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January 2012



Pictured above left is Tico Zendejas who will become the new Executive Director of RISE Inc. replacing Cathie Wicks. Pictured right is Chelsea Becker who will become the new Financial Officer for RISE Inc. replacing Tammy Fullerton. See story to right.

RISE INC. ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

RISE (Rural Innovations in Social Economics), Inc. – a local non-profit organization serving families in Madison, Esparto and the Capay Valley – is pleased to announce a new management team! For almost 25 years, RISE has had its original founders– Cathie Wicks and Tammy Fullerton - at the helm. Effective January 1, 2012, that responsibility is being transitioned over to two new managers who have been preparing for over a year to assume the administrative duties of the organization.

Jorge (Tico) Zendejas will be assuming the role as Executive Director. Tico is locally known to many families as the After School Program Coordinator for the RISE Program’s from 2006-2009. For the past three years, Tico has been the RISE Manager of Community Projects and has directed the programs in the RISE Offices in Winters. Tico attended Sacramento State University and graduated from the University of Phoenix, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Human Services Management and a Master’s Degree in Education. Tico has been a strong catalyst for the growth of RISE Inc. over the last five years. He is dedicated to the human services field and a trained Youth Development facilitator. He is a recipient of the Yolo County Champion for Children Award and an implementation lead in last year’s local Que Viva La Vida event. Before working for RISE Inc., Tico was a baseball coach, a world traveler, and worked in private business. Over the last year, Tico has been working with the current directors and County Departments to build a strong understanding of the contracts, agreements, grants and fund-search efforts essential to RISE’s continuing work in the community. Tico is married and he and his wife, Valentina, are expecting a new addition to the family in early spring.

Chelsea Becker will be the new Financial Officer for RISE Inc. Chelsea has lived locally for over a decade. She first came to the Valley from Oregon as a farm partner with Winter Creek Gardens in Rumsey. Chelsea is an Oregon State University (Corvallis) graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. She assisted in coordinating the local Hoes Down Festival, coordinated special projects for Capay Valley Vision, and served as a math and science teacher in our local schools. In recent years, Chelsea has worked with RISE Inc. as a nutrition educator and then as the Program Coordinator for the RISE After School Program. For the last many months, Chelsea has also been busy becoming accustomed to the RISE financial particulars, including grant financial accounting, contracts billing, and non-profit organization financial management. Chelsea’s daughter Eleanor attends Esparto Elementary and they continue to be interested supporters of the farming activities in our Region.

Retiring Executive Director Cathie Wicks will continue at RISE in a part-time capacity as the manager of the newly awarded CA Dept. of Food & Agriculture grant that was the front page article in last month’s Valley Voice. Tammy Fullerton will continue, in a consultant capacity, her community development work for the Colusa Indian Community. A strong focus of her work will be economic development and projects administration on behalf of the Tribe. Both are looking forward to an active “semi-retirement” and have many fun plans – some to begin immediately!

Please stop by and extend a warm welcome to these new managers of the RISE programs in our community. In March, RISE will be 25 years old and staff are planning a community-wide “quarter century” celebration. This will also be a special time to recognize the contributions of Cathie Wicks and Tammy Fullerton and the RISE Board of Directors. Stay tuned for more details.

Submitted by the RISE Staff

Children’s Shopping Day: a Magical Event

There was a line of children (with their parents waiting) at the door of the elementary multipurpose room on Sunday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. Children entered the transformed cafeteria that was filled with tables covered with a variety of gifts for all family members. Each child received a special volunteer to help guide them in getting the best present for each name on their shopping list. When each child had decided on a gift for family members, they were taken to the cash register where their dollar bills went a long way. A row of volunteers were lined up armed with paper, scissors, bags, and ribbons to wrap each and every gift for each child.

Local children were able to shop for gifts for their family members, learning a valuable experience in giving, and enjoying some holiday magic. Gifts left over at the end of the day were donated to Junk, Funk, and Finery to be sold.

Many volunteers, community members and groups were needed to make this special event happen. Volunteers worked hard on Saturday sorting, organizing the donated gifts, and setting up the tables. They helped Sunday in assisting the children shop, wrapping gifts, bringing snacks, and cleaning and recycling the gifts after all had gone. A total of \$561 in proceeds will be used by FERL for additional library programs and services.

This event would not have occurred if not for the many, many volunteers from the Girl Scouts, Country Villa Mobile Estates, the Esparto Lions and the high school Leos, RISE, Esparto School District, FERL, Esparto PTA and all the adults and students representing the whole Capay Valley. A special thanks to the school janitor, Carlos Martinez, who provided access to the school, and Yolanda Cota, another school employee, who worked hard all weekend to make this event successful.

Submitted by Julio Cota of FERL

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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 Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. 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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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 by the 20th of each month.** Ads must be paid in advance and accounts must be paid up to date by the **20th of each month.** We reserve the right to edit articles at our discretion, due to space limitations and other criteria. The *Valley Voice* is published monthly by a community partnership between RISE, Inc., Esparto Unified School District, and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Articles published do not necessarily express the views of the *Valley Voice* editor or committee.

CAPAY VALLEY VISION

Preserving a sense of place

Capay Valley Vision Feedback:

The Energysshed Oversight committee held its first meeting in November. At this time, they began sorting out the elements of the USDA grant and how they might meet those requirements. This grant, funded through the Rumsey Improvement Association, looks at two main focuses for the entire Valley. The first focus is on energy conservation information and referral for the small communities of the Valley. The second focus is on the development of a co-op model for energy production for the farms of the Valley. If you are interested in being included in the information regarding Energysshed, join the conversation by logging onto the website at energysshed.ning.com!

The Capay Valley Vision Board has signed a contract with ENGAGE, the California College of the Arts, and Train Station owner, Maria McVarish, to host a variety of students beginning in January exploring options for the Train Station in Esparto. These students will be interviewing local residents and historians to attempt to build architectural, historical and potentially artistic models for the future of the Train Station. Sue Heitman of Capay Valley Vision will be the host for the project and may be calling you soon to help set up appointments.

The Mercy Housing project is proceeding with ground breaking expected in March of 2012. They recently received approval from the Planning Commission to divide the property, which extends west to east on the corner of Yolo Ave. and Woodland Ave., into four parcels. The corner property will still remain DMX zoned for commercial use and is not the focus of Mercy's building or development. They will begin to build on the next parcel, labeled Parcel 2 in the County filings. The immediate project will construct 40 units for rental. Contact Jeff Riley at Mercy Housing or Eric Parfrey of Yolo County for further information.

The CEMEX wind turbine will be constructed. This single wind turbine had previously been appealed by environmental groups. With much discussion at the Yolo County Board level, it was passed and will be constructed at a different location on the CEMEX property. The Yolo County Board members will be closely watching this project as wind turbines and their effect on the wildlife habitat is an ongoing issue of concern. There is a lack of data in relation to certain species and wind turbines, particularly on bats.

Hurrah for Junk, Funk and Finery! This new NON-PROFIT retail store in Esparto has provided a service to all in the Valley. They accept all donations (including setting up pick up times at your request) and then sell these goods back into the community. After the Tarlesson family fire in Guinda, they opened their doors and let everyone pick clothing and goods to replace lost items. This was made possible by the support of the Rolston family's donation to New Season Community Development Corp., the owner of the *Junk, Funk and Finery*. Please continue to give and shop locally. All donations are eligible for a tax donation.

Capay Valley Vision Board Members for 2011 are:
Lynn Rolston, President; Rudy Lucero, Vice President; Jack Moris, Secretary; Barry Burns, Treasurer; Thad Barsotti, Aida Buelna, Wyatt Cline, James Kinter, Tom Lopez, Betsy Marchand, Paul Muller, Kristine Stanfill, Paula Lorenzo Tackett, Cathie Wicks, and Sue Heitman, Consultant

Happy Holidays from **Capay Valley Vision**
Monique Garcia, Executive Director
Kim Rix, Administrative Asst.

Submitted by Sue Heitman

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Season of Giving

As family and friends gather
to celebrate the holidays



we send wishes to all our neighbors
for peace and happiness throughout the New Year.



In the spirit of the season,
the Yocha Dehe Community Fund is proud to support the
Holiday Food Project 2011



and salute the
Food Bank of Yolo County
and our
many community partners
for their tradition of holiday generosity.

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www.yochadehe.org

Pictured right is Gary Fredericksen, who has been appointed as the new chief of the Yocha Dehe Fire Department. See story to the right.



Yocha Dehe Fire Department Names New Fire Chief

National Search for New Leader of Internationally Accredited Department Leads to Local Candidate

The Fire Commission of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has selected Gary Fredericksen as the new chief of the Yocha Dehe Fire Department (YDFD). Mr. Fredericksen, currently a Division Chief for the West Sacramento Fire Department, will assume leadership of YDFD on January 3, 2012.

“Our nationwide search brought us an amazing group of qualified candidates and from among them, the person who stood out as the best choice to lead our internationally accredited department was right here in our own backyard,” said James Kinter, Chairman of the Yocha Dehe Fire Commission and Tribal Council Member. “Gary Fredericksen is professionally well-rounded, with more than 25 years of line, administrative and leadership experience in fire and emergency services. Plus, he understands the unique challenges of fire and emergency services in our region. This is a perfect combination.”

At YDFD, Mr. Fredericksen will command a department with 32 uniformed personnel, three full-time administrative employees, and a full complement of fire suppression, emergency response and rescue equipment. In his present role as Division Chief in charge of Operation and Administration for the West Sacramento Fire Department, Mr. Fredericksen oversees an \$11.5 million budget with 60 line and seven administrative personnel.

“I am excited and humbled to become the chief of the first Native American fire department to achieve international accreditation,” said Mr. Fredericksen. “The Yocha Dehe Fire Department is manned with exemplary staff. I look forward to continuing the high quality, professional service this department already delivers as we explore ways to expand the services we provide to the communities of the Capay Valley and Yolo County.”

Fredericksen will be taking over for retiring Fire Chief Michael B. Chandler. Chandler was hired by the Yocha Dehe Tribal Council in 2004 with one clear goal: to build a department for the entire community, designed to work hand-in-hand with existing resources to provide the best fire and emergency services possible. In 2010, YDFD became the first tribal fire department in the United States to earn Accredited Agency status through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

“I am incredibly proud of the team the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has built at its Fire Department,” said Chandler. “The professionalism and commitment to first class fire protection and safety for our entire community starts with the Tribal Council and is at the core of everything the department does. Gary Fredericksen has the skills, background and dedication this department needs in a leader as it moves forward. He will be a great chief for a great department.”

Submitted by Greg Larsen

News from the Esparto Regional Library

Happy New Year from the Esparto Regional Library Branch of the Yolo County Library.

If you don't already have a library card make a resolution to come in and get a Yolo County Library card. Yolo County Library has a collection of downloadable audio books, videos, music and books available at yolocounty.lib.overdrive.com. Download materials to enjoy on your personal computer or portable device.

Join us for fun movie events:

- Children's after school movie on January 17 at 3:00 p.m.
- Teen movie night at 6:00 p.m. on January 26.

Recurring Programs at the Esparto Regional Library:

- Bilingual pre-school Story Time: every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Wintun Room, featuring stories, finger-plays, and songs.
- The English Conversation Class meets on Tuesday from 1-2 p.m. in the Wintun Room. All English learners welcome. Practice your English in a group setting. Call for further information. 530-787-3426.
- Senior Computer Class will meet on January 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Wintun Room.

Submitted by Malinda Baker, Branch Supervisor,
Esparto Regional Library Branch of Yolo County Library



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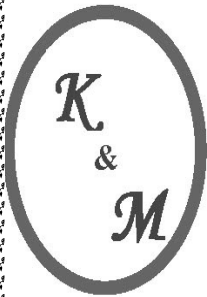
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OUR GOAL IS YOUR SMILE



Esparto Board of Education President, Pam Miller, center, and District Superintendent, Aida Buelna, right, accept a check for \$5,000 from Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Community Fund Director, Kristine Stanfill, on December 13, in Esparto. Yocha Dehe's Cache Creek Casino Resort pledged the donation, in conjunction with its 2011 Summer Concert Series, to support community enrichment through music education within the district.



Submitted by Michael Traum

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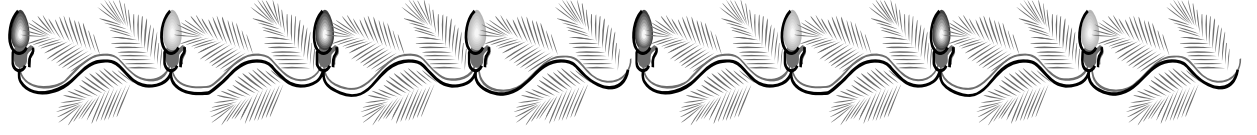
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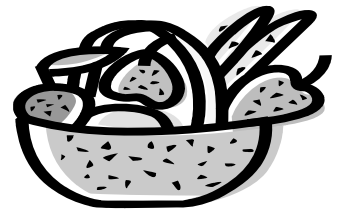
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A ministry of Calvary Baptist Church of Woodland
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Coming Together As A Community For The Holidays

RISE Inc., Countryside Community Church, and the community want to thank the Esparto K-8 School students for conducting the annual food drive for the 2011 Christmas Food Boxes. 190 families received food/toys this year because of all the generosity and hard work from local and surrounding communities. We want to thank the Esparto and Madison Fire departments for their contribution of food. The churches throughout the Madison/Esparto/Capay Valley Region contributed donations towards the cost of the 100 turkeys and other foods distributed. Additionally, Woodland Ecumenical Ministries and the Yolo County Food Bank provided and organized food for the Christmas Boxes. Thank you to Esparto School Students, Countryside Community Church Members, and the community who sorted, packed and delivered the food. A special thank you goes to Durst Organic Farms for providing the cardboard boxes and fresh vegetables. Also, for those who donated anonymously, or continued to donate after the food drive, thank you for your ongoing support of the local food pantry. Many families find the local food pantry useful, not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. A special thank you to the Masons and Renegade Classics for donating toys for the local families who signed up for this year's Christmas Boxes. Thank you to St. Martin's Church, Esparto Fire and Madison Fire, and a charitable supporter for sponsoring local families. *'Tis the Season!!!!* Submitted by the RISE Staff



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Saturday 6:30 P.M.

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

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Pictured above is Jane Stallings accepting the Citizen of the Year Award from Trudie Martin. She accepted it for herself and her husband, David Markham, who passed away in November of this year. See story to the right.

Citizen of the Year Award Goes to Jane Stallings

The Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Jane Stallings and, posthumously, to her husband, David Markham by the Western Yolo Grange at the annual Children's Christmas Play in Guinda on December 10.

Jane & David retired and moved to the Capay Valley 10 years ago. Jane has had an illustrious career in educational research. She was a school teacher with four small children when she became a single mom. She was able to go to Stanford University to complete her PhD in Child Development. David was a true partner to her and provided computer skills and data analysis for many of her research projects. She became the first woman dean at Texas A&M, as well as the president of the National Teaching Research Organization. David also earned a PhD. His career spanned teaching at San Jose State to work on the space shuttle with the MITRE (a technique for analyzing cryptographic protocols). He was a member of several bands and had performed in "Tuba Christmas" for over 25 years at various venues, including in Sacramento.

David and Jane's retirement was filled with continued involvement with educational research. Between 2002 and 2006 they worked for the World Bank & traveled to Morocco, Tunisia, Ghana, Brazil and India.

David served on the Board of the Wayfarers Christian Mission in Woodland for over six years. He was a member of the Capay Valley Chorus and Capay Valley Science Club. Jane serves on the Esparto Unified School District Board of Trustees, where she takes an active interest in the education of all students in the schools. She was one of the founders of the Capay Valley Mothers' Day Garden Tour. She and David were active participants in the Western Yolo Grange, Society of Friends, Rumsey Club, Hoes Down, and the Friends of the Esparto Regional Library. Their generosity and caring has impacted more than just our community.

Submitted by Trudie Martin of the Western Yolo Grange



Los Tios Restaurant Closes its Doors

Located in downtown Esparto, Los Tios Restaurant has been a part of the downtown landscape for the last several years. On Sunday, December 18th, the Esparto community said goodbye to Los Tios as they closed their doors for the last time. Some folks in the community came and toasted Jorge for his vision and great food. Jorge and Bonnie, thank you for all of your great food, great staff, and great service! Los Tios will sorely be missed!

Pictured above are those that joined in this goodbye. From left to right are: Deborah Durst, Pastor Pamela Anderson, Marc Anderson, Vanessa Ponce, Jim Durst, Jorge Nogales, Larry Rolston, Lynn Rolston, Melissa Campos, and James Ousey.

Submitted by Pamela Anderson

Capay Valley Schoolhouse

The Capay Valley Schoolhouse's Independent Study program has been meeting in Esparto throughout the school year. This is our second year offering alternative education to students of Capay Valley and we have grown to include two high school students.

Students who wish to work independently at home choose Capay Valley Schoolhouse, administered through Heritage Peak Charter School, for teacher support and group projects. We are a public school (no tuition) with full accreditation, offering home school support and on-site classes. Our families get to choose their own curriculum and electives that are paid for by the school with individual student budgets.

During the fall semester, our K-6 program offered morning circle with a focus on poetry and social communication. We played a variety of math skills games. We read together Three Cups of Tea, a young readers edition, by Greg Morgenstern, applying reading to studies in geography, history, science, and several writing assignments.

Heritage Peak Charter offers high school students that choose a different path the opportunity to maintain access to a four-year college while engaging in school in the manner that is effective for them. The high school students in our program have the option of taking classes in Vacaville, or online, both with tutoring available. Classes are offered at UC approved college prep level. Independent study offers these students greater flexibility and many students also take concurrent community college classes so that when they graduate they already have some units of college credit.

We are looking forward to a spring semester filled with science projects, shared books and field trips. There is limited enrollment for this coming semester, which begins on January 9. For more information contact Elvira Paoletti at epaoletti@heritagepeak.org, 908-9919.

Submitted by Elvira Paoletti



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



On November 15, 2011 the Yolo County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee) met to discuss the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) and at-large election systems. On November 16, 2011 the District received correspondence from the County Superintendent, Dr. Jorge Ayala, sharing that *"We recommend that you review the information you have received and consider a decision to move to trustee area elections; the County Committee is concerned about your district's vulnerability."*

The California Legislature enacted the California Voting Rights Act in 2001. (See California Elections Code 14025-14032). This legislation makes all at-large election systems in California for cities, school districts and special districts vulnerable to legal attack, largely on proof of racially polarized voting, regardless of whether a majority district can be formed, and under the interpretation adopted by plaintiffs in other pending "CVRA" cases, without regard to the electoral success of minority candidates or the need to prove actual racial injury exists.

The CVRA purports to alter several requirements that plaintiffs would have to prove under the Federal Voting Rights Act, thereby making it easier to challenge at-large election systems.

The first suit under the CVRA was filed against the City of Modesto in 2004. Modesto challenged the racial constitutionality of the CVRA on the basis that, by using race as the sole criterion of liability, the CVRA contains a suspect racial classification that California was required to justify under equal protection strict scrutiny standards. The trial court struck down the statute but the California Court of Appeal reversed (*Sanchez v. City of Modesto* (2006) 145 Cal. App 4th 660).

The City of Modesto ultimately settled the litigation, but not before paying plaintiffs \$3 million dollars in plaintiff attorney fees (the prevailing party [other than a public agency] is entitled to an award of their attorneys' fees and cost under the CVRA) and another \$1.7 million to its own attorneys.

Similarly, the Hanford Joint Union High School District was sued under the CVRA and after adopting trustee areas and establishing by-trustee area elections (and requesting and receiving the same waiver from the State Board of Education that will be presented to the Board), paid plaintiffs in that lawsuit the sum of \$110,000 pursuant to a settlement agreement. Most recently, the Madera Unified School District has been sued under the CVRA and their November 2008 governing board member election was enjoined by the court. The Plaintiffs in that case demanded \$1.8 million in attorney fees from that District.

It is imperative that the Esparto Unified School District adopt a by-trustee area election to avoid the threat of lawsuits under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001. The District currently utilizes an at-large election process to elect its governing board members. The District's failure to successfully adopt and implement trustee areas and a by-trustee area election process leaves it vulnerable to such litigation in which the District would be exposed to potentially having to pay significant attorney fees to plaintiffs, which would pose an undue hardship and extreme detriment to the District and its students.

On December 13, 2011 the Esparto Unified School District heard information on the CVRA and will be taking action on January 10, 2012 as to the direction for future school board member elections in the Esparto Unified School District.

Several public hearings will be taking place to provide the public an opportunity to give input into this process. The District will be working with the County Election Office to draw several maps that will outline the "by trustee" areas from which future school board members will be elected. Once these maps are drawn they will be placed on the District Website and shared at the following public hearings:

- ***Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Marsh Hall, EHS***
- ***Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Grange Hall, Guinda, CA***
- ***Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Marsh Hall, EHS***

Please make every effort to attend one of these meetings to provide your input to this very important process.

News from Esparto High School Rachel Thoene, Principal

As I sit to compose my thoughts for this article, I find I am brushing both glitter and cookie crumbs from the front of my sweater. The holidays are upon us and soon 2011 will be like these crumbs... a faint reminder of all that is behind us.

And yet the New Year looms large with plenty of offerings for success and inspired learning...

Over the past few years, I have transitioned from writing New Year's Resolutions to writing New Year's Intentions... finding that if I make positive assertions, I am far more inclined to actually follow through on them.

My hope is that somehow our students will also find time over the holiday break to reflect on what worked for them this year and also what hasn't worked so that they can resolve to return to school with positive intentions.

Our first semester concludes on January 13 and we have the second semester to look forward to. A new semester is like a new year or a fresh sheet of paper... it presents an opportunity to start over... to do better, to reach higher, study harder and find the strength to be a better student. The new semester is an opportunity to reflect on areas of potential growth and to continue working on areas of strength.

We will be introducing the Illuminate Program in our classes this semester and students will have the opportunity for immediate feedback on their daily academic efforts. They will know within minutes instead of days how they performed on tests and quizzes and our teachers will know immediately which areas need additional time and in depth coverage.

There is much to look forward to and much for which we are thankful during this season. Please help us encourage our students to resolve to daily be the best they can be with great intention. And we will all reap the benefits of our collective successes in the coming year!

Esparto School District Dates to Remember

Wednesday, January 4, 2012: School resumes after Winter Break
Monday, January 9: Minimum Day for all schools
Monday, January 23: Minimum Day for all schools
Wednesday/Thursday, January 11 & 12: Minimum Day for
Esparto High School Only (Finals)
Friday, January 13: End of first semester at Esparto High School
Friday, January 13: NO school for all students: teacher work day
Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

2012 District Events:

Saturday, March 10: 2nd Annual Almond Festival 10K Run & Fun Walk
Saturday, April 28: PTA/District Auction – *Spring Fling 2012*

Free Holiday Recycling at the County Landfill

Free recycling of holiday trees (treecycle) is being offered at the Yolo County Central Landfill from December 26 through January 15. Treecycle turns your holiday tree into valuable renewable and recyclable resources. Trees to be recycled should be free of all ornaments, flocking, tinsel, garland and lights.

Old electronics, such as computers, TVs and monitors, and paper, plastics, cans and bottles can also be recycled every day at the landfill, located at 44090 County Road 28H in Woodland.

Holiday recycling is sponsored by the Yolo County Department of Planning & Public Works, Division of Integrated Waste Management. For information, call (530) 666-8729 or visit: www.yolocounty.org

Note: The Yolo County Central Landfill is closed on Christmas and New Year's day. Normal operating hours of the landfill are Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Beth Gabor, Yolo County Information Officer

AARP TAX-AIDE BEGINS A NEW SEASON OF FREE TAX HELP

AARP Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service, will begin the new tax season on February 1. AARP Tax-Aide provides free tax preparation and assistance for low and middle-income individual taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. You do not have to be a member of AARP or over 60 years old to receive help.

Tax preparation sessions will be held at the Esparto Regional Library at 17065 Yolo Ave. on the following Fridays: February 3, February 17, March 9, March 23, and April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Wintun Room. Please call Eileen at 530-787-3537 to learn more or to make an appointment.

Last year, in Northern California, over 430 volunteers helped more than 33,000 people file their federal, state and local tax returns free of charge. The program has more than 80 sites in senior centers, libraries, and other community meeting places in the area.

The AARP Foundation offers this service in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service. Volunteers are trained using IRS-developed materials, and must take a certification exam each year to qualify to prepare taxes. Tax returns are prepared using software supplied by AARP Tax-Aide and the IRS, and they are electronically filed as part of the free service. Taxpayers receive a copy of the return for their records.

Submitted by Eileen Ricci



To celebrate the 98th birthday of Pearl Jones, long time Valley resident and Western Yolo Grange member, the Capay Valley Chorus, sponsored by Western Yolo Grange, will be performing at her place of residence, the Californian, in Woodland, on January 28 at 6:00 p.m. Pictured above are Pearl Jones and Paul Martin.



Mrs. Tracy Anderson's 1st grade class was among twenty acts that performed at the "Holiday Hoopla", a community talent show produced by Tracy Nash on December 9.

Holiday Hoopla, a Community Event

On December 9, Tracy Nash, and Olivia and Tristan Wetter, sponsored a community talent show. According to the program, the purpose of the event was "to share holiday cheer."

Community member, Julie Rose stated that "Tracy Nash has a gift of bringing the community together. My daughter, EllaRose Eldon sang a solo in front of a completely packed auditorium of 450 people. She would have never been able to do this without Tracy's encouragement. Tracy asked people to participate in the talent show, and all felt honored to do so. Tracy is able to bring out the best of performers on the stage. Tracy even got my husband to get up on that stage during the sing-a-long!"

Esparto 3rd grade teacher, Kari King, whose class also performed, stated, "The schools are on such tight funding now, there are few funds left over for the arts. Tracy rented the theater herself, but was able to recoup her costs by charging \$5 admission. We all are encouraging Tracy to do a spring production as well. It was a great chance for students to shine."

The Hoopla included twenty acts including a video of former EUSD teacher Joy Hoffman's RHOAppleseed school in Zambia. Hoffman and her husband Ken have rented space to provide an educational program for the needy. More information about this program, which is seeking donations, can be found at www.rhoappleseed.org.

Mr. Hall's drama students put on several short skits. First grader, Jade Vanderpool, stole the show with her appropriate rendition of "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth." Recent EHS graduates, Jason Brooks and Zack Hill, had the audience in stitches in their playful interpretation of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Other acts included Esparto Junior Spartans Junior Peewee Cheer, Audrey Fuentes, Susan Watkins, Justin Hardcastle, Miranda Miller, Manny Marques, and Steven Lucas.

The evening ended with a flashmob directed by Olivia Wetter to *Santa Claus is Coming To Town*. I've always wanted to be in a flashmob," reported EUSD student, Mariah Betencourt.

School board President, Pam Miller offered, "I think it was the best talent show we have had. Tracy had preschoolers, as well as graduates, perform. It was an interesting cross-section of our community."

Submitted by Julie Rose

Upcoming PTA Events

Pizza and Poetry Family Writing Night, 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., January 12

Families will be given instructions on how to create simple poems. A poetry binder will be created together. Free Pizza for PTA members. Elementary Cafeteria

PTA Auction and Dinner, 6:00 p.m. at Historic Oakdale Ranch, April 28

Tickets are \$25.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Esparto Lions Club - Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 20, 2012

Madison Town Hall

6:00-7:00 p.m. Social

7:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner

Raffle Prizes

\$40.00 per person - Benefits Lions Local Activities

Ticket outlets:

- Esparto: Burger Barn,
- Capay Valley: Corner Store
- Woodland: Rainbow Auto Glass, 1033 Main St.
- Information: Jim Schulte 530-787-4441

Esparto Lions Club News

The Lions Pumpkin sale totaled over \$1500 dollars. Thanks to the community for supporting this event. Special thanks to Burger Barn and Grab-n-Go for being the outlets for the pumpkins, as well as the Madison store for being an outlet for the Madison Leo's. Thanks to Bob Schaupp for raising the pumpkins.

Madison Leo's Club - A new organization at the Madison High School has been formed which is sponsored by the Esparto Lions. Twenty students signed up as charter members and will be installed at the Jan. 5 meeting of the Esparto Lions Club. They have already participated in the pumpkin sales, Kids' Shopping Day and have sold See's candy for a Lions fundraiser. Jim Schulte is the Advisor.

The Capay Valley Leo's Club is off and running, also. At the last report there were over 30 members. They have also sold See's Candy and assisted with the Kids' Shopping Day. Al Obermueller is the advisor.

The local **Esparto Lions Club** has been busy with: the Homecoming Parade, White Canes, Pumpkin Sales, See's Candy sales and the upcoming Crab Feed in Madison.

The Esparto Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the VFW Hall in Esparto. From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. there is a social. From 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. there is dinner and a program. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Jim Schulte, Membership Chair Person at 530-787-4441. Gabe Galvan is the President of the Esparto Lions Club.

Submitted by Jim Schulte

Western Yolo Grange News

Save the 3rd Tuesday of each month! Come one, come all! to the new meeting time of the Western Yolo Grange at the Grange Hall, 16787 Forest Street, Guinda. The Grange supports family, agriculture and community. We are a community service organization, currently working on creating a vibrant junior and youth grange. We meet at 6:00 p.m. for social, and at 6:30 p.m. for a yummy potluck. Our business meeting is at 7:00 p.m. followed by committee meetings. We will soon be planning our Queen Dinner and Almond Festival activities. We'll be making Almond Rocha and other tasty sale items on the Tuesday evenings in January and February. Call for more information: Trudie Martin 796-3312 or Marian Nichols 796-3424. For more information about the Grange, visit us at www.westernyologrange.org

Submitted by Trudie Martin

The Esparto Writers Group

The Esparto Writers Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Esparto Regional Library from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Writing is an exercise of expression; we appreciate others' efforts; we enjoy the exchange of ideas. Bring copies of your work. We suggest prompts to help along the creative process. Join us.

Submitted by Sandra Pelletier: 530 796-3555 or sandrapelletier@me.com.

Contra Dance at the Guinda Grange Hall on January 21

Please save the date, January 21, for a Contra Dance in Guinda sponsored by the Western Yolo Grange. Erik Hoffman will be the caller, live music by Driving With Fergus. The dance will be in the historic Guinda Grange Hall, well known for its wonderful wooden dance floor. There will be food and drinks for sale at our No-host snack bar.

What is Contra Dancing? Contra Dancing is a form of American folk dance popular in the 1800s, in which the dancers form a set of two parallel lines which run the length of the hall. It is similar to square dancing, but not limited to 4 partners in a set. Each dance is taught by the caller before it is danced, and is prompted as needed during the dance. Beginners are welcome and you don't need to come with a partner as dancers are encouraged to dance with many different partners throughout the evening. The dances have a relaxed, family-like atmosphere and are FUN! Dress is informal, and comfortable shoes are recommended. The live music consists of traditional jigs, reels, and hornpipes from the Scots-Irish tradition, with fiddle often played as the lead instrument. Admission is charged to pay for the hall, caller, and musicians. (Adapted from: A Contra Dance Primer by Les Francey and Farrell Boyce, http://www.hamiltoncontra.ca/a_contra_dancers_primer.htm)

- Location: Guinda Grange Hall, 16787 Forest Ave, Guinda 95637
 - Date: Saturday January 21, 2012
 - Time: Lesson 6:30 p.m., Dance 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
 - Cost: \$10 Adult, \$25 Family, \$5 High school student, Children 13 and under accompanying family members are free.
- Questions? Contact Nina Andres 530-796-4084

Submitted by Nina Andres

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HICAP services of Northern California is a project of Legal Services of Northern California, and is supported by grants from the Area 4, Area 11 and Area 29 Agencies on Aging.

Mission Statement: To provide Medicare beneficiaries and interested persons professional and quality information and resources through individual counseling, community education, and advocacy services.

Why it is important to schedule an appointment:

- Understand Medicare
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- Explore long-term care insurance options
- Enroll in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program
- Learn about saving money on your prescriptions
- Clarify your rights as a healthcare consumer
- Prepare Medicare appeals or challenge claims denials
- Learn about government assistance programs

Call Beth at RISE, Inc. at 530-787-4110 to schedule an appointment for this **free service** with a trained volunteer to meet at 17317 Fremont Street, in Esparto.

Submitted by the RISE Staff

Patrick Scribner



Certified Public Accountant

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Blackwood Legacy to Perform at Guinda Grange

The Blackwood Legacy is comprised of Rick Price, Luke Yates and Daniel Childs, and is one of the most successful and hardest working gospel music groups today. On tour more than 250 dates per year, this group truly demonstrate the love of God through their music, ministry and testimonies.

This award-winning group will be presenting a special concert in our community on Friday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m., at the Western Yolo Grange Hall in Guinda. This event is being sponsored with the Guinda Community United Methodist Church. Admission is free and a love offering will be received.

Built on the legendary music of the Grammy and Dove award winning group, Blackwood Brothers Quartet, Rick Price and Chris Blackwood formed the Blackwood Legacy as a tribute to them. The Blackwood Legacy was recently signed to Mansion Records, and will be soon releasing their first album under the new label.

Inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame with the Blackwood Brothers, Price has over 30 years of gospel music under his belt. Believing "the road to the future is paved with memories of the past," and recognizing the need to reach audiences of all ages, Price has gathered some of the finest musicians on the Gospel scene today. He is joined by Luke Yates, a gifted pianist and amazing vocalist originally from the Spokane, Washington area, and Daniel Childs, the great grandson to the Blackwood Brothers founding father Roy Blackwood, and a well-known musician and singer in his own right. Also appearing are local favorites: the Guinda Community Youth Choir, and the Capay Valley Chorus. Both groups have won first place in the California Grange annual talent show (in consecutive years).

The Western Yolo Grange Hall is located at 16787 Forest Street in Guinda. For more information, please contact the church at 530-796-3312 or www.westernyologrange.org. You can also visit the group's website at www.TheBlackwoodLegacy.com or find them on Facebook.

Submitted by Trudie Martin

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Clinic Hours—Horario De La Clinica

Monday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Lunes: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Martes, miércoles, jueves y viernes: 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

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Pictured left are Roosevelt Tarlesson and his daughter, Cynomeh Tey. Pictured above is the truck that transported their vegetables before the fire.

Guinda Family Are Victims of Fire

On Sunday, December 4, a multi-purpose room at the Tarlesson's family farm in Guinda, California burned to the ground. Most of the children's clothing and hundreds of bibles and school books that had been stored in preparation for shipment to their native country of Liberia were destroyed. So was the truck they used to transport their organic produce to market.

Roosevelt, the family patriarch, credits divine intervention for saving their family home, when strong winds diverted the flames from the main house.

All 16 of the Tarlessons are members of the Western Yolo Grange, where their smiles, native dancing and spirituality is greatly appreciated. They have shared their talents with all of us, entertaining at several of our conventions and events, and helping raise money for many Grange causes. In October, they took home the Samuel L. Williams Trophy for youth participation at our State Convention.

Their family story is a remarkable journey from the jungles of Liberia, where they escaped a violent civil war to travel to America where they started a farm.

Now, they need our help. They need to rebuild the room that was used as a dressing room and study by the children, and to replace the bibles and school books, their produce truck, and eventually the building itself. They are looking for a temporary trailer home or office that can be used, as winter approaches.

Please contribute what you can to help this wonderful family. They are "Grangers." Please send any contributions to the California State Grange, 3830 U Street, Sacramento, CA 95817. Please write in the memo field of a check, "Tarlessons", or to the Western Yolo Grange, P.O. Box 214, Guinda, CA 95637.

Submitted by Trudie Martin

The Tarlesson family would like to thank the many individuals, churches and organizations that have been so helpful and concerned since the fire in their outbuilding on December 4. Some of the groups are who have helped include the Western Yolo Grange and the California State Grange; Guinda Community Church; Countryside Community Church; Capay Valley Christian Fellowship; Calvary Baptist Church of Woodland. Most profound gratitude goes to the Capay Valley Fire Department, not only for their prompt rescue, but also for their generous donations.

The outbuilding in which were stored clothing, also housed the laundry room, shower, and a commode. There was a storage room that contained many thousands of educational materials that were gathered to send to their home country of Liberia and an attached chicken coop –truly a multipurpose building. The truck which was used to transport organic African and Asian vegetables to market was destroyed.


The community has been so generous in their response. All the clothes that can currently be used, since there is so little room for storage, have already been received. A dumpster has been brought in to clean up the mess. Building supplies and monetary donations to help defer the cost of clean-up and rebuilding are what are needed now. Labor to help would also be very appreciated. Further inquiries may be made to Roosevelt Tarlesson at 796-2170 or tarlesson1@frontier.com.

Submitted by Roosevelt Tarlesson

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VALLEY SENIORS' PROGRAM AT RISE
Schedule for December 2011
Sponsored by the Yocha Dehe Community Fund

If you are 55 or over, please join us at RISE, 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto, next to the Esparto Market and the D. Warren Insurance Agency. Join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. For Food, Day Trips, Health, Exercise, Classes and Information.

- January 3** 9:00 Coffee & Light Exercise
10:00 Maria Contreras: Speaker "Green Living"
11:00 Lunch
- January 5** 9:00: Coffee & Legal Services & Senior Resources
11:00: Lunch
- January 10** 9:00 Trip to Museum
- January 12** 9:00 Coffee
10:00 Peggy Phelps: Yolo Adult Day Health Center
11:00 Lunch
- January 17** 9:00 Breakfast and Coffee
10:30 Laura Martinez: Nutrition and Exercise
Noon: Program ends.
- January 19** 9:00 Breakfast and Bowling
- January 24** 9:00 Breakfast
10:30-11:30 Valley Seniors' Computer Class
With Malinda Baker at Esparto Regional Library
- January 26** 9:00 Coffee and Exercise and Movie Day
- January 31** Fifth Tuesday Potluck
Sign-up to Bring a Dish. Raffle...games.

Call Beth @ RISE, 530-787-4110 for questions and updates.
 Submitted by the RISE Staff



Pictured above and to the left are local youth enjoying the RISE intersession programs during the winter break. Children experienced field trips to the Sacramento Children's Museum (left), roller skating and bowling and a day in the park. The next intersession day is scheduled for January 3rd. There will also be an intersession week for the school furlough days from February 13 to 17.



Pictured above: Chapter 169 E Clampus Vitus delivered Christmas gifts to the Guinda Community Church for distribution to Valley children in time for Christmas.

Esparto Little League Sign-ups for Baseball and Softball!

When: January 17, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Esparto Firehouse
 January 24, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Esparto Firehouse
Fees: T-Ball (5-6 yrs) \$40
 Farm (7-8 yrs) \$50
 Minors (9-10 yrs) and Majors (11-12 yrs) \$60 [baseball or softball]
 Juniors (13-14 yrs) \$80
Age is determined by years on April 30, 2012 for baseball and Dec 31, 2011 for softball.

Tryouts: January 28, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m.-EES baseball field or High School in case of inclement weather. Required for farm, minors and majors baseball only.

For more information: contact ELL President Brandy Burns at 787-3746 or try our website www.espartolittleleague.com, where you can download an application and medical release. You can also find us on Facebook.

Submitted by Brian Paddock, Secretary

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Cache Creek Conservancy, Sacramento Tree Foundation and Center for Land-Based Learning Plant Trees at Yolo County's Cache Creek Nature Preserve

On December 14 the Cache Creek Conservancy, the Sacramento Tree Foundation and the Center for Land-Based Learning partnered to plant 200 native trees and shrubs on the grounds of Yolo County's Cache Creek Nature Preserve. Follow up instruction on tree identification, monitoring techniques and how to use handheld GPS devices will be provided in February.

"This collaborative project illustrates the potential for local students to play a central role in positive work for the environment, while learning about career opportunities," said Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain.

The Cache Creek Conservancy, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the restoration of the lower Cache Creek corridor, manages the Cache Creek Nature Preserve which is owned by Yolo County. The conservancy coordinated the tree planting and maintains all plantings for a period of three years.

The Sacramento Tree Foundation, whose mission is to grow healthy, livable communities in the Sacramento region by building the best regional urban forest in the nation, provided the native trees and shrubs and assisted with the planting, including instructional demonstrations. The foundation will assist with the educational program in February.

The Center for Land-Based Learning is dedicated to creating the next generation of farmers and teaching youth about the importance of agriculture and watershed conservation. The center's SLEWS (Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship) program teaches high school students about habitat restoration and protection while working on active projects. By including students in habitat restoration, SLEWS addresses the need for healthier land and more wildlife habitat, and instills conservation and stewardship values in high school students.

Yolo County's Cache Creek Nature Preserve is open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A weekend open day is held on the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information about these programs, contact:
 Cache Creek Conservancy, Lynnel Pollock/Christopher Gardner, (530) 661-1070, cgardner@yolo.com. Submitted by Beth Gabor, Yolo County Information Officer

Is Health Insurance for your Child a Problem??

In these difficult economic and health reform times, good health insurance coverage for your children may be a problem. There are three different publically-supported options now available, which seek to assist many levels of incomes and urgent situations. You may qualify for at least one of these:

- **MediCal**—For those families most in need. Job loss and/or changes in income power may now qualify you. Free review of your eligibility.
- **Healthy Families**—Federally and State Supported with low premiums. Serves the children of families who earn too much for MediCal help. Has low premiums. Once enrolled, your enrollment lasts for a year without further review. Find out today if you qualify.
- **Healthy Kids**—Supported by local funds and efforts. This health insurance option seeks to insure that all children have access to health care. Higher income families can successfully utilize this option. Thanks to the generosity of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, no qualifying local child will be put on a waiting list. Monthly premiums are low.

Check these options out! Free!

If you are interested in further discussing any of these health insurance options, please call RISE Inc. at 787-4110 and ask for a screening appointment with Beth Conn-Ossenfort or Lupe Saucedo. Free. Confidential. RISE will also come to small groups or farm meetings to discuss these options with interested folks. Call today! Submitted by the RISE Staff

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Spanish AA: next to the Esparto Grab 'n Go Market at 16814 Fremont Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Calvary Baptist Church: meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday at Alice Marsh Hall at the Esparto High School.

Capay Valley Christian Fellowship: meets at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday at the Grange Hall on Forest Ave. in 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 first Wednesday of every month at the CVV/Chamber office 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 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Countryside Community Church

ECV Joseph Zumwalt Chapter 169: meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Rose's Island in Esparto. Must be a Clamper. 681-3412 for info.

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

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

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

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

Esparto Unified School Board Meeting: meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Library.

Esparto Writers' Group: meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Library at 6:00 p.m.

FFA Parents: meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Ag classroom at the high school.

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 Elvira Paoletti at 796-4676.

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: 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m. 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.

New Life Christian Center: Sunday Service at 11:00 a.m. with Junior Church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for ages 5-10. Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

Rotary Club of Capay Valley: meets 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the LBL Room above the CVV/Chamber office at 16856 Yolo Ave. in Esparto

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar for January 2012

January 4: School resumes for Esparto students
 January 9: Minimum Day for all Esparto Schools
 January 9: Capay Valley Schoolhouse begins the 2nd semester
 January 10: Public Hearing by EUSD at Marsh Hall at 6:00 p.m.
 January 11 & 12: Minimum Days for Esparto High School
 January 12: PTA Pizza & Poetry Family Writing Night: Esparto elem. cafeteria at 6:00
 January 13: No school for Esparto Students (Teacher Work Day)
 January 13: Blackwood Legacy performs at Guinda Grange Hall at 7:00 p.m.
 January 15: End of free treecycling at Yolo County Central Landfill
 January 16: Holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 17: Children's movie at the Esparto Library at 3:00 p.m.
 January 17: Little League Sign-ups at the Esparto Firehouse starting at 5:30 p.m.
 January 20: Lions Crab Feed at Madison Town Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.
 January 21: Contra Dance at Guinda Grange Hall at 7:00 p.m.
 January 23: Minimum Day for all Esparto Schools
 January 24: Senior Computer Class at the Esparto Library at 10:00 a.m.
 January 24: Little League Sign-ups at the Esparto Firehouse starting at 5:30 p.m.
 January 26: Teen movie night at the Esparto Library at 6:00 p.m.
 January 28: Capay Valley Chorus performs at the Californian in honor of Pearl Jones at 6:00 p.m.

