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Yocha DeHe Nation Votes to Assist the Local Community Funds the Valley Voice & Other Essential Local Services

The elected Tribal Council of the Yocha DeHe Nation has stepped forward to assist its neighboring communities. At a recent Council meeting, the Tribal officials voted to continue the "gap funds" needed for the *Valley Voice* newspaper. At the same time, they also provided the necessary financial support to maintain certain essential emergency services that serve the most-in-need in the Esparto-Capay Valley Region. These services include operation of the Food Bank and Clothes/Coat Closet, provision of emergency and walk-in support for families with unmet needs, resource and referral assistance, professional counseling for children (including those traumatized and/or uninsured), counseling for families in crisis, and support to host the Collaborative of Service Partners (a united group of agencies that bring additional services into our local region). The generosity was confirmed in an emergency action taken by the Tribal Council in March, action that gave over \$100,000 to fund these services and to preserve local resources that "are essential to helping our neighbors and our communities."

The Tribe, in essence, has stepped forward to backfill funds taken by the Board of Supervisors in these difficult economic times. In years past, the services mentioned above were supported through "Mitigation Funds" given to the County through the Tribe-County Agreement. The Advisory Committee for Tribal Matters (ACTM) members always rated these "essential services" at the top of the list for funding, ensuring a reliable communication mechanism (the *Valley Voice*), and certain basic services (Food Bank, Clothes Closet, counseling, resource assistance, etc.) for people of the Madison-Esparto-Capay Valley Region. The ACTM group still exists and has many of the area's finest residents sitting as members, but the Board of Supervisors has granted them no portion of the fees paid by the Tribe to do good work in the western rural part of the County. The Tribe considered the loss of services and the potential loss of the paper, and chose without hesitation to support the community to maintain these efforts.

The funds for the *Valley Voice* are sufficient to assure publication for an entire year, with free delivery to all residents and no increases in the local support necessary to match equally the award of Tribal funds. The amount provided by the Tribal Council was over \$16,600. The paper is the only local publication in the Capay Valley Region. It is a dependable communication tool and has other local partners that work diligently to support its continued publication. Other partners include the Esparto Unified School District, RISE Inc., the Chamber of Commerce, and the advertisers that pay to be included donors. The newspaper is dedicated to sharing news of local interest, and is governed by a "Committee of Local Citizens." If you have an article to submit or wish to serve on the Committee, email valleyvoice2@hotmail.com.

The Tribe's actions also provided the funding necessary to continue local human services important to school children, the hungry, families in crisis, the uninsured, and folks without extensive resources. In this work the Tribe also has partners. Countryside Community Church collaborates to support the Food Bank and Clothes Closet. RISE Inc. is the umbrella organizational home for the counseling, resource and referral, emergency and crisis assistance, and hosts service partners providing programs for the needy in the community. RISE Inc. is the fiscal agent for these efforts, and the Tribe contributed over \$90,000 to fill the gaps so the services can continue.

The Tribal Council is comprised of the elected officials of the Yocha DeHe Nation and acts as the governing body of the Tribal community. Thank you for this support for our communities!

Submitted by RISE staff

Twelfth Edition, Volume 4, April 2010



April 2010

Pictured above are the 2010 Almond Queen and her court: Queen Hannah Muller (far right), Ditjola Naco, 1st Runner-up (left), and Heidi Hart, Miss Congeniality (middle) (Picture submitted by Jason Gillham)

Almond Queen Pageant

On the evening of March 6 local residents, family members and friends of the eight candidates for queen gathered at the Guinda Grange Hall. A delicious dinner was served by the Western Yolo Grange. After the meal the festivities began.

Austin Large, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, announced the rules of the contest. Each candidate had been personally interviewed by each of the three judges that afternoon. Each girl gave her prepared speech to those in the full hall. After each speech a question about current events was asked, as well as a fun question. The girls were graded on their speeches, answers, and poise, as well as several other areas. All eight candidates gave remarkable speeches about the "place that most typifies the region to them." Memories and opinions about the different places that they felt most strongly about were eloquently expressed by the candidates.

The three judges, Mike Chandler, Paula Lorenzo Tackett, and Helen Voss, then had the hardest task of the evening deciding on the winners. While this deliberation was going on, Nick McNicholas and Joanne Crouse, members of the Esparto Lions Club, held a raffle. Many members of the hall walked away with some treasured gifts: baskets of valley grown produce, gift certificates to the Road Trip Restaurant and other venues, and many other community donated items.

Everyone in the hall waited for the announcement of who would be the winners. Austin Large announced that Heidi Hart had been voted Miss Congeniality by the other contestants. The runner-up was Ditjola Nico, a foreign exchange student from Albania. The 2010 Almond Queen was Hannah Muller, a life-time resident of the Capay Valley.

These girls participated in the Almond Festival on Sunday, March 14 and were seen in many of the venues up and down the valley during the day as they greeted visitors. They were graciously chauffeured in a limousine donated by the Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation and Cache Creek Casino Resort.

Editor



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The Valley Voice Needs YOU!!

The Valley Voice is a community newspaper. It is generously supported by local advertisers, public agencies, and the Tribal Council of the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians. It is published and designed for and by the Capay Valley Region. It is free to every residence. A "Committee of Local Citizens" helps to determine the paper's mission, publishing priorities, and best approaches to sustain the community's overall support and interest.

The Valley Voice Citizen Committee is open to all volunteers. It meets only as needed – a commitment of only 15-20 hours per year! Please let us know if you would like to participate in these meetings – we would be pleased to notify you!

Thank you for your interest!
To advise the paper of your interest to serve, please call 787-3433 and leave your name, address & phone number OR email the Valley Voice at **valleyvoice2@hotmail.com**
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**The Valley Voice
P.O. Box 133
Esparto, CA 95627**

For article inquires, call 787-4110, or send an e-mail message to Greta Taber, Editor, at valleyvoice2@hotmail.com. For billing inquiries or ad rates, call 787-4110. **All articles are due no later than 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. The Valley Voice is published monthly by a community partnership between RISE, Inc., Esparto Unified School District, and contributions from grants, Foundations, and local community service organizations. Articles published do not necessarily express the views of the Valley Voice editor or committee.



News from the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce:

The 2010 Almond Festival was a huge success. Thanks to all of the sponsors and advertisers who made this happen. Thanks to all the vendors, helpers and contributors who made the festival one of the best ever. A special thank you to the Chamber Board of Directors: Linda Pillard, President; Mike Leonard Vice President; Larry Rolston, Treasurer; Pat Harrison, Secretary; Gretchen Adan, Jim Durst, Paula Lorenzo Tackett, and Tom Welch for their work in making the 2010 Almond Festival a great success!"

Channel 31 came to the Festival at Esparto Park and filmed pedal tractor races and a cooking demonstration featuring Jim Durst's organic asparagus.

The Chamber will be participating in a Multi-Chamber event with the Sacramento Kings Vs. Spurs on April 6th. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 and include light appetizers and refreshments. \$5.00 from every ticket sold will go to the Esparto Regional Chamber. Click on the link: www.espartoregionalchamber.com or call (530) 787-3242 for more information.

Jim Hilliard joined the Chamber. Welcome to him. We look forward to working with him in the future through the Chamber.

Submitted by Monique Garcia

**Cathy Roath has a few jars of her pomegranate jelly left.
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CAPAY VALLEY VISION

Preserving a sense of place

Capay Valley Vision Feedback

Parks and Recreation District: The grant for a recreation complex including a swimming pool, recreation center, ball fields and outdoor basketball courts was submitted to the state on time, thanks to Trini Campbell and Regina Espinoza. We are crossing our fingers that our efforts produce results for this community. In any event, we are still looking forward to a Parks and Recreation District as part of MERCESA for our future. If you are interested in this project, please let the chairs of the Parks and Recreation Task Force know and contact them at: Ron Voss at revoss@ucdavis.edu or Linda Adams at nichademus70@yahoo.com. If your organization is interested in a presentation about this project, please contact Sue Heitman at Capay Valley Vision or sue@capayvalleyvision.org for arrangements.

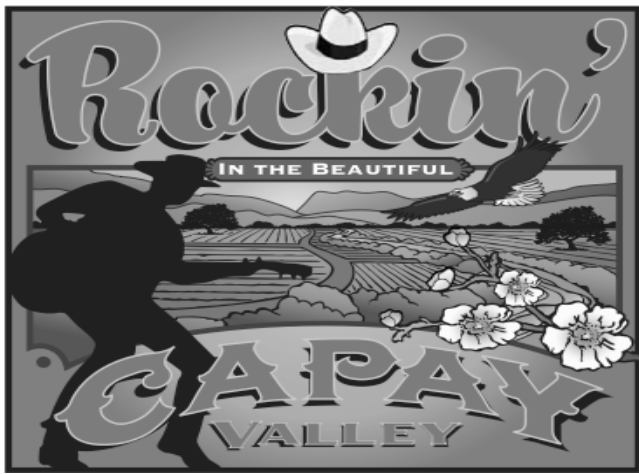
Streetscape: Street print continues in downtown Esparto as the weather gets better. The Street print portion of the project hopes to be completed shortly. As many of us have discussed, if you have concerns about loss of the left hand turn lanes, please let Caltrans, Yolo County or the locals on the committee, Tammy Fullerton, Alice Meserve Manas or Sue Heitman now so that we can pass on these concerns and seek changes.

Wine Tasting Event: Thanks to the following western Yolo County grape growers for participating in a wine tasting at the Almond Festival. They included Simas Family Wines, Capay Valley Vineyards, Cache Creek Vineyards, Turkovich Family Vineyards, Berryessa Gap, and Route 3 Vineyards. The wines made here in western Yolo County are really good!

May 2, 2010--Save the date! Rockin' in the Capay Valley goes country on May 2, 2010 at Club 88. With up and coming country star, Buck Ford, come join us at this concert which includes **free line dance instruction!** And it is a fundraiser to boot, so your \$25 ticket is tax deductible. You could also be a sponsor for \$100 and receive two tickets and your name or business name on the back of the event T-shirt. Rockin' Country-style!

Congratulations to Alice Meserve Manas and Marian Nichols for being appointed to the Advisory Committee on Tribal Matters. All of the local spots are filled and we are ever hopeful for the restoration of funds for the Capay Valley.

Submitted by Sue Heitman, CVV Executive Director



Sunday, May 2 at Club 88 in Cache Creek Casino Resort

Country style rockin' featuring Buck Ford and his traditional country band. A special treat this year—line dancing instruction for all participants! Join us in this annual fundraiser for Capay Valley Vision and Capay Valley Grown. Tickets are \$25 a person. For a \$100 sponsorship, your business/organization name is on the official concert T-Shirt--plus 2 concert tickets! **YEE HAW!**

News from Esparto Unified School District Submitted by Aida Buelna, Superintendent



School Climate Surveys:

Upon review of the information given in the school climate surveys, let me share some of the results with the community:

1. A total of 157 surveys were returned district-wide.
2. When reviewing responses for the questions, let me share a few of the questions and the results:
 - A. This school sets high standards for academic performance for all students:
 - High school—69% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Middle school—64% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Elementary school—97% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - B. This school fosters an appreciation of student diversity and respect for each other:
 - High school—69% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Middle School—71% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Elementary School—93% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - C. Most of the adults at this school believe that every student can be a success.
 - High school—49% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Middle School—59% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree
 - Elementary School—88% of the parents Agree or Strongly Agree

The complete survey, along with parents' responses can be accessed at the District website. Once again thank you to all parents that responded to the survey.

District Calendar 2010-2011:

The instructional calendar for the 2010 -2011 school years will have 175 student days. With the budget cuts that have been made, all staff in the district has agreed to a 5 day furlough which will be enacted upon next school year. Staff response to the budget has been outstanding! I want to publicly say that we have great employees in the Esparto Unified School District who are willing to step up and assist the District in meeting fiscal cut backs.

Upcoming Events:

April 5th – April 9th Spring Break
April 12 & 26 District Minimum Days

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Introduces New Community Fund Application Guidelines

The Yocha Dehe Community Fund, a philanthropic institution of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, today announced new guidelines for grant applicants, effective immediately. They are available online at www.yochadehe.org.

The new guidelines provide clear direction for applicants and specific information about the Fund's goals and giving categories. The process of grant application is also clarified, providing a streamlined process for both applicants and the Fund alike.

Earlier this March, the Tribe took emergency action when Yolo County budget shortfalls threatened to cut critical community services in the area and close down the *Valley Voice*, the only local newspaper. With \$100,000 in Community Fund grants the Tribe has filled the budget gap, supporting local agencies and assured the continued publication of the *Valley Voice* for the next year.

"Giving back to our community, to our neighbors, is integral to the culture of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation," said Tribal Chairman Marshall McKay. "The Community Fund is the tangible expression of our tribal values."

The Yocha Dehe Community Fund is dedicated to creating a healthy community through engaged philanthropy, deep community knowledge and awareness, and active leadership. Over the past decade, the Fund has provided nearly \$18 million in financial support to nonprofit organizations and service providers in Sacramento and Yolo counties. Grants have also been made to organizations supporting the Fund's goals in education, community health, arts and culture, the environment, community development and social services.

The Yocha Dehe Community Fund was one of the first to be established by a Native American tribe in California and the Tribe is a recognized leader in local California and Native Country charitable giving.

Submitted by Brent Andrew at Pyramid Communications



Candidates for the Almond Queen title (left to right): Hannah Muller, Amanda Muller, Marilyn Garcia, Heidi Hart, Ditjola Naco, Katherine McCoy, Whitney Riccomini, and Yomah Teah (below center). (Picture submitted by Hallie Muller)

Easter at Countryside Community Church

Come join us for our **Maundy Thursday Service** on April 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall. We will begin with a Passover meal of lamb, dried fruits and nuts, fresh vegetables, a tasty apple dish and much more, followed by Holy Communion. Then a few days later, join us for our **Easter Service** on Sunday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School is provided every week. Bring the family & friends, and we'll see you there! We are located at the corner of Fremont & Grafton.

Join all of the churches in the Madison, Esparto, Capay Valley Region for an **Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service** in the Esparto Park on Sunday, April 4th at 7 a.m. Bundle up, bring a blanket, bring the kids, and bring a cup of hot coffee as we celebrate our unity in faith and this holy day together.

Following the park service, we will walk over to the Esparto Baptist Church where the celebration will continue with music and a potluck. If you're able, please bring a dish to share. **Everybody is welcome!**

For more information go to www.countrysidechurch.com.
Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson, pastor at Countryside Community Church



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Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson, Pastor
Presbyterian Affiliation

Countryside Community Church Quilt Raffle Winner!

Congratulations to Kenny Han who won the Almond Festival quilt from Countryside Church. Kenny and his wife, long time residents of the Capay Valley, currently live in Georgia, so the quilt has made a cross-continental trip! Kenny has said that he loves it, and will take good care of it. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets. We are extremely appreciative for your contributions that help our church to thrive. Thanks!

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson, pastor at Countryside Community Church

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Home Schoolers' Cooperative

At last count, there were 28 home schooled students in our area. At various times, students have enjoyed classes here in the valley for such things as wire sculpting, chemistry, school newspaper, science fair, fiber arts, painting, etc. If you are interested in offering a class or participating in a class, please contact Anna Brait at (530) 796-3801. Below are upcoming events.

HIKE: We meet for hikes every Monday afternoon at 2:30. Bring a hat, water, and a substantial, healthy snack. Go at your own pace. Call Anna Brait for more information on the schedule. 796-3801. Maps are at <http://www.yolohiker.org/sitemap/index.html>

WALK/SERVICE: Join us on Sunday, April 18th in the MS Walk in Sacramento. See announcement on pg 11 of this paper.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER: It is time for our annual spring home-school newspaper. Students who would like to contribute to the home-school newspaper, should contact Anna Brait at 796-3801. We will meet weekly during the months of April and May.

CLASSROOM: There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, April 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Esparto Library to discuss the development of a 3 day per week classroom for elementary home-schooled students. Meet the teacher and help plan this program. This is for families who may be interested in a teacher supported, independent study program with a mix of regular classroom time. Children can attend classes, work together on group projects, and get help on individual assignments. Parents will have access to help with assessment and curriculum planning. For more information call Elvira Paoletti at 796-4676.

Submitted by Anna Brait

Esparto PTSA to Celebrate Auction Proceeds with Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Esparto PTSA proudly invites community members and supporters to a ribbon cutting ceremony displaying their newly installed playground equipment. The event will take place at the Esparto Elementary School on April 13, 2010. The ceremony will start at 5:30 p.m. Following the ceremony tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs will be available for purchase.

The playground would not have been possible without the generous donations from area businesses and residents. In September of 2009 the Esparto PTSA held a silent and live auction at R. H. Phillips Winery. Two hundred and fifty attendees including parents, teachers, community members, and alumni enjoyed an eventful evening with wonderful items. The evening was a success and raised \$13,500 in revenue for the PTSA. There has been only one playground structure for students at Esparto Elementary, and the PTSA felt there was a need for an additional one. During the January meeting, members unanimously voted to solicit bids from various playground contractors. This event exemplifies how the Esparto community, along with parents, alumni, and students, can work together to accomplish great things. Come join in the celebration of our community and children on April 13th. Submitted by Heather Echarte

Preschool Applications for the 2010-11 School Year

The Esparto State Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. To enroll your child, please visit us at the preschool office located on the Esparto Elementary School campus at 17120 Omega Street in Esparto. It is open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The preschool is located at the school. You must be income-eligible to enroll in the program, therefore please bring your most recent 30 days of pay stubs for income verification. The program hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and follows the Esparto Unified School District calendar.

Submitted by Kimberly Wright, lead preschool teacher

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Esparto High School Participates in the *Every 15 Minutes Program*

Aldo Valeriano never thought that by being in a simple car race, he would end up in jail for manslaughter; and Aaron Rome thought a senior "skip day" would be a fine way to spend a spring day having a few beers. All that came crashing to a halt, when during the race they "killed" a fellow student and a teacher in this mock event for teen driving under the influence.

That was the scenario for a wake-up call program called *Every 15 Minutes* that played out at Esparto High School on Thursday, March 18 at 11:30 a.m. After six months of planning, the school was shocked into a reality check during a two day program that included a mock vehicle collision that involved four students and one teacher. At the request of Seniors Jaime Campos and Brittany Bauthier, the school set up the program to drive home to students the reality of what can happen from drinking and driving.

The *Every 15 Minutes Program*, presented with a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, pulls together local law enforcement agencies, fire departments and ambulance providers to stage a realistic vehicle collision. That is part of the first day; another is removing a student every 15 minutes from the student body.

Every 15 minutes, the grim reaper and a sheriff's deputy, entered the school, read out the name of the most recently deceased and removed that student. During passing periods and mid-morning break those that had "died" stood vigilance over their tombstones in the campus quad.

At the end of the day, all participants were bused to a retreat at Yocha Dehe Fire Station for an overnight session of letter writing to their parents, discussions on decision-making, and having time to reflect on the impact that their death would have on family, friends and the future.

On Friday, the school gathered again to attend a memorial service for those who had "passed" the previous day. Heartfelt letters from the students and their parents were read as a casket served as a visual reminder of fatal decisions.

"We broke with the traditional *Every 15 Minute Program*," said Bob Cassel, ROP instructor at Esparto High and faculty advisor for this event. "Our students were active participants at all levels of this program, our Fire Technology students operated as a fire department and performed the vehicle extrications that were needed, our Emergency Medical Response class provided patient care, and our Floriculture class created the casket piece and funeral arrangements. We hope that by involving them instead of making them observers they got a better feeling of the loss, anguish and emotions that the community feels at a time like this," said Cassel.

Another break from the standard *Every 15 Minutes Program* was the inclusion of street racing into the scenario. "Kids are street racing more and more today," said Jaime Campos, "and we wanted them to know that they are responsible for their actions, people can die even if they aren't drunk."

According to the Phil Gruidl, of the California Highway Patrol, a committee member on this program, both Rome and Valeriano would get equal penalties under the law if this event had actually taken place. "Even though Aldo wasn't involved in the wreck, and he was sober, he would be eligible for Vehicular Manslaughter charges right along with the fellow who was driving the car involved in the wreck," said Gruidl.

Student reaction to the program showed the range of emotions that grip a small community after a tragedy. Senior Jaime Campos said, "Students realized what can truly happen with drinking and driving. I was the student coordinator for *Every 15 Minutes*. I organized the program with meetings, preparation, and communications," said Campos. Senior Brittany Bauthier says, "Personally, it made me realize the consequences of drinking and driving. The experience helped me appreciate people better. I was the assistant student coordinator, and involved in the crash scene. I was the passenger of the car with the *drunk* driver. I was taken to the hospital and later pronounced *dead*."

The program was paid for by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety and donations from a number of local businesses and individuals. Emergency responders from Madison and Esparto Fire Department, AMR, Reach Helicopter, Yolo County Sheriff's Office and Coroner's Office all donated time and resources to make this as realistic an event as possible.

Submitted by Diana Rowland, EHS teacher

Esparto High School Student of the Month for January

Esparto High School's Student of the Month for January was Maria Vargas. Maria is a 10th grader who has become very involved in the Floriculture Program at Esparto High and says that her most influential high school teacher so far is Mrs. Amber Charter because she actually got her interested in science.

Maria is enrolled in two Honors classes: Honors World History and Honors World Literature. She also takes Algebra II as a sophomore! While taking these tough classes, Maria maintains a 3.3 grade point average.

Like most teenagers, Maria likes to hang out with her friends, and her favorite pastimes are reading, playing sports and watching movies. She says if she could meet anyone in history, she would like to meet Pele because he was the best soccer player ever. If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would like to go to Europe to see all the art work.

Please join us in congratulating Maria Vargas!! She's awesome!!

Esparto High School Student of the Month for February

Esparto High School chose Yomah Teah, a senior, as its February Student of the Month. Yomah came to the United States from Liberia about five years ago and lives in Guinda with the Tarlesson family. Yomah is a very caring individual who has overcome many hardships in her life. She would like to become a nurse so that she can help other people.

Alexis Kersting, EHS counselor, remarked that when nominating Yomah for this award, that she "did an outstanding job preparing for the Almond Queen contest. She was easily one of the most supportive candidates and encouraged all her fellow contestants. Her speech was thoughtful and well prepared. I am very impressed by how seriously Yomah took this contest."

Yomah says that the biggest learning experience in her life has been learning to live in a new country. She says she admires Martin Luther King because he fought hard for equality.

Esparto High School students and staff wish Yomah the best in life following her graduation this year. Congratulations, Yomah Teah!!

Articles submitted by Judy Simas, Interim High School Principal

Please join us for a Spring Boutique at
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www.pamperedchef.biz/dianathomsen

Longaberger
www.longaberger.com/Cindybrock

 **Scentsy**TM
Summer Pearson
www.summergp.scentsy.us

 **Purse Heaven**
Accessories

Mention this ad and receive \$1.00 off a Low Rider Chicken Pasta Salad or Taco Salad or \$2.00 off The "Petal to Duh Metal - Hwy 16 Cluster"



Esparto Community Services District
Dedicated to Safe Water and
Responsible Waste Management

P.O. Box 349, 26490 Woodland Ave, Esparto, CA 95627
Phone: 530-787-4502 Fax: 530-787-4219
E-mail: ron@ecsd-ca.org

NEWSLETTER
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR METER &
HOW MUCH WATER YOU USE

The average per month water usage for a family dwelling is 1000 cubic feet (7480 gallons) per month. To convert gallons to cubic feet: there are 7.48 gallons of water in every 1 cubic foot.

RESIDENTIAL

A reading on a bill from one month to the next should be 10 or less. That is the average. For instance, if in February your meter reading was 00023.00 and in March your reading on the meter was 00030.00 it would show usage of 7 (700 cubic feet) on your bill for March because this is the difference between the two numbers. This would be an average or less than average usage. There will probably be no extra charges for water on your bill.

COMMERCIAL

There will be a basic charge for service with no water use and charges for every 100 cubic feet used.



This is what a meter looks like in the box. See the 000,000.03 on this meter. This meter is reading 3 cubic feet or 22.4 gallons of water used. This would show as 0 on the bill if it had been installed with a reading of 000,000.00.

The thing to remember is the meters are read by radio. If the meter doesn't look like it has been read, it is because each box does not need to be individually opened to read it.

Cost has not yet been mentioned. The usages and the costs that must be accounted in a Metered Rate type of system (Billing System Cost Recovery) are still being analyzed and calculated. The same flat rate will be charged until the data has been gathered and this will be used to determine what the base rate will be.

THIS IS TENTATIVE UNTIL WE MAKE SURE THE STRUCTURE OF THE RATE SYSTEM IS SOUND.

Submitted by Ron Loudon, General Manager/Supt. Esparto CSD

Esparto Writers' Group

"What is in your possible bag?" This is the writing prompt for the next meeting of the Esparto Writer's Group, which will be on Thursday, April 15 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Esparto Library. For the April meeting, please bring this written piece unsigned. After collecting all the submissions they will be redistributed so that it will be read by another member of the group. Sometimes when we read our own work aloud we make adjustments on the fly. So how will someone else read our words?

If that is not enough excitement, we are also going to do some writing in group! The purpose of the Esparto Writer's Group is to provide an opportunity to share writing out loud. The writer can ask the group for a critique if the writer wishes. For more information, please contact Barbara Durst by email, bdurst@mac.com, or phone, 666-3104.

Submitted by Barbara Durst



Twelfth Edition, Volume 4, April 2010



Capay Valley Rotary Club, Brooks—Charter Night

Join the Capay Valley Rotary Club, Brooks as they officially become a Chartered Club of Rotary International. This event will be held at the Taber Ranch Vineyards and Event Center on April 28, 2010. There will be a social hour (no-host bar) with a silent auction from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. dinner will be served buffet style, followed by a live auction and program. The cost is \$35.00 a person. Attire for an outdoor setting is recommended (low heels advised), as you'll want to walk to the top of the hill to see the remarkable views of the Capay Valley at dusk.

For more information and reservations, please contact Crystal Smyth at 796-5761 by April 16.

Submitted by Sue Heitman

The Friends of the Esparto Regional Library (FERL)

henceforth referred to as The Friends.

The purpose of The Friends is to establish closer relations between the Esparto Regional Library and the communities it serves; to promote informed interest in its functions, resources, services and needs; to confer with the staff of the Library on matters relating to the welfare of the institution; to stimulate gifts, endowments and bequests to the Library; to support the development of programs for extension and enhancements of the Library's resources and services; and to raise funds.

As the Friends continue to preserve and improve on our purpose, we extend a heartfelt thanks to each and every person who has in any way contributed in such efforts. Most recently, a big thank you to everyone who volunteered and assisted in making the Annual Book Sale at the Almond Festival on Sunday, March 14th one of our most successful! What a gorgeous day with many helpers and shoppers! Without these, the library building would not have been built, nor could it have reached its tenth year celebration. Additionally, there are two very important ways all can help.

First, donations are the main source of raising funds and there are many programs that can be selected: become a member of the Friends by joining our annual Membership drive; the Partners In Hours Program allows the library's operating hours to be extended; or contribute to a Memorial in remembrance of family or friend. Purchase a book at the Book Nook when you are at the library, where you will find gently used paperbacks, hardbacks, CD books, magazines, note cards, VHS tapes, DVD movies and now also available, Gift Baskets; Support is always welcome at our Almond Festival Book Sale, at the Harvest Dinner, at the Children's Shopping Day, on FERL sponsored bus trips, and Yoga for FERL. The Nugget Market and Food 4 Less Scrip Program donate a 3% of the total purchase to FERL every month. Pick up a FERL Scrip card that can be loaded and reloaded with a specified dollar amount. The loaded card then functions like an ATM card at the check stands and every month, 3% of the total amount is donated to FERL.

Second, you can help by volunteering: by keeping the grounds around the Library beautiful, decorating the display cases, stocking the Book Nook, running the annual book sale at Almond Festival, generating the annual Harvest Dinner, and promoting the Children's Shopping Day for Christmas. Volunteers are also needed for the community Literacy Program.

For additional information on FERL programs, services or meetings contact the Friends website at www.ferl.org, mail inquiries to PO Box 787, Esparto CA 95627, or contact one of the FERL Board Members. Visit the Esparto Library and pick up memberships forms, Scrip Program cards, or other FERL program information. Submitted by Julio Cota, FERL Board President



Understanding Autism
*First 5 Yolo's Tips for
 Parents and Caregivers on
 Identifying Early Warning Signs*

Currently, one in 110 children in the United States has autism according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Autism is a developmental disability that occurs when the brain has trouble functioning properly. It affects a child's ability to speak, learn and communicate with others. At this time, there is no cure for autism, but kids who are screened and diagnosed at a young age and who visit a doctor regularly for treatment show significant improvement in learning and communication skills.

In recognition of April being Autism Awareness Month, First 5 Yolo wants parents and caregivers to be aware of the following early signs of autism to help families identify a need for early intervention and treatment:

Early Warning Signs: Not all children develop at the same rate, so some may need further evaluation and special services to help them grow up healthy. Autism, in particular, can be difficult to diagnose because it affects each child differently. Parents can watch for the following signs and see a health care provider for further screenings:

- Does not coo or smile by 6 months old
- Has trouble sitting, standing up or reaching for objects by 1 year old
- Does not say simple words like "mama" or "dada" by 1 year old
- Does not turn his or her head to follow sounds or voices
- Does not point at objects to show interest such as an airplane flying overhead or does not look at objects when another person points at them
- Does not react to loud noises
- Repeats certain behaviors or actions over and over, including some that are harmful like banging his or her head
- Repeats or echoes words or phrases said to him or her or repeats words or phrases in place of normal language (echolalia)
- Makes little or no eye contact and wants to be alone or appears to be unaware when other people talk to him or her yet responds to other sounds
- Has trouble relating to others or is not interested in other people at all
- Has trouble expressing his or her needs using typical words or motions
- Has trouble understanding other people's feelings or talking about his or her own feelings
- Prefers not to be held or cuddled, or only when he or she wants to
- Has trouble adapting to changes in routine
- Has unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound
- Does not play games like peek-a-boo or "pretend" games
- Exhibits loss of skills he or she once had such as speech or social skills

Early Intervention and Treatment: By getting help at an early age when the brain is still developing, parents can help children reduce the effects of autism by the time they start kindergarten. Some of the treatments include speech therapy, diet and therapies focused on improving relationships.

To learn more about autism and First 5 Yolo's programs, services and resources, including health care tips for children, please visit www.first5yolo.org or www.first5california.com/parents.

The following resources also are available:

California Department of Developmental Services. For children under age 3, call 1-800-515-BABY (2229) and select the "early start program" extension. For children ages 3 to 5, call First 5 California at 1-800-KIDS-025 for screening services and information on whether your child can receive free special needs assessments.

The Autism Society of America (ASA). www.autism-society.org.

Local Programs. Yolo County Family Resource Center: 530-406-7221 or www.yolofrc.org and the UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute: 916-703-0280 or www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/MINDInstitute.

Kit for New Parents: This free kit, a \$75 value, includes educational DVDs, guidebooks and brochures with parenting information, advice and useful tips. To order a kit, call First 5 Yolo at 530-669-2475.

Compliments of First 5 Yolo

Twelfth Edition, Volume 4, April 2010

**Valley Seniors Recreation Program APRIL SCHEDULE,
 SPONSORED BY THE YOCHA DEHE COMMUNITY FUND.**

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, FROM 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

HOT TOPICS FOR APRIL:

- April 1: Arboretum Trip and Bag Lunch 10-1:30 Call 787-4110 RSVP. COST: Free
- Week of April 5th: Valley Seniors Closed for Holiday Vacation
- Week of April 13th: Tuesday and Thursday Group activity/Speaker
- April 20th: Nutrition with Laura Martinez—Focus on Carbohydrates. Lunch Provided.
- April 22nd: Cache Creek Conservancy Trip & Sack Lunch. 10-1 RSVP 787-4110. Cost: Free.
- April 27th: Knitting Group with Lunch Provided. Call 787-4110 for information.
- April 29th: Potluck & Group Activity. Call 787-4110 for information.

**Look forward to demonstrations, outings and special events.
 Call Beth @ RISE if you have any questions, 530-787-4110.**

Submitted by the RISE Staff

Youth Development Training

RISE Inc. and the Youth Development Network will be offering a **FREE** Youth Development training!! Our youth are the future and we need to challenge, guide, and provide *meaningful* opportunities for Youth Development. The YDI *training* is a *four* (4) days that sets the stage for how *to work effectively* with youth. Passion with Precision! As caring adults, we all have the passion to work in our communities. Combining our passion by providing programs of precision is the best way to engage our youth. RISE Incorporated is extremely excited to offer this training opportunity for our partners in Yolo County. We look forward to seeing you on the following dates!

**WHEN: Thursday, April 8th & Friday, April 9th
 Friday, April 16th & Friday April 23rd
 Time: 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m.**

**WHERE: RISE Community Center
 17317 Fremont St. Esparto, CA 95627**

***Reminder-** Lunch will be served on all four (4) days of the training! If you are interested in signing up for this **FREE** training, please contact RISE, Inc. as soon as possible. You may contact Tico Zendejas @ 530.794.6000 or Rachel Bingham @ 530.787.4110 with questions or for enrollment. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the training!

Submitted by the RISE Staff

Esparto Elementary Principal's Corner

Thanks to our wonderful PTA for sponsoring Story Night and the Sock Hop! Both events were great fun. PTA is now selling cute socks with paw prints on them. Come by the office to see a sample. Thanks to everyone who supported the spring See's candy sale. With our proceeds, we will be able to purchase the safety bark that will go under our new playground structure.

With spring in the air, it is important to remember dress code and expectations for behavior.

Please be aware the playground is not open before school until 7:50. Children arriving earlier than that should go straight to the multi, as there won't be outside supervision until 7:50.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, students and staff.
 Happy Easter!

Veronica Michael

Upcoming dates

- March 31 First day of CST STAR testing
- March 31- April 2 Student minimum days
- April 5-9 spring break
- April 13-22 CST STAR testing
- April 13 Playground Structure Ribbon Cutting Celebration
- April 22 Earth day and Take Your Child To Work Day



Pictured to the left are Julie Jackson (left), Esparto Elementary School librarian, Aida Buelna (center), EUSD Superintendent, and Tim Brock, (far right) EUSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

Yolo County School Boards Recognizes Yolo Excellence in Education

On Monday, March 8, the Yolo County Office of Education's Excellence in Education Award Night was held at the YCOE Conference Center. It was attended by almost 200 educators and education supporters from all five Yolo County K-12 school districts and the Yuba Community College District. Hosted by the Yolo County School Boards Association, this event recognized high performing educators and programs in school districts from around the county.


The award recipients for the evening included these Esparto Unified School District staff: Tim Brock, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and teacher, Lenore Heinson, from the Esparto Unified School District. Additional recognitions included the 2010 Classified School Employee of the Year awards for Julie Jackson from Esparto Elementary School.

The Yolo County School Boards Association works to increase public awareness and appreciation of educational efforts in Yolo County. All school districts in Yolo County are eligible for membership.

Submitted by Karen Fox, YCSBA



Julie Swartz
Music Studio
Piano-Voice-Guitar
(530)787-3570

Patrick Scribner 

Certified Public Accountant

507 First Street, Suite B (530) 666-2727
 Woodland, CA 95695 Fax: (530) 668-6822

email: pscpa@pacbell.net

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SHORT SALE HELP FOR STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS

Linda Pillard is one of the few realtors that has earned the prestigious designation Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE), she completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance, with a particular emphasis on short sales. She is trained to help families that are behind in their mortgage payment.

Short sales allow the distressed homeowner to repay the mortgage at the price that the home sells for, even if it is lower than what is owed on the property. This can save many people from foreclosure and even bankruptcy. More and more lenders are willing to consider short sales because they are much less costly than foreclosures.

1. We negotiate with the banks in situations where a property owner owes more than the property is worth.
2. Our specialized negotiating techniques, packages and processes are specifically designed to get the bank to take less than is owed.
3. We handle ALL the paperwork, phone calls, follow-up and headaches so you don't have to.

If you need help or just want to talk about your situation please call Linda Pillard at (530) 713-6121. She is here to help the families in our community.

Linda Pillard, ABR, CDPE, CRS, RDCPro, SRES
National Real Estate #01208519

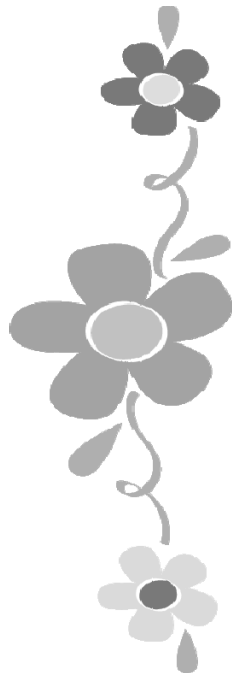


Coming to
Esparto
Try it free the first week!
May 11th

Zumba fuses latin and international rhythms with easy to follow dance moves (hip-hop, reggaeton, salsa, samba and merengue) to create a dynamic fitness workout. Routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms, and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat.

Classes start Tuesday May 11th
Cost: \$45.00 per month
Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.
Thursdays 6-7 p.m.

Certified Zumba Instructor **Thania Coutinho**. Register with the instructor. Classes Beginning Tuesday at the Esparto Fire House. For more info contact thanya_brasil@yahoo.com, or call 707-365-3372.



Phil & Jeannie Adam

Fund Raising Dinner for Phil Adam's Family

When: Saturday, April 17th, 6pm
Where: Historic Rumsey Hall
What: Spaghetti Dinner with salad, garlic bread and dessert.
Wine and beer available.
Live music by the Capay Valley Chorus
Suggested Donation: \$7.00 or more accepted at the door.

CAPAY VALLEY SCHOOL HOUSE

EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS FOR YOUR CHILD!

Imagine a free, local program that offers: a flexible schedule, classes 3 days/week, a budget to buy your own school materials, individual instruction, and more.

Parent Meeting
April 13th, 7pm
Esparto Library



**ESPARTO HIGH SCHOOL
ALL CLASSES REUNION**

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010
PLACE: ESPARTO FIRE DEPT
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR: 3:00 – 4:30 PM
DINNER SERVED: 4:30 – 6:30 PM
DANCE: 7:00 – 10:30 PM
CATERER: ESPARTO ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
BAND: IZZY FLARISAN (EHS '66) & HIS BAND:
The 2nd Time Around
COST: \$20.00 PER PERSON Make check payable to **E.H.S. Alumni Reunion** Send to: **P.O. Box 185, Esparto, CA 95627.**

CONTACTS: TERRY M. 796-3809, CATHY R. 787-3754



Capay Valley AYSO

The Capay Valley AYSO's first sign-ups for the Fall 2010 Soccer Season will be Thursday April 22, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Esparto Park. Teams will be filled on a first come, first served basis so sign up at the earliest opportunity to ensure a spot on a soccer team. The cost of registration is: \$35.00 for the first player in a family; \$25 for each additional player. New uniform sets cost \$20.00. Registration rates will increase after June 1, 2010. Children between the ages of 4 1/2 - 18 are eligible to register with AYSO. To expedite the registration process, families may pre-register online at www.eayso.org. Bring a signed, printed copy of your online pre-registration player form to the sign-ups with your payment.

AYSO is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to providing world class youth soccer to enrich children's lives. Volunteer coaches, referees, and board members are needed to ensure each season's success.

There will also be sign-ups on May 12, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; details to be announced in the May issue of the Valley Voice. Visit: www.capayvalleyayso.org for additional information and updates.

Congratulations to the U19 Boys team for placing 4th in the Select Season Tournament held in Davis.

The next CV AYSO board meeting will be held on Thursday April 15, 2010 at 7 p.m. at Regional Commissioner Brian Paddock's house. Any community members interested in volunteering to help support our local youth soccer program are welcome to attend. Contact Regional Commissioner Brian Paddock at 787-1725 for additional information.

Submitted by Trini Campbell

MS Walk in Sacramento

Walk with us and/or sponsor our team, "Full Belly Farm Walkers"!

Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010

Time: Registration Opens 8:00 a.m. Walk Begins 9:00am

Location: West Steps State Capitol

Length: choose 5k route (3.1 miles) or 1-mile route

Email: erin.nasca@nmss.org

For more information call: 1-800-344-4867

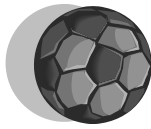
To Register or sponsor our team, go to <http://walkcan.nationalmssociety.org> Locally, contact Anna Brait at braitfamily@yahoo.com or call (530) 796-3801.

Walk MS is the rallying point of the MS movement, a community coming together to raise funds and celebrate. By participating in Walk MS, you'll be making a difference by raising essential funds for research for people living with MS. There are an estimated 20,000 people living with MS in the Northern California area. Walk for them and their families and caregivers.

Submitted by Anna Brait



Pictured above: the "Every 15 Minutes Program" that was held at the high school on March 18. Students learned about the realities of drinking and driving. (Story on pg. 6)



Pictured right: Donkey Basketball was held on February 24 at Esparto High School. This annual event was attended by over 200 fans. It is sponsored by the EHS FFA program.



Right: Channel 31 Reporter, Ashley Williams, with the participants in the pedal tractor races at the Almond Festival.



All participants will receive a BloodSource t-shirt!



Esparto Community BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, April 5th
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 Located in the Community Hall next to the Fire Station.
For more information:
Pam Pearson (530) 787-3300
 Please bring a photo ID.
 Please eat and drink plenty of fluids before donating.
 Eligibility Questions call: 1-866-822-6663



BloodSource
 We, you do save lives.
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St. Martin's Altar Society
Spring Salad Luncheon and Dessert

April 17, 2010 at St. Martin's Church Hall
(Located on west Grafton)
11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
\$8.00 a ticket

Tickets may be purchased at the door or from any Altar Society member

\$100 door prize **Come join us!**

Raffle prizes Lots of fun

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AA meetings: *Countryside Community Church*, located at 26479 Grafton St. on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Call 1-800-970-9040 for more information.
Guinda Community Church, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. in Spanish.

Ala-teen meetings: meets at Guinda Community Church 16671 Forest Ave. Call Lynn for details at 787-4566 or Pastor Noble at 668-0870.

Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: meets at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday at 7588 St. Route 16, Guinda.

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

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 Vision Board: meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Library from 5:00 to 7:00 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 9:00-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Countryside Community Church

Esparto Baptist Church: Worship and preaching service at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Bible Study on Sundays at 9:45 and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Esparto Lion's Club Meeting: meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday at the VFW hall 7:00 p.m.

Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce: meets every month on the 2nd Wednesday at the Chamber Office on Yolo Avenue unless it is a mixer. (787-3242)

Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Library.

Food and Clothes Closet: open on Wednesdays & Fridays at Countryside Community Church. Contact RISE Inc. at 787-4110 for information.

Friends of Esparto Regional Library Board of Directors' Meeting: meets on the first Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Library.

Home Schooling Cooperative: Call Anna Brait at 796-3801.

Legal Services in Esparto: free services offered on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the RISE office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Guinda Community Church: Sunday School for youth at 8:45 a.m. and Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

Madison Advisory Committee: Jan. 2010: 4th Thursday at 6:30 at the Madison Community Services District. No meetings in May, November or December.

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

Rotary Club of Capay Valley, Brooks: meets at 7:00 a.m. every Friday at the C² Restaurant at Cache Creek Casino Resort.

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), Esparto and Western Yolo Chapter, meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Esparto VFW Hall.

Western Yolo Grange: meets on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for a 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).

WIC Services: located in the Esparto Family Practice office at 17050 South Grafton St. on the 4th Wednesday. (2:00-6:00 p.m.)

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.

Activity Calendar for April 2010 (as mentioned in this paper)

April 1: Maundy Thursday at Countryside Community Church at 6:00 p.m.
 April 1-2: Esparto Schools minimum days
 April 2: Good Friday: call churches for schedules
 April 2: Esparto School are dismissed for spring break
 April 4: Easter Sunday: Ecumenical Service in Esparto Park at 7:00 a.m.
 April 5: Blood Drive at Esparto Community Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 April 6: EDCC Multi-Chamber Mixer with the Kings fund Raiser
 April 8 & 9: Youth Development Training Program at RISE from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 April 12: Esparto Schools Resume sessions; Esparto Schools minimum day
 April 13: PTA Playground ceremony at Esparto Elementary School at 5:30 p.m.
 April 13: Parent Meeting at Esparto Library at 7:00 p.m. for Home-Schoolers
 April 15: Esparto Writers' Group meets at the Esparto Library at 6:00 p.m.
 April 15: AYSO Board Meeting at Brian Paddocks at 7:00 p.m.
 April 16: Youth Development Training Program at RISE from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 April 17: Benefit for Phil Adams Family at the Rumsey Hall at 6:00 p.m.
 April 17: St. Martin's Altar Society Luncheon at St. Martin's Hall from 11:00-1:30 p.m.
 April 18: MS Walk in Sacramento at 9:00 a.m.
 April 22: Soccer Sign-ups in Esparto Park from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

April 22: Earth Day
 April 23: Youth Development Training Program at RISE from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 April 26: Esparto Schools minimum day
 April 27: Spring Boutique at Road Trip Bar and Grill, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 April 28: Capay Valley Rotary Charter Dinner at Taber Ranch Vineyards and Event Center at 5:30 p.m.
 April 1, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29: Senior Group meets at RISE from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Right: The Freeheart Farm Booth at the Almond Festival.

