

The background of the entire image is a white-painted wooden plank surface. Scattered across this surface are several almond blossom branches and individual petals. One branch enters from the top left, another from the top center, and a larger, more prominent branch enters from the bottom left, extending towards the center. These branches bear white, five-petaled flowers with yellow centers and green leaves. Numerous individual white petals are also scattered across the wooden planks, particularly on the right side.

Capay Valley Almond Festival 2020

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Welcome to the 105th Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 105th Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival being held all day Sunday, February 23 throughout Capay Valley!

The Capay Valley Almond Festival began in 1915 and has been a Northern California tradition ever since. What began in the fall after each year’s annual harvest was later moved to the spring to show off the beauty and wonder of the annual pink and white almond blossoms.

Did you know that our Almond Festival is the only known 6-town event in California? It begins in Madison and continues along scenic Highway 16 through the towns of Esparto, Capay, Brooks, Guinda ending at the top of the valley in Rumsey with each community along the route proudly displaying local food, arts, crafts, music. There’s even a vintage car show along the route as well as the highly anticipated Annual Almond Queen Pageant culminating in the crowning of our 2020 Almond Festival Queen and her court making appearances in each town.

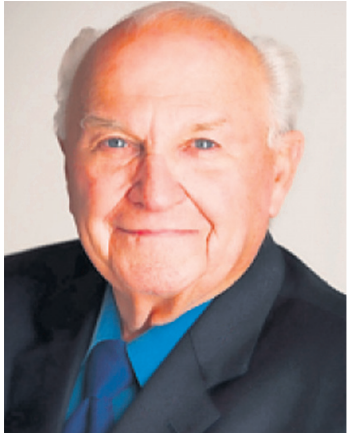
The almond is a very valuable crop to our state with California being the only place in North America that grows almonds commercially. A \$2 billion industry with over 6000 growers devoting an estimated 530,000 acres to growing, the almond represents the largest nut tree crop in our state.

The Capay Valley Almond Festival is a wonderful time for you and your family to experience first-hand the awesome beauty of the entire Capay Valley and to meet the many amazing people who live and work in this crowing jewel of Yolo County.

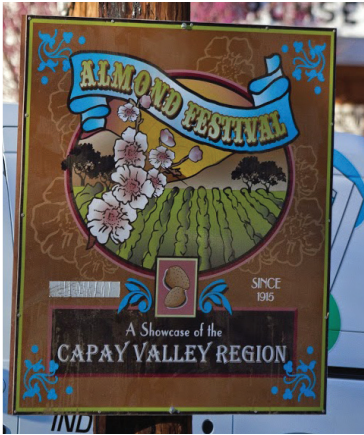
Along with sampling the endless array of almond based foods, one of my favorite things to do during the festival is to pick up a Capay Valley Almond Festival Passport along the route, get it stamped in each town and turn it in for a chance to win prizes.

Please join me next Sunday in celebrating Capay Valley and the Almond Festival!

Sincerely,
Duane Chamberlain
Yolo County Supervisor
5th District



Almond orchards stretch for miles in Capay Valley



A sign welcoming visitors to the Almond Festival – Credit Visit Yolo



Families enjoy the many activities at the Almond Festival



Capay Valley Almond Poster 2020

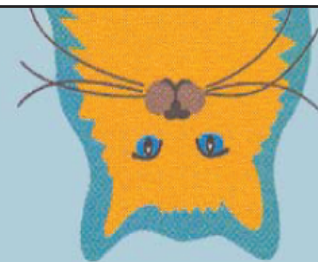


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The Annual Almond Festival

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SUNDAY, 2/23
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Passport Intro

Spanning five rural communities and 105 years of heritage, there is truly something to be had for each age group at the Capay Valley Almond Festival this Sunday, Feb., 23.

Read on in this guide for more details on activities in each participating Capay Valley town (Rumsey, Guinda, Brooks, Capay and Esparto) and PASSPORT Stamp locations.

CAPAY VALLEY ALMOND FESTIVAL PASSPORT

Collect the **stamp** from at least four locations. Fill in your information on the back side of this card, and drop it at one of the Almond Festival Information Booths to be entered to win a **Capay Valley gift basket!**



Rumsey

Enjoy delicious wood fired pizza, arts and crafts, farm equipment, farmers market with local organic fruits and vegetables, and much more!



Guinda

Swing by the Guinda Fire Station for grilled oysters and stop by the Guinda Grange Hall for local arts and crafts and famous almond roca!



Brooks

Stop by the Seka Hills tasting room to enjoy varietal olive oils and delicious wines grown in the Capay Valley. Live music and food, too!



Capay

Looking for some rock and roll? The Road Trip Bar and Grill will be jamming all day! Stamp station is at the BZ Bee honey booth.



Esparto

Fill up on early morning pancakes, see local arts and crafts, antique car show, carnival rides, local farms, and learn about the Almond Festival history!

Here are some itinerary suggestions depending on individual agendas (details may be found on the town's profiles inside this guide):

For the Culinary Enthusiasts: Almond petal ice cream (Rumsey), barbecue oysters (Guinda), olive oil ice cream sandwich (Brooks), "One-Way Hot Pastrami" (Road Trip Bar & Grill — Capay) pancake breakfast (FFA — Esparto).

For the Inquisitive Imbibers:

Craft beer booth (Rumsey), cranberry cocktails (The Commons Farm Kitchen — Guinda), sparkling Viognier and sangria (Capay Valley Vineyards and Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room, respectively — Brooks), Road Trip Sweet Tea (Road Trip Bar & Grill — Capay) cafe con leche (Wygold Cafe — Esparto).

For the Kiddos:

Hands-on grain grinding (Rumsey), petting zoo, pony rides and farming equipment (Guinda), Almond Blossom Farm Tours (Brooks), Native American Dancing (Capay) carnival rides (Esparto).

For the History Buffs:

"The Rock," Rumsey's origination (Rumsey), Guinda Corner Store, Yolo County's oldest, continuously operating store (Guinda), Almond Blossom Farm Tours at Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room (Brooks), Native American dancing at Road Trip Bar & Grill (Capay) vintage car show and Manas Old-Style Meat Market (Esparto).

February is always a fantastic time to view the incredible bloom of the Capay Valley's almond trees. There are many events and activities up and down the Capay Valley to enjoy.

Don't forget, you can pick up your PASSPORT for Town Stamps at any of the 5 PASSPORT locations noted in this section. Get your PASSPORT stamped at four of the five locations and submit your completed PASSPORT at any of the five locations to participate in the Town Stamp contest.

Visit espartoregionalchamber.com or capayvalleyvision.net for more information.

Rumsey: Rumsey Town Hall, 14380 Manzanita St. (95679)

Guinda: Guinda Community Grange Hall, 16787 Forest Ave. (95637)

Brooks: Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room, 19326 County Road 78 (95606)

Capay: Road Trip Bar & Grill (24989 HWY 16) and The Honey Store (across the street)

Esparto: Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce tent at Esparto Community Park (17001 Yolo Ave.)



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Capay Valley Almond Festival Map





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Esparto



When You Go:

PASSPORT Location: Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce tent at Esparto Community Park (17001 Yolo Ave.)

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. — Future Farmers of America (FFA) Breakfast

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors, carnival rides and games for kids in Esparto Regional Park

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Car Show sponsored by the Madison Volunteer Fire Department

9 a.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court attends FFA breakfast at Esparto High School

9:30 to 9:45 a.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court visits Esparto Community Park

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Manas Meat Market open

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Music in the Park with Desert Dan, Tim Slaven and a guest guitarist

10:30 a.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court introduced on the park's stage

Noon to 4 p.m. — Books in Bloom book sale at Esparto Regional Library

Noon to 4 p.m. — Live music by the Nitelitters at The Ravine on Sixteen

1:30 to 4:30 p.m. — Music in the Park with Jessica Malone



About Esparto

With just over 3,000 residents, Esparto is the largest town in Capay Valley. Established in 1888, it was an important stop on the Vaca Valley Railroad line until 1941 when service ended.

The community is home to the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce (espartoregionalchamber.com) and Capay Valley Vision (capayvalleyvision.net).

Manas Ranch Old-Style Custom Meat Market (26797 HWY 16) sells “restaurant-quality” meats and family recipe sausages, plus speciality deli sandwiches and homemade jams. Sunset Magazine has claimed they have the “best peaches in the west” (manasmeats.com).

Esparto's Almond Festival Activities

Start the day at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) breakfast in Esparto High School's cafeteria from 7 to 11 a.m. The Almond Festival Queen and her court will be there at 9 a.m., before heading to Esparto Community Park (17001 Yolo Ave.) to check out the activities at 9:30. The queen and court will be formally introduced on the park's stage at 10:30 a.m., before traversing up the valley to visit Capay, Rumsey and Guinda.

Meanwhile, there will be 70 vendors set up in the park selling all types of wares, plus carnival rides and games for kids. Stop by the Esparto Regional Chamber's tent to get information on the day's events, and get your passport stamped.

The Esparto Regional Library's “Books in Bloom” sale will take place from noon to 4 p.m. (17065 Yolo Ave.), and the Master Gardners will “bee” on hand with pollination workshops.

Food choices will be plentiful. The Esparto Volunteer Fire Department will have tri-tip sandwiches and beverages for purchase. Food trucks will line the street between Esparto Park and El Toro Mercado (16939 Yolo Ave.).

The Almond Festival is a gathering place for various motorcycle groups and car clubs from the surrounding region. The Madison Fire Department will be sponsoring a vintage car show near the Esparto Fire Department, just south of the Scout Cabin on S. Grafton St. Prepare to be treated to a wide-range of tricked-out vehicles.

Esparto Park's main stage will feature live music from Desert Dan and Tim Slaven (desertdanmusic.com), plus a guest guitarist from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by Jessica Malone (jessicamalonemusic.com) from 1:30 to 4:30.

More live music by the “Nitelitters” can be found down the road (16867 Yolo Ave.) at The Ravine on Sixteen (theravineon16.com) from noon to 4 p.m.

The Ravine on Sixteen, El Toro Mercado (16939 Yolo Ave.), Wygold Cafe (wygoldcafe.com) and Hog Canyon (16811 Yolo Ave.) will all be open for business during the festival.

Additionally, the Countryside Community Church's Country Store (26479 Grafton St.) will hold its Annual Giant Quilt raffle and host various food and craft vendors (espartocountrysidechurch.org).



Activity in Esparto Park 2



Dilly-Dally the Clown - Credit First Street Design



Esparto Kiddie Park



Fun activities for kids - Credit Visit Yolo



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John Foster, owner of BZ-Bee Pollination, Inc. is a quality Beekeeper located in the Central Valley town of Esparto, California. BZ-Bee Pollination, Inc. enjoys the moderate climate of the Northern Sacramento region and easy access to clients throughout California and the West Coast, which has a huge demand for pollination service. BZ-Bee Pollination, Inc. offers pollination service to local growers for their Almonds, Fruit trees, Sunflowers and seed crops. BZ-Bee also produces queens, package bees and honey. John Foster operates the family business that he started 40 years earlier. Along with his wife and children, John oversees his 10,000+ hives and enjoys the demands and rewards of the Beekeeping industry.

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Capay



When You Go:

PASSPORT Locations: Road Trip Bar & Grill (24989 HWY 16) and The Honey Store (across the street)

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. — Road Trip Bar & Grill open + Native American dancing + The Honey Store open
11:10 to 11:30 a.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court visit to Road Trip Bar & Grill

Noon to 4 p.m. — Live music by “The Fried Brothers Band”



About Capay

Capay has a long and colorful history, according to the Esparto Regional Chamber (espartoregionalchamber.com). Located on the Mexican land grant Rancho Canada de Capay, the town was originally named Munchville after one of the first white settlers, a man named “Munch” who built a house on the Cache Creek in 1857. It wasn’t until 1868 that the first post office opened.

In the early 1870s the town was renamed “Langville” after John A. Lang who operated a hotel and owned a brickyard and store. “Langville” grew enough to have a town plat filed and the name of the town changed to Capay on Jan. 1, 1875.

Today, drinks and noshes can be had by visitors at Road Trip Bar & Grill (roadtripbg.com) and The Honey Store.

Farm Fresh To You (farmfreshtoyou.com) offers its CSA box out of nearby Capay Organic Farm (capayorganic.com), which also hosts occasional farm tours and events such as the “Capay Crush” (capayvalleygrown.net).

Weary travelers can find lodging at Capay Valley Bed & Breakfast cottages and farmhouse rooms (capayvalleybedandbreakfast.com).

Capay’s Almond Festival Activities

Capay activities include a PASSPORT location at The Road Trip Bar & Grill (roadtripbg.com) and The Honey Store across the street. The Fried Brothers



Capay sign welcomes visitors.



Pamela Marvel of Grumpy Goats Farm holds the book *Why We Farm* by Capay Valley Author Elvira Di_Brigit

Band will perform live music from noon to 4 p.m., (friedbrothersband.com), and Native American dancing will take place during the day on Road Trip’s stage. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Check out the menu or follow updates at facebook.com/roadtripbg/.



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Brooks

When You Go:

PASSPORT Location: Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room, 19326 CR 78 (adjacent to Cache Creek Casino Resort & Spa)

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room open

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Artisanal vendors

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — Live music featuring “Whiskey Rock ‘n Rollers”

Noon to 2 p.m. — Almond Blossom Farm Tours

Noon to 5 p.m. — Capay Valley Vineyards Tasting Room open

About Brooks

Brooks is home to the Native American tribe Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The tribe farms hundreds of acres here and produces wines, olive oils, vinegars, honey and other commodities under its Seka Hills brand (sekahills.com).

The tribe also built the Cache Creek Casino Resort & Spa, Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room (adjacent to the casino) and Yocha Dehe Golf Club.

Capay Valley Vineyards (capayvalleyvineyards.com) also calls Brooks home. The tasting room (13757 HWY 16) is open weekends from noon to 5 p.m.

Both Seka Hills and Capay Valley Vineyards are members of the Yolo County Vineyard and Winery Association. Others include Simas Family Vineyard (simasfamilyvineyard.com), Taber Ranch Vineyard and Event Center (taberranch.com), Great Bear Vineyards (greatbearvineyards.com), Berryessa Gap

Vineyards (berryessagap.com), Grindstone Winery & Vineyard (grindstonewines.com), Matchbook Wine Company (matchbookwines.com), Windmill Vineyards (windmillvineyards.com), and Turkovich Family Wines (turkovichwines.com).

The Yolo County Vineyard and Winery Association will hold its annual Twilight Picnic at Taber Ranch on Saturday, July 18. Guests can expect wine tasting, food trucks, picnics and music under the stars.



Almond Blossoms at Yocha Dehe Farm and Ranch



Capay Valley Vineyards

In addition, the group represents Yolo County at a variety of functions through out the year including Woodland’s Dinner on Main.

Brooks’ Almond Festival Festivities

Seka Hills Olive Mill & Tasting Room (19326 CR 78) will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests may sample the tribe’s wines, sangria, olive oils, vinegars, honey, nuts and — wait for it — olive oil ice cream sandwiches. The deli will also have a selection of items for purchase.

Artisan vendors will be on hand during the duration of the festival, and live music by “Whiskey Rock ‘n Rollers” will take place on the scenic patio from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Almond Blossom Farm Tours happen from noon to 2 p.m.

Capay Valley Vineyards (13757 HWY 16) will be open from noon to 5 p.m.

When owners Tom Frederick and Pam Welch planted grapes in 1998, there were no wine grapes growing in Capay Valley. Later, when applying for an officially designated American Viticultural Area (AVA or appellation), it was discovered that wine grapes had in fact previously grown in Capay Valley.



Brooks Golf photo 1



Seka Hills Tasting Room



Wine Tasting at Capay Valley Vineyards

Planted by John Gillig, his Capay Valley Winery, under the supervision of Nicola Cadenasso, was awarded a gold medal in 1861 as the finest winery in California.

Today the tradition continues as Capay Valley Vineyards wins awards for its premium, small-lot Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Tempranillo, Viognier and Sparkling Viognier — the “champagne” of Yolo County.

The tasting room (13757 HWY 16) is open weekends from noon to 5 p.m.

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Guinda



When You Go:

PASSPORT Location: Guinda Community Grange Hall, 16787 Forest Ave.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Vendor Fair

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — The Commons Farm Kitchen open

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — The Corner Store open

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Live music by “Group Therapy”

Noon to 4 p.m. — Live music at The Commons Farm Kitchen by “Jon Emery Dodds & the Unconventionals” and “Mike & the Mooncats”

1 to 1:30 p.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court visit to Guinda Grange Hall



About Guinda

Guinda, which is Spanish for “cherry,” was named by Southern Pacific Railroad officials after a cherry tree. The town’s post office came to be in 1889 (espartoregionalchamber.com).

The Commons Farm Kitchen & Bar (thecommonsfarmkitchenbar.com) is a popular spot for lunch and dinner, and The Guinda Corner Store sells local produce and other necessities.

The Guinda Corner Store is older than the Almond Festival itself. Built in 1891 by Thomas Steele, it’s the longest, continuously open store in Yolo County.

The store offers a nice selection of Capay Valley goods including wine from Capay Valley Vineyards (capayvalleyvineyards.com), olive oil soap by Pasture 42 (pasture42.com), Grumpy Goats olive oil (grumpygoatsfarm.com), Blue Heron organic oranges (capayvalleyfarmshop.com), and seasonal produce and eggs from area farms such as Full Belly Farm (fullbellyfarm.com) and Riverdog Farm (riverdogfarm.com).

The 22-acre Vernon A. Nichols County Park with creek swimming, beach areas, playground, picnic tables, baseball field and fishing is nearby. Visitors can also pursue the half-care Will Baker Memorial Garden (yolocounty.org).

Guinda’s Almond Festival Festivities

Live music will waft through Guinda all day, including selections from the Capay Valley Chorus, various instrumentalists and vocalists performing at Guinda’s

Western Yolo Grange Community Hall (16787 Forest Ave.).

New to the Almond Festival is “Group Therapy,” a classic rock and R&B band (grouptherapymusic.com) playing tunes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Guinda Grange Hall and The Commons Farm Kitchen (7624 HWY 16) will feature Jon Emery Dodds & the Unconventionals (jonemerymusic.com) and Mike & the Mooncats from noon to 4 p.m.

Lunch and beverages will be available for purchase with gluten free options.

Guinda’s Volunteer Fire Department will be selling their popular barbecue oysters, sausages and other barbecue treats.

For dessert, try Grammy Wyatt’s Famous Almond Rocha, Nona’s Walnut Rocha or the homemade almond (chocolate, vanilla and almond rocha) ice cream on offer.

A vendor fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with wares including leather crafts and ironworks, jewelry, embroidery, quilts, handmade glass, specialty soaps, bat and bird houses, hand-screened bandanas and lavender goods.

There will be a silent auction and olive oil tasting by nationally award-winning Grumpy Goats Farm as well.

Kids will enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides and various displays of farming equipment and machinery.

The Commons Farm Kitchen and The Corner Store will be open for business from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the Guinda Park at the Guinda Bridge is always open and has two restrooms.



The Guinda Country Store in 2017



Guinda Petting Zoo



The Guinda Country Store in 2017



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Rumsey

When You Go:

PASSPORT Location: Historic Rumsey Hall,
14380 Manzanita St.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Silent Auction in Rumsey Town Hall

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Farmers Market and Craft Vendors

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Wood-fired pizza from Full Belly Farm

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Pulled-pork sliders and slaw

Noon to 12:45 p.m. — Almond Festival Queen Court visit to Rumsey Hall

Noon to 4 p.m. — Local craft beer booth

About Rumsey

Rumsey was originally called “Rock,” due to a distinctive landmark, and a post office established the town in 1878. The name is perhaps fitting today as well, being the northern most Capay Valley whistle-stop, a starting point from which to explore the area (espartoregionalchamber.com).

The town’s present moniker stems from Dewitt Clinton Rumsey, a prominent landowner at the time. The post office was moved 10 years later in 1888, two miles to the north of “Rock,” and subsequently the community became known as Rumsey.

Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park (yolocounty.org) is three miles north of Rumsey, with river access, swimming spots, picnic tables and overnight camping. Nearby Camp Haswell is a popular access point for kayakers and rafters. Rumsey-based Cache Canyon River Trips (cachecanyon.com) offers one or two day rafting adventures during warmer months, and Rumsey House B&B (rumseyhouse.com) offers respite for travelers.

Rumsey’s Almond Festival Festivities

Fancy some almond petal ice cream? Be sure to put Rumsey on your itinerary.

The day’s events include such culinary treats as wood-fired pizza from Full Belly Farm (fullbellyfarm.com), pulled-pork sliders and slaw, home baked goods — notably the aforementioned almond petal ice cream — and locally crafted beers.



Almond tastings in Rumsey - Credit First Street Design

Taste various almonds, honey and olive oil at the farmers market, try your hand at grain-grinding and check out lavender products harvested in the area.

There will also be an art show exhibiting paintings, sculptures and photographs, live blue grass music, a children’s play area with hands-on activities, and a silent auction from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., inside Rumsey Town Hall with a number of unique items on which to bid, including a farm-to-fork dinner for 8 guests at a local farm.

The Almond Queen and her court will visit Rumsey Town Hall (14380 Manzanita St.) from noon to 12:45 p.m.



Rumsey Hall welcomes visitors



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Almond Queen

As traditions go, the Capay Valley Almond Queen Pageant stands the test of time. Now in its 105th year, the pageant took place on Feb. 15 with five contestants, all Esparto High School seniors.

After dinner in Guinda's Grange Hall prepared by members of the Western Yolo Grange Association, the young women took the stage to address the topic: "If you were a judge for the Almond Queen Pageant, what qualities would you look for in the Almond Queen to best represent the Capay Valley?"

Each young lady answered a follow-up question, a current events question and a fun question.

The three judges met with each candidate earlier in the day for an interview and to study their applications. The judges for 2020's pageant were: Vice-Mayor of Sacramento, Eric Guerra; Judy Van de Water, PhD of Capay; and Former Almond Queen Laura Gordon of Granite Bay.

The Rumsey Improvement Association sponsored the event.

The queen and her court will be formally introduced on the Esparto Community Park stage at 10:30 a.m., following their attendance at the FFA breakfast at Esparto High School's cafeteria (9 a.m.) and a stroll through Almond Festival vendors at the park (9:30 a.m.).

The queen and her court will tour Capay Valley towns throughout the day, including stops at Capay's Road Trip Bar & Grill from 11:10 to 11:30 a.m., Rumsey Hall from noon to 12:45 p.m. and Guinda Grange Hall from 1 to 1:30.

The reigning queen had not been determined by the time of this publication. The contestants were:

Kiera Edwards: Kiera lives in Esparto with her parents Ruth and Jason Edwards. She has an older brother, Ceasar. Kiera has been very involved at Esparto High School as a member of the FFA all four years and an FFA sweetheart candidate.

She is a multi-sport athlete, participating in cheer, softball and basketball. Kiera plays travel softball and is a captain for the All American Mizuno team in Sacramento. She hopes to play softball in college, while pursuing her degree. Kiera isn't afraid of a challenge because win or lose she gains experience and life lessons.

She is competing in the Almond Queen pageant so she can be a shining role model for the younger girls in her community.



Kiera Edwards

Thank you to Kiera's sponsor: Nick and Heather Echarte

Andrea Garza: Andrea lives in Esparto with her parents Mireya and Rogelio Jr Garza. She has three siblings, Diego, Camila and Raquel. Andrea is involved in FFA, EHS Junior State of America, Leo's Club, National Honor Society, ASB and the Christmas Tree Lighting. She plays basketball and is a cheerleader. She has been FFA Vice President, Class President and ASB President.

In her spare time, Andrea enjoys cooking and sports to give her interests outside of school. In the future, Andrea hopes to attend a university and major in Political Science/Pre-Law. She would like to work in legislation, focusing on restructuring the educational system.

Andrea is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant to be a part of this long standing tradition, learn more about her community and gain public speaking experience. Andrea looks



Andrea Garza

forward to getting to know her fellow contestants and creating fond memories.

Thank you to Andrea's sponsor: Vanucci Technologies.

Alondra Lua: Alondra lives in Madison with her parents Josefna Lua-Garcia and Enrique Garcia. She has one sister, Isabella Lua-Garcia. Alondra is a member of the Spanish club, where she manages the snack bar at soccer games. She is also a member of the EHS Culinary Club. Alondra has been on the Honor Roll all four years at Esparto High School and has earned High Honors two of those years. She has been a cheerleader and earned the Spartan Award for her dedication to her team. Her hobbies include reading, hiking, baking, assembling puzzles and camping.

When Alondra graduates from Esparto, she plans to attend Chamberlain University and

Continued on page 19



Alondra Lua

Continued from page 18

obtain a Bachelors Degree in Nursing. She would like to use her degree to become a traveling nurse to help people all around the world. Alondra believes participating in the Almond Queen Pageant will improve her public speaking skills and build her self-confidence.

Thank you to Alondra's sponsor: El Toro Meat Market.

Kelly Schwenger: Kelly lives in Esparto with her parents Dave and Becky Schwenger. She is the youngest of 7 children: Gina, James, Jane, Lina, Sean and Jonathan. Kelly is an active senior at Esparto High School. She is a member of the Leo's Club and Esparto/Capay Valley 4-H, where she serves as President of both organizations. Kelly is a member of the FFA and Junior State of America as well as the co-president of the National Honor Society. Outside of school she volunteers at the Esparto Fire Station during floods. She is a multi-sport athlete, participating in volleyball,



Kelly Schwenger

soccer, softball and cheer. She has earned many academic and athletic awards. She earned "Most Defensive Player" in soccer and was voted "All League" in soccer and volleyball. She has won many awards in FFA.

Kelly's hobbies include wakeboarding, sewing, crafts, and anything outdoors, especially gardening and community service projects.

In the future, Kelly plans to attend the United States Air Force Academy and major in Biological Sciences. She would then like to go to medical school and become a trauma doctor in the United States Air Force. Kelly is participating in the Almond Queen Pageant because she was born and raised in the Esparto/Capay Valley and is excited to participate in this amazing competition.

Thank you to Kelly's sponsor: Yolo Family Farms.

Sierra Winter: Sierra lives in Woodland with her parents Lydia and Mike Winter. Sierra is a very involved senior at Esparto High School. She is a member of the FFA, Junior State of America, Leo's Club, National Honor Society, California Girls State and Congressional Academy. She



Sierra Winter

has held offices in Leo's Club, National Honor Society, FFA, Culinary Club as well as Class Offices. She has a 4.6 GPA and has held Spartan Honors for 3 years.

Sierra is very involved in her community as well. She has volunteered at the Lions Crab Feed, Sock Drive for the Homeless, FFA Blood Drive,

Hoes Down Festival and many more. In Sierra's free time she enjoys participating in events that positively impact her community as well as traveling, painting and crafting at home.

In the future, Sierra plans to attend Seton Hall or a UC to pursue a major in Environmental Studies, in hopes to combat the destruction of natural disasters. Sierra was influenced by her FFA education and the wildfire that impacted her local Capay Valley. Sierra is competing in the Almond Queen pageant because she is proud to be a part of this unique tradition. Just as she hopes to represent the Capay Valley in the future with Environmental policy and regulation, she also hopes to represent the Capay Valley as Almond Queen.

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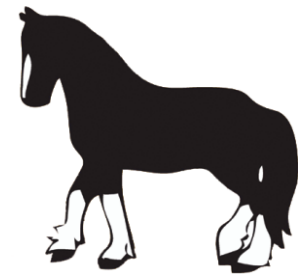
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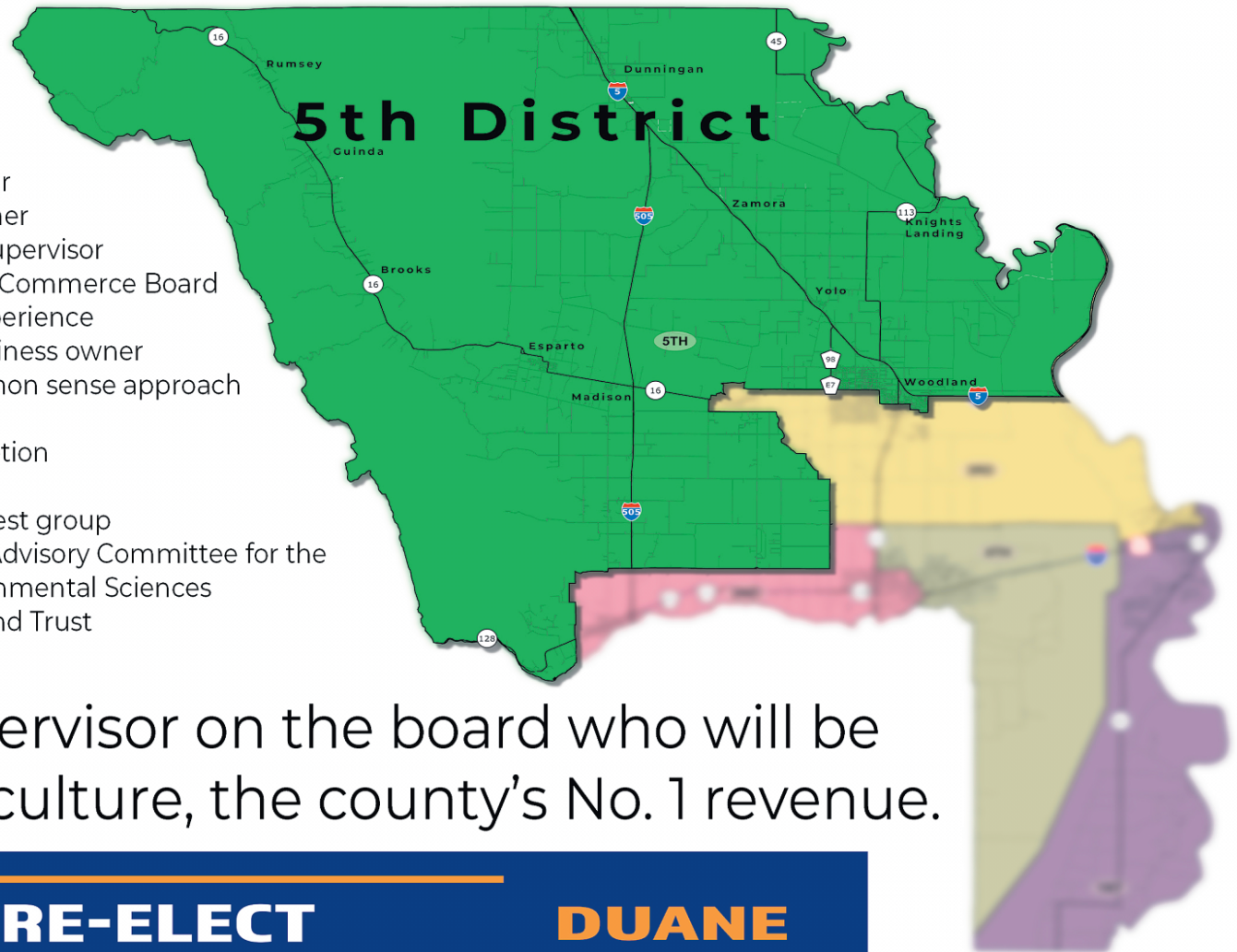
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