

Capay Valley Vision

P.O. Box 799
Esparto, CA 95627

For Immediate Release

Friday, August 23, 2002

For More Information

Contact: Thomas Nelson
(530) 796-4160
thomas@capayvalleyvision.org

WATERMELON FEST A SMASHING SUCCESS

ESPARTO – Next spring may see watermelon seedlings sprouting in Esparto Park. More than a ton of watermelons disappeared there on the evening of August 22. Most were avidly consumed on the spot by a couple of hundred eager tasters, some were carried home intact, and others met their demise in various sporting events held on the grass of the park.

In what may become an annual event, Capay Valley Vision teamed up with local farmers to sponsor a Watermelon Fest for the community. Many volunteers came forth to slice and serve, and to organize and participate in games.

Those who came were able to taste six different varieties of yellow and red watermelons, donated by Full Belly Farms, River Dog Farm, and Capay Fruits & Vegetables.

During the two-hour event, children of all ages enthusiastically lined up to test their skills at watermelon spitting and melon bowling and to compete in watermelon eating contests and greased watermelon relays. In the seed spitting contest, this year's record was an amazing 36 feet. An undetermined number of melons were accidentally smashed in the relays as eager children tried to hand them off.

While the remaining rinds were returned to the fields where they came from, some pink flesh and seeds stayed behind in the park. Nature being what it is, perhaps some seeds will sprout next spring.

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