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RUMSEY

RUMSEY TOWN HALL

The Historic Rumsey Town Hall is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring local farmers, artisans, coffee, homemade cookies and serving the "Now Famous Rumsey Ribs"

RIBS: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until sold out

Live Entertainment: Noon to 3 p.m. "The Marshall Law Band"

Info: www.rumseytownhall.org

GUINDA

THE WESTERN YOLO GRANGE

Western Yolo Grange Hall on Forrest avenue opens at **10:00 a.m.** Lunch is served from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** WYG also hosts an old engine display, a petting zoo, a craft fair, and a sweets table featuring "Grammy Wyatt's Almond Rocha" & delightful almond treats.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Info: www.westernyologrange.org

THE CAPAY VALLEY FIRE STATION

The Capay Valley Fire Fighters on highway 16 in Guinda are serving oysters shrimp & sausage sandwiches at the fire house.

BROOKS

CAPAY VALLEY VINEYARDS

Capay Valley Vineyards is offering wine tasting. They have picnic tables and their gift shop includes locally crafted products.

Wine Tasting: Noon to 5 p.m.

Info: www.capayvalleyvineyards.com

CAPAY

CAPAY JUNCTION

"Historic Capay Junction" will have music, food & T's for 21 & over **Festivities: All day**

Info: call 530-796-2440 Info: www.capayjunction.com

THE ROAD TRIP BAR & GRILL

Road Trip BBQ Plate \$12 Tri-Tip or ribs ~roasted corn on the cob~ chili beans ~potato salad or coleslaw

Road Trip Bar & Grill Run Pins to the first 600 people

Festivities: Live Entertainment: Four Barrel 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Mike Ward & Testify 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Info: 530-796-3777 Info: info@roadtripbg.com

ESPARTO

FIRE STATION

Fire Station Food Court hosted by the Esparto Fire Station, The Esparto Booster Club, and the Esparto Middle School

Enjoy tri-tip sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, cotton candy, beverages, and the new beer & wine kiosk.

Meals range from \$8-10 and include a beverage.

Tri-Tip Meal: 11a.m. to 4 p.m.

MADISON FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSIC CAR SHOW

All Day on North Grafton in Esparto

HIGH SCHOOL

The Esparto Future Farmers of America host the annual pancake breakfast with a full breakfast including sausage and eggs for \$5-\$7

Breakfast: 7:00-11:00 a.m.

ESPARTO PARK

The Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce

The chamber organizes the park events to put on a fantastic almond farming interactive event.

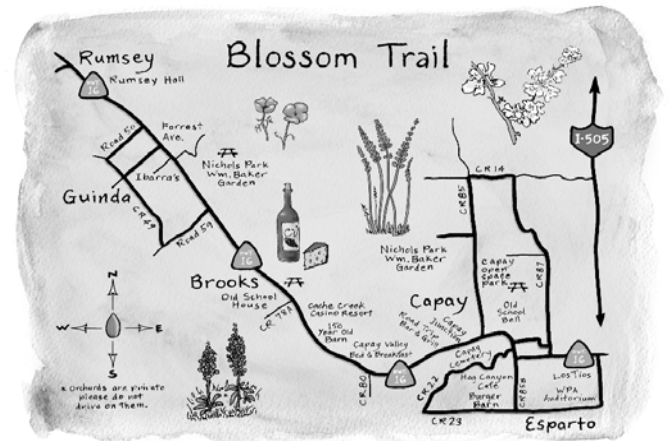
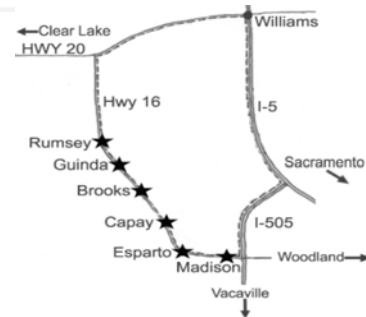
Other activities include: clowns, crafters, artisans, non-profits with fun kids activities, and the live music of the Jim Hunter & Simpson Creek Band.

Park Activities are from **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Info: www.espartoregionalchamber.com



March 2010



Please visit our website www.espartoregionalchamber.com to download your full color fold out map and schedule. Thank you to all our advertisers and sponsors. See pg. 2 for a complete listing of sponsors and advertisers.

For more info on the Almond Festival, please see pages 8 and 9.

Valley Voice

Subscription Form

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

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- Two Years: 24 editions (\$50.00)

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Mail to: RISE, Inc. at P.O. Box 133, Esparto, CA 95627 or drop off at the office in downtown Esparto at 16858 Yolo Ave. .

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**
OR mail your name, address and phone number to the Valley Voice, c/o P.O. Box 133, Esparto, CA 95627.

**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 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 contributions from grants, Foundations, and local community service organizations. Articles published do not necessarily express the views of the Valley Voice editor or committee.

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Submitted by the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce

AARP Tax-Aide

Volunteers from AARP will be at the Esparto Firehouse to help file taxes on the following dates and times:

- Friday, March 12 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 26 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 9 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For an appointment call (530) 787-3537. Ask for Eileen. Available service for those 60 and older and for those with low and moderate income.

Voluntarios estarán en las estación de bomberos de Esparto para ayudar en preparar y archivar sus papeles de impuestos en los próximos días y horas:

- Viernes 12 de marzo 10:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m.
- Viernes 26 de marzo 10:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m.
- Viernes 9 de abril 10:30 a.m. a 12:30 p.m.

Para las citas favor de llamar: (530) 787-3537 para Eileen. Al servicio de los contribuyentes de ingresos bajos y medios, especialmente aquellos de 60 años o más.

Submitted by Eileen Ricci



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MIKE WARD & TESTIFY
4PM - 7PM

CAPAY VALLEY VISION

Preserving a sense of place

Capay Valley Vision Feedback

Recreation District: Good news for our community! The Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a parks and recreation district as part of MERCSA. In addition, they approved seeking a State grant for up to 5 million dollars for the creation of ball fields, soccer field, swimming pool, recreation center, basketball courts and walking paths for community use in Esparto. If funded, this project only needs community support for the maintenance of these facilities. **More good news!** The Esparto Unified School District unanimously voted to allow MERCSA to utilize their 7-acre parcel near the high school for the building of these facilities. That means, if funded, there will be an agreement in place similar to the Esparto library where EUSD still owns the land, but the community, and of course, the students will have access to ball fields, a swimming pool and recreation center. This grant is part of a voter initiative passed several years ago that pays for the creation of new parks and park facilities throughout California. The grant must be submitted by March 1 to meet the first round of funding. Big kudos and thanks go to Trini Campbell with WYORCA for leading the effort; Regina Espinosa of Yolo County and Tim Brock of EUSD for going the extra mile and all of the committee members who have donated so much of their time and energy to make this dream come true for our children and families in the Valley. If you are interested in this project, please let the chairs of the Parks and Recreation Task Force, Ron Voss or Linda Adams, know at revoss@ucdavis.edu or nichademus70@yahoo.com. Capay Valley Vision; New Seasons Community Development Corporation; Knights of Columbus; ECAC; Junior Spartans; WORCA; Esparto PTA; Madison Community Advisory Committee; Esparto Little League; Capay Valley AYSO; RISE, Inc; Capay Valley Rotary; Esparto Unified School District; and MERCSA are all supporters of this project. We are still seeking support from other organizations that are working on recreation needs in our community. If you are interested and have not been contacted, please let Trini Campbell of WYORCA know at trini@riverdogfarm.com.

Streetscape: Esparto Citizens Advisory Committee gathered feedback from many in Esparto about the work on Yolo Ave. As was stated last month, good news and bad news. The street paint and realignment work is continuing and the result will be 11-foot lanes; back-end diagonal parking in some areas and crosswalks on every corner. The stamp print for the crosswalks will not be able to be completed until the dry weather returns. The bad news is we lost a turn lane on Grafton, the signage is confusing and the paving is messy. The locals appointed as volunteers on the Streetscape Task Force will be taking the concerns forward to the next task force meeting when it is scheduled. CalTrans has the final say and their foremost concern is safety.

Submitted by Sue Heitman, CVV Executive Director



Manas Ranch

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

“THE BEST PEACHES IN THE WEST”

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



State Budget:

This month marks the third year that the District must make budget cuts if we are to create a balanced budget. The current proposed budget by the Governor would impose approximately a \$227,000 cut to our District budget. The District office has reviewed possible budget reductions with the School Board at its regularly scheduled school board meetings. This has been a very trying experience for everyone involved as we continue to review what we can do as a District to meet these cuts and continue to provide a quality educational program to the students of the Esparto Unified School District. Our allocation from the State for per pupil budget has gone from \$6,793 in the current year to \$5,546 with an additional \$225 cut for next year's school budget, making our per pupil allocation \$5321.

School Climate Surveys:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who submitted the School Climate Surveys. I shall be working on creating a quantifiable value for each question, tabulating the responses and assigning an average for each question. The numerical value shall range from 4 being high to 1 being low. The information we generate will assist us in better serving the needs of your children. The results will be presented to the Board of Trustees and published in the next Valley Voice. Thank you for your assistance.

California Standards Test:

Please join me in congratulating Esparto Elementary School students for meeting their API/AYP benchmarks on last year's state testing. All students performed at the benchmark levels required. A special thanks to all of the staff at the elementary school for the work they have done to assist students in learning the grade level standards.

Esparto Unified School District Receives Check from PG&E

During the February 3, 2010 Board Meeting, PG&E presented Esparto Unified School District with an Energy Conservation Rebate Check in the amount of \$11,081. This check was presented to the district for including various energy savings features in the design of the new Multi-Purpose facility at Esparto Middle School. The District design team, headed by Dwayne Evans, Architect, designed the new Multi-Purpose room to include energy saving features in compliance with Title IX energy conservation goals. Based upon achieving these goals, PG&E presented the District with incentive funding for achieving energy efficiency in both the facility design and equipment installed.

Submitted by Susie Hedrick

Pictured below: Barbara Butterfield (left, Customer & Community Relations Manager for PG&E), presents the rebate check to Esparto Unified School District Board members (left to right): Pam Miller, James Schulte, Jane Stallings, and Allison Lucero.



Esparto Writers' Group

The next meeting of the Esparto Writers' Group is on Thursday, March 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Esparto Regional Library. Everyone interested in writing and sharing their writing is welcome. Our take-home writing prompt for March is "why we don't like to write". In our February meeting we wrote on the prompt "why we like to write".

We now include writing to a prompt in our meeting and it has added a new, exciting dimension. For March we are going to try some poetry! For more information please contact Barbara Durst by email, bdurst@mac.com, or phone, 666-3104.

Submitted by Barbara Durst

Countryside Community Church

Bring your children to Sunday School and
Worship with us
at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

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Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson, Pastor
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For more information, call
(530) 796-2214.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Provides \$100,000 in Emergency Relief to Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has provided \$100,000 to assist the Cheyenne River Sioux with disaster relief efforts. Severe winter storms have caused critical damage on the Northern Plains reservation, leaving Cheyenne River tribal members without electricity, heat and running water for more than a week in some cases.

"This is a time for our nation to come to the assistance of another tribe in desperate need. Our Tribal Council was deeply moved by the profound damage the Cheyenne River Sioux people are suffering in these winter storms," said Yocha Dehe Tribal Chairman Marshall McKay. "We took immediate action after receiving the press release declaring disaster on the South Dakota reservation, and we hope that further government assistance will reach them with speed and efficiency."

The January 22nd ice storm that hit the Dakotas, hit the Cheyenne River reservation especially hard, knocking down nearly 3,000 power lines that provided electricity to the tribe. Thousands of already impoverished residents were without electricity or heat for nearly a week, with wind chill factors well below zero. The loss of electricity crippled the aging water system, and knocked out all running water on the reservation.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is committed to standing together with other tribal and non-tribal governments to face challenges that impact Native people everywhere. "We stand in kinship with the San Manual Band of Mission Indians and the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations in our commitment to help our Cheyenne River brothers and sisters come out of this crisis swiftly and safely," said Chairman McKay. The Yocha Dehe Tribal Council called Cheyenne River Chairman Joe Brings Plenty directly to notify him that their support was on its way.

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

Submitted by Brent Andrew at bandrew@pyramidcommunications.com

Community Medical Centers

Esparto

17050 Grafton Street

Esparto CA 05627

(530) 787-3454

Medical Services for the Entire Family

General Medicine-Family Planning-Prenatal Care

Well Baby Care and Immunizations

Employment Physicals -DMV Physicals and Sports Physicals

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Exámenes físicos: de Empleo, Licencia de Manejar y Deportes

Consejería y Educación de Salud

Proveedores de exámenes de CHDP-Servicios de WIC

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.

SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
CITAS DISPONIBLES EL MISMO DÍA

News from Esparto High School FFA and Ag Department

FFA Almond Festival Breakfast: March 14, 7-11 a.m.

Pancakes, Omelet, ham, sausage, Juice, coffee or milk for \$7.00

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, Juice coffee or milk for \$5.00

FFA Drive-Thru Tri-tip BBQ: Wednesday, March 24, from 3-6 p.m.

Pick up behind the library at the Ag Dept.

Meal for 4, \$30

Meal for 2, \$15

Whole Tri-tip, \$15

Students run for Regional Proficiency award:

Margot Dittmar- Diversified Crop Production Placement

Hannah Muller- Outdoor Recreation Placement REGIONAL

WINNER!!!! She will now compete for the state award in April.

State Degree recipients: These students worked really hard on their supervised agricultural enterprise projects and have to earn \$1,500 and work over 500 hours to be eligible. Only 2% of state FFA members reach this distinguished accomplishment.

Margot Dittmar Roman Reyes

Miles Eldon P.J. Scribner

FFA Judging teams: This is the Ag Department's busiest season, from now to May we are spending our afternoons with judging teams and weekends all around the state at various competitions. Our first competition was in Arbuckle and in Ag. Mechanics we placed 8th out of 25 teams. The Floral team also placed 8th out of 25 teams. Carolann Clark had the second best corsage this weekend and placed 14th as an individual out of about 100 students! The following students participated, so please congratulate them for doing so well at their first competition. →→→→→

Horse Judging

Jessica Knolle

Rizpah Bellard

Floral Judging

Carolann Clark

Mallarie Goeman

Gretchen Karlstad

Jaelyn Dutton

Monica Quiroz

Carolina Sandoval

Claider Garrido

Ag. Mechanics

Miles Eldon

Nick McCoy

Dusty Hayes

Mason Gooder

David Tague

Mark Vazquez

Phillip Middlerider

Christian Berlin

Submitted by
Tim Reid,
EHS Ag teacher

Countryside Community Church Activities

Community Bible Study:

Countryside Community Church will be starting a Bible Study class on Thursday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Entitled "The Alpha Course", it features a video series that focuses on the basics of the Bible and our faith. If you're interested in joining us, feel free to show up on the day. The church is located at the corner of Fremont & Grafton. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact the pastor of the church, Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson, at: Pamela-usa@hotmail.com, or call the church office at 787-3586. She would love to hear from you!

Country Store for the Almond Festival:

Countryside Community Church's Country Store will be open during the Almond Festival on March 14th from 7a.m. to 4 p.m. Be sure to come by for sweets and free coffee as you peruse the tables for homemade crafts, plants, fabric, etc. You can also buy raffle tickets for our historic and beautiful hand-crafted quilt, made by some of our church's matriarchs in the 1950's. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Meanwhile, if there are items that you would like to donate to the church's Country Store, please give us a call at 787-3586. Remember that donations are tax deductible.

Easter Craft Fair :

Come to Countryside Community Church on Friday, March 26th, from 7-9 p.m. to make Easter crafts. It's free! Bring the kids and the entire family. This event is for all ages and will be loads of fun! We are located at the corner of Fremont & Grafton. For more information about Countryside Church, go to our website at www.countrysidechurch.us. See you then!

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Pamela Anderson

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Marilyn Garcia was born on August 25, 1992 to Irma and Leo Garcia. She has two older siblings Roy and Isabel. Marilyn was born in Woodland and has been living in the small and beautiful town of Madison for 16 years. She enjoys being a Spartan at Esparto High School where she is involved in the Culinary Appreciation Club and Cheerleading. She enjoys being President of the Associated Student Body where her duties are to properly represent the students at EHS. Marilyn likes to read the daily bulletin announcements and plan events such as Homecoming and Winter Ball. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, shopping, traveling, and taking long walks on the beach. In the future, Marilyn would like to attend community college and transfer to a four year university like UC Davis to find her career path.



Heidi Hart, a senior at Esparto High School, has lived in the Capay Valley for almost two years. In her junior and senior year she has been an active founding member in the high schools club CACE, the Culinary Appreciation Club of Esparto. She is the youngest of three children and lives with her mother on a 60 acre almond orchard in a nearly 100 year old house. Heidi has been accepted to the Dominican University of California in San Rafael. She has been awarded a half ride scholarship from that institution. She plans on majoring in sustainable business administration. Her dream in life is to own a large ranch with a custom home where she can help people and animals less fortunate than herself.



Katherine McCoy is a senior at Esparto High School. She has been attending Esparto schools for nine years. For the past four years at EHS, Katherine has played both basketball and softball, and is actively involved in many clubs including Leo's club, Friday Night Live, Yufa Star, Music Art and Drama Club, and the Culinary Appreciation Club. In her free time she enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her family and friends. After Katherine graduates, she plans to attend American River College and pursue a career in culinary arts. She plans to one day open her own restaurant.

Almond Queen Pageant

The annual Almond Queen Pageant will be held on Saturday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Guinda Grange Hall. The Master of Ceremonies will be Austin Large, former teacher at Esparto High School.

Rumsey Improvement Association and Western Yolo Grange are sponsors of this event. Linda Wilson has volunteered to be the Pageant Coordinator again this year. The Queen Pageant has been held since 1915 with over 750 young women of our community participating in it. The pageant will be preceded by a roast beef dinner served by Western Yolo Grange at 7:00 p.m. (Vegetarian dinners will also be available)

This year eight young women, all seniors at Esparto High School, will be competing for the coveted title of Almond Queen. Along with the queen, two runners-up are chosen. All are evaluated on their writing skills, general knowledge of current events, personal skills, and public speaking abilities. Three community members serve in the difficult position as judges for this event. This year they are Helen Voss, Mike Chandler, and Paula Lorenzo Tackett. Prior to the pageant, the candidates are personally interviewed by each of the judges.

The winner will receive a scholarship of \$1000, the runner-up one for \$250. All other contestants receive \$50. All of these prizes come from money that is donated. A raffle held after the pageant has products and goods from many area businesses.

Tickets may be purchased at the Corner Store in Guinda, New Reflections and the Burger Barn in Esparto. You may also call 530-796-3424 for tickets and more information. The price is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 12. Monetary donations and prizes for the raffle are gratefully accepted.



Amanda Muller, seventeen, is the daughter of Tom and Michelle Muller. Born in Woodland, California, Miss Muller currently resides with her parents in Esparto. Amanda has two brothers, Blake and Charlie. Her education began at Woodland Christian School and continued at Esparto Middle School in the eighth grade. Currently, Amanda is a senior at Esparto High School where her favorite extracurricular activities include basketball, FFA and 4-H. Some of her community service has included being a Little League Assistant Coach, Vacation Bible School Leader, and helping with the local community canned food drive. During the summer months she is referred to by local area children as a favorite babysitter. Upon graduating, Amanda plans to further her education at California State University, Sonoma, where she will pursue a bachelor's of science in nursing. Sponsoring Amanda Muller is Reputable Insurance Services, Gretchen Rooney Adan.



Hannah Rose Rivers Muller was born and raised on Full Belly Farm and is a proud resident of the Capay Valley. A senior at Esparto High School, Hannah is active in numerous organizations and activities. She is currently serving as the Esparto FFA Chapter's president, is a member of the National Honor Society, is on the Varsity Soccer Team, and is an active participant in the Music Art and Drama Club. Upon graduation Hannah plans on attending college in Oregon, at either Oregon State University or University of Oregon where she will study sociology and peace studies. In her spare time, Hannah enjoys reading, writing, creating art, and traveling. Hannah also enjoys spending time with her parents, Paul Muller and Dru Rivers, and her three older siblings, Rye, Hallie, and Amon. Hannah is grateful for this opportunity and would like to say a special thank you to her sponsors, Jane and David Stallings.



Twelfth Edition, Volume 3, March 2010

Whitney Riccomini is a senior at Esparto High School. She has only been a resident of Esparto for the last two years, but loves living in Esparto. She was born in Walnut Creek, California and lived in Fairfield until she was 16. Her interests include writing, music, swimming and photography. After graduating, Whitney plans on studying journalism and attending Woodland Community College or Sacramento City College before transferring to UC Davis.



Yomah Tendeh Teah was born on May 23, 1991 in West Africa (Liberia). She is the daughter of Edward and Martha Teah. She has seven brothers and sisters, including one twin sister. One week after Yomah was born, her family had to leave Liberia to live in the Ivory Coast, a French Country, because of the civil war in Liberia. While living in the Ivory Coast, Yomah began attending school and taking French and English language lessons. Yomah is trilingual. In December of 2002, Yomah came to live with her aunt Cynnomyh Tarlesson and immigrated to the United States. She is currently living happily in the United States and searching for a better future through education.

Ditjola Naco was born in Albania in November 1992. She has lived in Tirana (Albania's capital) for her entire life. Ditjola's hobbies are reading, writing, acting and learning foreign languages. She speaks English, Italian, French and Albanian. Ditjola is part of the YES exchange program. She has been in the U.S. for six months and she is a senior at Esparto High School. Ditjola is a member of FFA, Leo's Club and the MAAD Club. In the future she wants to study International Relationships in Europe, and she wants to be involved in the political life of her home country.



2010 Capay Valley Almond Festival

Capay Valley will celebrate the 95th Annual Almond Festival Sunday March 14, 2010. Rain or shine the Festival will greet visitors to the scenic Capay Valley.

This celebration of the Capay Valley's rural heritage will feature many events and activities throughout the Valley. Live music, crafts, food and exhibits will be available from Esparto to Rumsey.

The Almond Queen dinner sponsored by The Rumsey Improvement Club and Western Yolo Grange will be held at the Grange Hall on Saturday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. Seniors from Esparto High School will compete for the title of Almond Queen.

Almond Festival Day events in the Valley: Guinda, the home of the 4-H petting zoo, craft fair and old engine display, will greet all. Lunch will be available inside the Guinda Grange Hall. Grammy Wyatt's famous almond roca and baked goods will be on sale at the Grange Hall located at Forrest Ave. in Guinda

Rumsey is the final destination for visitors where Rumsey's famous ribs will be served out doors. Come inside the Rumsey Hall which will feature many local items and crafts for sale.

Mark you calendar and welcome spring by viewing the beautiful Capay Valley adorned with almond blossoms on March 14.

Submitted by Marian Nichols

And don't forget the FFA Pancake Breakfast.....

On March 14, 2010, The Esparto FFA (Future Farmers of America) is hosting their Annual Almond Festival Breakfast. They will be serving a complete pancake breakfast from about 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Esparto High School gymnasium. This is their biggest fundraiser of the year where they earn the majority of the money they need for their chapter. They hope to get a large turnout and will be making loads of pancakes and omelets.

There is also The Almond Queen Pageant held the Saturday before the festival on March 6th. Once the queen, Miss Congeniality, and the runner up are chosen on a basis of a combined result of interviews, and speeches they will be seen traveling around the various locations participating in activities during the Almond festival.

This Festival is of great importance to our entire region, and is a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy this beautiful area. So stop by the Esparto High School gym, and anywhere in the Capay Valley for an experience you are sure to never forget.

Submitted by Amber Charter, EHS Ag teacher



Essential Building Blocks for Literacy
Raise an Enthusiastic and Successful Reader

Reading to children gives them the opportunity to explore exciting new worlds and learn about people and places. It also creates an appreciation for the fun and educational value books offer, allowing children to expand their imaginations. Parents and caregivers can build a foundation for literacy and strengthen bonds with their children by reading to them starting at an early age. Research shows that children whose parents read to them tend to become stronger readers and perform better in school.

In honor of the National Education Association's *Read Across America Day* on March 2, First 5 Yolo offers the following tips to encourage you and your family to explore the magic of reading together.

Highlight the Fun of Reading

Instill a love of reading in your child by making reading enjoyable.

- Read aloud with your child and ask questions to help him or her follow along. Hearing the sound of a familiar voice helps stimulate the child's mind and build vocabulary skills. There are many interesting and fun books to capture the interest of a child.
- Inspire a love of words by playing word games, rhyming, singing and telling stories together. Develop language skills by talking about daily activities and sharing stories about your family or culture. Encourage children to ask questions about these stories and to retell them in their own words.
- Allow your child to hold books and turn the pages. Encourage him or her to point to pictures and words on the page and even read the words when able to do so.

Make Reading a Habit

Read together every day to help your child enter school better prepared.

- Begin reading to your child as soon as you can – it is never too early.
- Take books everywhere and read while on the go – at the doctor's office, in line at the store, on a long car ride or on the bus.
- Show your child how reading is used everywhere around us. Together, read street and store signs, maps, billboards, menus and labels on packages.

Encourage Children to Explore the Library

Take a trip to the library to enjoy the latest books and free reading materials.

- Help your child sign up for a library card and attend story times and other free events at your local library.
- Let your child choose books you can read together.
- Create a library at home where a variety of interesting reading materials always is available to your child. Get books that interest your child.

For more information about First 5 Yolo's programs, services and resources, including early childhood literacy, please visit www.first5yolo.org or www.first5california.com/ parents.

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**“VALLEY SENIORS” PROGRAM AT RISE,
 SCHEDULE FOR MARCH**

SPONSORED BY THE YOCHA DEHE COMMUNITY FUND.

If you are 55 or over, please join us at RISE on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 17317 Fremont Street in Esparto,

- MARCH 2 :** 10:00 Light Exercise
 11:00 Brunch at RISE
 12:00 Nutrition with Laura Martinez
- MARCH 4:** 10:00: Deputy Stephanie Stuck, Mix and Mingle
 11:00 Brunch at RISE
- MARCH 9:** 10:00-12:00 Malinda Baker, Digital Stories
 12:00 Brunch at RISE
- MARCH 11:** 11:00 Speaker: Cathie Wicks, Executive Director
 “History & Current Services at RISE”
 12:00 Lunch
- MARCH 16:** 10:00 Light Exercise
 11:00 Brunch at RISE
 12:00 Nutrition With Laura Martinez
- MARCH 18:** 8:30 Leave for UCD Arboretum
 Touring and Shopping and Lunch
- MARCH 23:** Trip to Sacramento Spa, Lunch & Asian Market
 Leave at 9:00 am return by 4:00 pm
 Call to reserve a spot.
- MARCH 25:** 10:00 Sue Heitman on The Esparto Streetscape
 12:00 Brunch at RISE
- MARCH 30:** 10:00-1:00 Learn to Knit
 11:00 Lunch at RISE

Call Beth @ RISE, 530-787-4110 FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES.
 Submitted by the RISE Staff

Building Amnesty Program

Through the Yolo County Building Amnesty Program, between March 1 and June 1, 2010, owners of property in the unincorporated areas of Yolo County will have the opportunity to apply for building permits through the Yolo County Planning & Public Works Department for buildings, additions, remodels, electrical, plumbing and mechanical work that was not completed with the benefit of permits and the associated inspections. The benefits of obtaining building permits through the Building Amnesty Program include:

- Double building permit penalty fee waived
- Use of the building code that was in effect at the time of construction (typically less restrictive)
- No civil penalties assessed for site development work without permits
- Removal of deed recorded Violation for Non-Compliance on property file
- Assignment of Yolo County Planning & Public Works staff to assist with the application process.

Property owners who secure retroactive permits through this program must still comply with all provisions of Yolo County development regulations, i.e. floodplain, building and fire codes, zoning and improvement standards, and health regulations for septic and well designs. This program is only available for uses allowed within the zoning classification for the parcel. For example, an auto repair shop built illegally in a residential neighborhood would not be able to obtain zoning approvals through this process.

For more information on Yolo County's Building Amnesty Program, contact Lonell Butler, Chief Building Official, Yolo County Planning & Public Works Department (530) 666-8775
 Submitted by Beth Gabor, YC Information Officer



Front: Howard Plank, Joe Maloney, Clarence Van Hook, Rigo Torres, Marilyn Faye (VIP Guest), Peter Faye (VIP Guest), Mia Durham. Back: Dean Labadie, Karl Diekman (Governor Elect), Robert Haywood, Earl Kilmer (Governor), Larry Rolston, Crystal Smyth, Karen Compton, Patrick Scribner, Ann Del Castillo, Michael B. Chandler, John Hulsman, Bonnie Stormont, Tom Lopez, Bill Hailey, Shirlee Hailey and Jean Chevalier.

Rotary Club Introduced to the Capay Valley

The Rotary Club of Capay Valley in Brooks is proud to be serving the community as they strive to achieve 'Service Above Self.' Currently, the club has close to 25 members who have a common goal of promoting high ethical standards and the ideal of service in their personal, business and community lives. Membership offers a number of benefits including: leadership skills, networking, community support, and the potential to have an impact on international humanitarian efforts. If interested in joining, potential members are encouraged to attend a weekly meeting held at C² inside Cache Creek Casino Resort at 7:00 a.m. every Friday. For more information, please contact Michael Chandler at 530-796-2500 or visit www.capayvalleyrotary.com.

Submitted by Crystal Smyth

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From Trash to Masterpiece!

My Kindergarten class at Esparto Elementary School has worked on a project to transform trash into a beautiful work of art. We started by watching a fun video, [Here Comes a Trash Truck](#), on the growing problem of excessive waste in our country. We then collected a week's worth of trash - it was a mountain! We wanted to see how much could be recycled and how much was actually trash. The results were amazing! After sorting through each piece and determining which pile it went to, we ended up with two huge bags and two boxes of all recyclables and one plastic grocery store bag of actual trash. The following day I made my way to the Esparto Redemption Center. Here I was happily greeted by Jim Haitt and shown the ropes. Our class had fun, made discoveries about recycling, and actually inspired others in our effort, while meeting our state standards.

Local artist, Melissa Chandon, came to school to help our class with this recycling project. She talked to us about her life as an artist and her concerns with the preservation of our planet. Since we had collected a week's worth of trash, Melissa, our class, and one of our parents, Christy Rabaino, were able to create an amazing bulletin board of which we are very proud. It is made with 98% recycled products. We used water bottles, card board, reused fabric, recycled paper, toilet paper rolls, news paper and junk mail. All the while meeting our state standards. We hope that you enjoy the beauty of the masterpiece and feel inspired as well. It will be on display on the north end bulletin board in the main building of the school until March 6th. Please come and see it for yourself.

Submitted by Sara Robles, Kinder Teacher



PTA's Sock Hop

Thursday, March 18 from 5:00-6:45 p.m. EES
 \$1 Admission and PTA members are free
 Hot dogs and other food will be sold
 Wear your poodle shirts and rolled up jeans
 Come listen to '50s music and rock around the clock.
 PTA shirts and socks will be sold.

Submitted by Julie Rose

PTA Story Night at Esparto Elementary Thursday, March 4: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wear your pajamas and help celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Families will rotate through three stations with featured readers:
 Room 4: Mrs. Mezger, Esparto 1st grade teacher
 Room 6: Queen Malinda Baker, Esparto librarian
 Room 7: Veronica Michael, principal EES

Will you hear about mysterious pirates, kings or dangerous dinosaurs? We know for sure, you'll get milk and cookies at the end of your listening journey! Check in at EES Main Entrance for your party's schedule. Make sure you arrive early as the reading performances begin right at 6:00!

FREE FOR PTA MEMBERS/ \$1 for non members.

Submitted by Julie Rose

Esparto Elementary Principal's Corner

Wow! That summarizes last night's PTA Talent Show. I am so proud of all of the students who performed. The show was a great success! Thanks to Kari King for chairing this event.

February was filled with special events. EES and Yocha De He Wintun Academy enjoyed a B Street Theater performance of "The Jungle Book". It is through partnerships like the one we have with Yocha Dehe that makes it possible to bring the arts to our students.

In the coming days, your child will be bringing home a SmileSafeKids identification card. This is provided to all children by our school photographer, Life-touch.

Please support Esparto Elementary School at our Caramel Apple booth at this year's Almond Festival.

Enjoy March and the promise of spring.

Veronica Michael

Upcoming dates:

Minimum days: March 8 and 22
 March 2 - Read Across America
 March 4 - PTA Story night
 March 11 - ELAC meeting
 March 14 - Almond Festival
 March 18 - School Site Council
 March 31 - First day of CST (California Standards testing)

Esparto High School Sober Grad Night

When: May 28/29, 2010

Where: EHS/Woodland Norcal Inline Sports

Time: 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

10:30 p.m. Check in front of EHS auditorium

11:00 p.m. Dr. Hill's hypnotist show

12:30 a.m. Buses leave for Woodland

5:30 a.m. students deboard at EHS

Cost: Seniors FREE if permission is received by 3/31/10

9th, 10th, and 11th graders \$15.00

IF PERMISSION SLIPS ARE RECEIVED BY 3/31/10

\$25 after April 1

This year, Esparto High School students are invited to a "Sober Grad Night" celebration on May 28/29, 2010 at Norcal Inline Sports. Volunteer parents, businesses, and community friends are sponsoring the Sober Grad Night activities.

Students should wear socks and shoes appropriate for rock climbing. All other costs are covered by Sober Grad. The students will be treated to a hypnotist show, skating, dancing, music, rock climbing, Casino type games, food and drinks.

This will be the seventeenth year of providing this unique activity for the students of Esparto. Additionally, our high school is small enough that other enrolled students (freshman, sophomores, and juniors) are also invited to attend; making it a school-wide event. The cost for the underclassmen will be \$15.00 this year. This event is for EHS students. Parents and community volunteers over 21 are invited to come help supervise this great celebration. Please RSVP in advance to the number below.

Discount Ticket sales start March 1- March 31. Only 200 tickets will be sold. First come first serve. After March 31, all tickets will be \$25.

EHS students must ride the bus to and from Woodland in order to attend Sober Grad. Please return permission form and \$\$\$ to the EHS office no later than March 31. Checks may be made out to Rise/Sober Grad.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may call one of the Sober Grad night committee members: Julie Rose 796-3437, Renee Harmon 787-3757, Kim Pearson 787-1819, Pixie Madigan 787-3975

8th graders may not attend this event.

Submitted by Sober Grad Night committee

Esparto Middle School Student Wins Tickets To the Shriners East-West College Game

Tanner Fellows, an eighth grade honor roll student at Esparto Middle School, played football for the Woodland Junior Wolves. Tanner was the only player on the team that played both offensive and defensive positions. He was recognized as an all-star player and invited to play in the Shriners All Star Game. Over 200 athletes from all over California gained this recognition. In late November 2009, this game was played on fields at Cal State Sacramento. Their team was the winning West Coast team, which earned them the right to play in the Shriners Youth Super Bowl in Orlando, Florida. The West Coast team played the East Coast team from Florida with the West winning. Tanner and his teammates were awarded their "super bowl rings".

All 200 athletes from California were given the opportunity to fund raise for the Shriners. The top two fund raisers were given tickets to the Shriners' College East-West Game on January 21. Tanner worked hard at fundraising in the communities of Yolo County. Businesses, individuals, and other interested persons donated to this cause. Tanner was one of two top winners, both of whom presented the Shriners with over \$5000 each. The fundraising efforts of all the athletes in the All Star Games raised over \$100,000 to give to the Shriners causes.

Every year since 1925, the East-West Game has been played to raise funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children and to raise awareness about the expert orthopedic, burn, spinal cord injury rehabilitation, and cleft lip and palate care, available at no charge to patients and families, through the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Tanner and his dad, Turk Fellows, traveled to Orlando, and spent a week taking part in many of the activities surrounding the College East-West Game. Tanner met current, and retired NFL players, as well as other football players and coaches. During the game Tanner was the ball boy for the West team.

This event was definitely a highlight of Tanner's 13 years. Congratulations to Tanner on this outstanding achievement!

Information provided by Turk Fellows

Esparto High School Senior to Have Poem Published

Esparto Unified School District is proud to announce that Maria Sandoval, a senior at Esparto High School, will have a poem published in the next A Celebration of Poets anthology. Thousands of entries across the nation were submitted and Maria's work is being considered as one of the top ten. She may be in line for up to \$3000 in scholarship money for her winning poem.

Masquerade

Written by Maria Sandoval

Dancing so swiftly
The unknown faces
Moving at once, quickly
Twirling in an unbound circle

Those eyes I see
Behind the mask
Speak to me
In ancient rhyme

We dance 'til the midnight hour
Our spirits filled with glee
The night exposed to magic power
I see the dawn, breaking the spell

We mourn the night's farewell
The magic of the night
It seems, I soon befell
To the dancing this wondrous masquerade.

Submitted by Aida Buelna

Esparto Little League News

Sunday, March 14th: Almond Festival– Volunteers needed to sell drinks

- Need help on 13th afternoon/evening and all day on 14th
- Contact Kent Harmon at 787-3757 to schedule.

Saturday, April 17th: Picture Day (Free 3x 5, 5 x 7 team, 4 wallets or order more)

- Baseball/Softball clinic before/after pictures

Thurs./Friday, May 27th or 28th: probable last regular season game

2nd Week of June: minors Softball and Baseball Tournament of Champions

3rd Week of June: majors Softball and Baseball Tournament of Champions

Late June/Early July: All Stars Softball and Baseball majors and minors

Late June/4 July: Fireworks Sale Fundraiser

- **NEED ADULT VOLUNTEERS!**

Can anyone volunteer to do a website for us?

Esparto Little League is actively seeking donors and sponsors for the 2010 season. Not all players can afford the fees, we try to keep our fees the lowest in the district, your tax deductible donations and sponsorships help. Consider sponsoring a team with your organization printed on the back of the jersey and/or a 4ft X 6ft banner at the EES outfield fence. Please contact Kent Harmon at 787-3757. Submitted by Brian Paddock

FFA Booster Raffle

The Esparto High School FFA Booster Club is having a fund raiser to help support the FFA students at the high school this year. Two halves of a pork are being raffled off. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$20.00. The winners will receive their prizes processed, cut and wrapped. They will even deliver the winning half up to 100 miles from Esparto.

Several students going to the State Convention in Fresno in April need help funding this venture. This raffle will help them. Also, the Boosters are funding a few students money to raise an animal to show in the Yolo County Fair. Many more projects for the students are planned.

Tickets will be sold at the Donkey Basketball game, the FFA Breakfast at the Almond Festival, or can be purchased from any FFA Booster member, or call 796-3253. Thank you for your support.

Submitted by Julie Farnham, FFA Booster President

Transition Fair for High School Special Needs Students

Yolo County SELPA and Woodland Community College will be hosting the 14th Annual Transition Fair for high school students with special needs and their families who are interested in planning for their student's transition to adult living. Community agency representatives will be on hand for presentations and questions. The event will take place on March 11, 2010, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Woodland Community College, 2300 E. Gibson Rd., Community Room, Building 800, in Woodland. The event and parking are free. RSVP to 530-668-3786 or email vinceena.irgens@ycoe.org.

Submitted by Vinceena Irgens



Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure"

In early May, Gloria Bailey of the Esparto Post Office, will once again enter the Sacramento "Race for the Cure", sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation Fight for Breast Cancer. This is the third year she will be racing in loving memory of local women: Kathy Barsotti, Linda Burrage, and Leslie Roath.

If anyone wishes to donate to this race through Gloria, donations may be given to her at the Esparto Post Office.

More information will be in a future edition of the Valley Voice.

Submitted by Gloria Bailey

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 March 2010 (as mentioned in this paper)

- March 1: Yolo County Building Amnesty Program begins
- March 2: Read Across America Day
- March 4: Bible Study class begins at Countryside Community Church at 10:00 a.m.
- March 4: PTA Story Night at Esparto Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- March 6: Almond Queen Pageant in the Guinda Grange Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- March 8: Minimum Day for all Esparto Schools
- March 11: Yolo County Transition Fair for Special Needs Students at Woodland Community College from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- March 12: Tax Assistance for Seniors and low income residents at the Esparto Fire House from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- March 14: Almond Festival in Esparto and the Capay Valley (all day)
- March 18: Esparto Writers' Group meet from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Esparto Library
- March 18: EES PTA Sock Hop in the multipurpose room at Esparto Elementary School from 5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
- March 22: Minimum Day for all Esparto Schools
- March 26: Easter Craft Fair at the Countryside Community Church from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- March 26: Tax Assistance for Seniors and low income residents at the Esparto Fire House from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

