers should be visible from BOTH DIRECTIONS. It's possible that a firefighting crew may be coming from the opposite direction than usual – you definitely want them to be able to know where your place is regardless of which direction they come from.

This is a relatively easy, low-cost improvement that could have big benefits if there is a fire on your property, and with wildfire season upon us, the time is NOW to insure the fire department can find your property quickly and easily. Stay tuned for more tips as the season progresses, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at CapayValleyERA@gmail.com.

Submitted by John Capitanio

# MICROBUSINESS COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT

#### **Yolo County Businesses**

The California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program was created to assist microbusinesses that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Qualified microbusinesses are eligible to receive \$2,500 in relief funding.

#### Application open from March 2, 2022 -October 15, 2022

Applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until all available funds are distributed.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**



- The business had less than \$50,000 in gross revenues (revenues after taxes and expenses) in 2019
- The business began operations prior to December 2019
- The business has fewer than 5 full time equivalent employees and had fewer than 5 full time equivalent employees in 2019

#### **Contact**

If your organization is interested in applying, please fill out the <u>Microbusiness Covid-19 Relief Grant application</u>. Please direct any questions to Frank Schneegas at frank.schneegas@yolocounty.org or (530) 908-1597.





SUNDAY, 11:00 A.M. 26479 GRAFTON STREET

f/calvaryesparto - www.calvaryesparto.org Pastor Kris Nordstrom - 530-383-2106

#### **Area Food Distributions**

RISE, Inc. manages several food distributions each month in Esparto. Madison Community Committee sponsors a Food Closet in Madison 2x a month. A Food Closet is also held in the Guinda Grange Hall 2 x a month (2nd and 4th Mondays). Below is a summary of these opportunities. They are also announced in other places in this paper. (Call RISE office 787-4110 for more information)

Food Bank Give - Away on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the RISE office from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. Free produce distribution on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the RISE office from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

The Food Closet is open at the Countryside Community Church on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., and on Fridays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Madison Food Closet is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday's of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.to Madison residents.

Guinda Food Distribution every 2nd & 4th Monday's from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Free produce, meat, dairy, groceries and dry goods. Held at the Guinda Grange Hall. Countryside Community Church Food Distribution on Sundays at 10:00.

#### **Eat Well Yolo Distribution**

When: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Where: RISE, Inc. office 17313 Fremont St.,

**Esparto** Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1 PER HOUSEHOLD / **BRING YOUR OWN BAG** Any Family in Esparto or Capay Valley are Welcome!

Submitted by RISE Staff

#### **Eat Well Yolo Distribution**

Cuando: 1<sup>er</sup> v 3<sup>er</sup> Jueves del mes Donde: La Oficina de RISE 17313 Fremont Street

**Esparto** 

Hora: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1 POR FAMILIA TRAIGA BOLSA

Familias en Esparto y Capay Valley son Bienvenidas

Submitted by RISE Staff

#### Food Distribution in Guinda

2nd & 4th Monday's from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Free produce, meat, dairy. groceries and dry goods. Held at the Guinda Grange Hall.



1250 Fortna Ave. Woodland, CA 95776

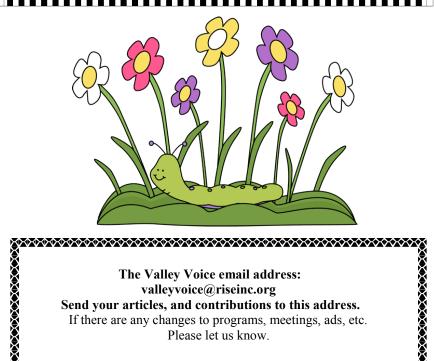
TRUCK & AUTO, TRAILER, AG, INDUSTRIAL-

**PARTS & SUPPLIES** 

530-662-3207

"If we don't have it, we'll get it!"







### Hello Spring!!

We're excited to announce our Spring Fete is BACK!, Sponsored by The Esparto Chamber, Lucy's Cafe, Hog Canyon, SL8, El Toro,Mexical, Double Dipper, Distinctive Decor, Cadena Farm & Circle Z Farm.On May 14th from 10-4! This will be one of our biggest Pop Up Yet, It will include Vendors, Children's Activities, Paint Night, Music, Food Trucks and so much more!!

We are currently looking for Vendors: The cost will be \$50 Chamber Member \$40 (Board Members will be handing out applications the day of the event)

Vendors must provide their own equipment Canopies, Banners, Tables and Chairs. No electricity will be provided.

I just want to thank all of you in advance for being part of our dream,

The booth size is 10x10

**Submitted by Laura Gordon** 



# Capay Valley Flora, Fauna and Farm series from Capay Valley Regeneration Poison Oak by Pamela Bateman

Most people consider Poison Oak a nuisance plant due to the mild to severe allergic reaction dermatitis it causes. Additionally, firefighters can be seriously injured when breathing the smoke of burning poison oak during wildfires. However, Poison Oak represents a local model for understanding the importance of plant diversity in the landscape. Ecosystems are built on diversity. Every part, animals, both prey and predators, plants, fungi and soil microorganisms have a role. To understand and protect nature and the living systems around us we need to respect nature's diversity.

Historically, native people understood and managed the natural resources that sustained them. Native people cooked with Poison Oak leaves, made baskets out of the branches and used the resin from the plant to create a black dye for decorating baskets. It is thought that having a continual, lifelong exposure to Poison Oak provided an immunity to the rash causing effects of Urushiol, the black oil contained in the plant.

Poison Oak, Toxicodendron diversilobum is found throughout California. In the Capay Valley it grows in dry chaparral, shady canyons and riparian areas. Poison Oak is deciduous and its variable growth can be seen as a ground cover, shrub or vine with aerial roots that adhere to the bark of trees enabling it to grow more than fifty feet high. The new spring growth is bright green or rust-colored and matures to green over the summer eventually turning a beautiful red in the fall. The trifoliate leaves have three or more leaflets that give rise to the saying 'leaves of three, let it be' in order to warn people of the dermatitis it can cause. The shrub is dioecious with the small greenish white flowers borne in axillary clusters. After pollination, small, white berry like fruit forms in August and may persist into fall and winter.

Poison Oak may be the most commonly found native plant in California and plays a very important role in its ecosystems. The plant forms a dense understory in oak woodlands trapping moisture and protecting the soil from erosion by breaking the force of rainfall, stabilizing creek banks and slowing the flow of floodwater. The network of branches and roots also traps sediment thereby improving water quality. It also helps insulate soil from heat and cold. After a fire Poison Oak quickly regrows from its rhizomes and acts as a nurse plant for the regrowth of other native plants and their seedlings. In fact, the regrowth of Poison Oak is so rapid it can be used in restoration projects outcompeting invasive plants. This dense growth provides protection and nesting sites for many animals and birds. It is estimated that more than

50 birds, including quail, turkeys, flickers and woodpeckers rely on Poison Oak for food and shelter. In return the birds spread the seed of Poison Oak far and wide. Small mammals like the wood rat use the branches to build their nests. The pollen is an important food source for native bees. The nutritious foliage of Poison Oak is grazed by deer and other mammals.

By understanding the balance and diversity of nature and our local multistoried ecosystem we can honor and respect the earth. Poison Oak represents a carbon sink provided by



nature. The climate crisis we now face demands keeping existing ecosystems intact and encouraging their expansion for climate mitigation.

### A Total Eclipse By Clarence G. Underwood

We're at the moon again. This time we'll look at 8:30 pm. That's when we will see the Rising moon totally eclipsed. The event will go until 11:50 pm, When the event will end. Several hours it will go. A reddish-Orange moon we will see. A total Eclipse it will be. The date is The 15th of May. We will see The event as daylight fades Away. The evening will be cool. You must look at the horizon To see this jewel. Totality won't Last to long. If you don't look Early totality will be gone. Mark Your calendar today. Don't let This opportunity get away. A Rare event in the sky. The earth Will pass between the sun and the Moon that's why we'll see this Event. It is so cool, it is heaven sent!



#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### Please contact the group you are interested in, to see if they are still meeting at this time.

**AA Meeting:** Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Countryside Community Church in Esparto. 1 hour open.

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

Spanish Al-Anon: Spanish Al-Anon: Detrás de El Toro (26628 N. Grafton). Los Martes a las 7:00-8:30 p.m

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

Calvary Baptist Church: Meets Sunday's at 11:00 am at 26479 Grafton Street.

Calvary Baptist Church Community Dinner: Every Tuesday at 4 pm located at 26479 Grafton Street, Free, Everyone Welcome.

Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: 11:00 a.m. adult Sunday school; 11:45 a.m. social; 12:10-1:10 worship/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. See Capay Valley Science Club" Google Group for information.

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

**Cottonwood Cemetery District:** 

Countryside Community Church: Sundays at 9:00 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 2nd Wednesday 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 Food Distribution: Produce on the 2nd Monday and canned and dried foods on 4th Monday at the RISE office from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.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 Boy Scout Cabin Social hour at 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm Dinner, For Zoom link, please call (787-3892)

Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce: Meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m, currently via Zoom. (For Zoom Link, please call (787-3242))

Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: Meets on the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in Room A-7 at the High School.

**Esparto Fire Commissioners Meeting:** Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 pm at the Espart Fire Station.

Farm Stop Farmers' Market: Open Friday's (all summer long through October 1st) from 4 pm - 7 pm.

Food Distribution at Countryside Community Church: Tuesday: 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m; Wednesday: 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.; Friday: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors' Meeting: The 2nd Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. (except for July and November) 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

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

Guinda Food Distribution: Produce distribution on the 2nd Monday and canned and dried goods on the 4th Monday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Guinda Grange Hall.

Homeschooling: Carly Castruita Gordon at (916) 616-5419.

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

Madison Community Committee: 3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District.

Madison Fire Commissioners Meeting: 1:00 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 Mondays of each month from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Madison Community Services District Building

Madison Service District Meeting: 3rd Thursday 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.

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

RISE Collaborative Meeting: Currently held Via ZOOM on every 3rd Friday of the month (please call the RISE office for more information).

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 Grafton St.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW): Western Yolo Post 7143, meets 1st Wednesday 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 in Guinda.

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