

# AGGIE ANNEX

JANUARY 2019

## CENTRAL REGION NEWS

BY COLLEEN LAWSON

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." ~Albert Camus

The Central Region was moved beyond words as we witnessed Breanna Holbert, who hails from Tokay FFA in Lodi, give her retiring address. Never before has an African-American woman served in the office of National FFA President, and the Central Region could not be more proud of her year of unyielding service and the caliber to which she has most certainly made an impact on the organization.

Amidst the thrill and excitement of watching Luke O'Leary be elected to serve in the same role, our profession was undoubtedly shaken to its core as we learned of the sudden declining health and then passing of our beloved colleague and friend Mr. Kevin Koelewyn. Kevin was a man of faith, integrity, passion, and purpose - a mentor to so many teachers across the state and those who were blessed to call him a friend, continue his legacy in their classrooms every day. To the Koelewyn family and his department, we send our deepest prayers for strength and grace as they begin to navigate life in his absence.

The fall was not without tremendous joy as well, being as many of our family members had occasion to celebrate! Below are the wedding and birth announcements from the Central Region:

### **Wedded Bliss and Baby Kisses!**

Colleen Lawson of Elk Grove FFA, gave birth to her second baby girl on October 5. Georgia Louise Lawson

weighed in at 10 pounds 2.8 ounces, and 21.5 inches!

Tori Lewis of Stone Ridge Christian FFA, gave birth on Tuesday, November 13, to a healthy little boy, Grayson Elliot Lewis. 9 pounds, 22 inches.

Taylor Doo, department head of a three-person department at Denair High School, is excited to announce she is expecting a baby in April.

There was much to celebrate at Pacheco High School as Brittney Hopper was married on October 13, and Caitlin Freeman gave birth to her little girl Lacie on October 11. Congratulations to you both!

Hailing from Merrill F. West High School, Alana-Grace Minton, was married on November 3 and became Mrs. Reeder!

Chad Booth from Turlock High School married Hannah Ewing from Turlock Christian on November 10!

### **Are you a student teacher looking for a long-term sub opportunity in the Spring?!**

Manteca High School is looking for a long-term shop sub for a teacher out in the spring semester. Contact: Heather Nolan [hnolan@musd.net](mailto:hnolan@musd.net)

Denair High School is actively searching for a long-term sub for the second week of April through the end of May. Courses are: Plant Science, Floral Design I, Floral Design II, and an SAE Project Period. The long-term sub would also be responsible for supervising all the plant-related SAE projects during that time as well. Contact: Taylor Doo [tdoo@dusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:tdoo@dusd.k12.ca.us)

## SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS

BY JESSICA SOUZA

King City is excited to welcome Blaise Chaney to their team this year. They had a successful San Benito County Fair with FFA champion hog, FFA Champion lamb and FFA champion steer. District and community working on a bond to rebuild their agriculture facility in the near future.

Gonzales FFA welcomed the early arrival of baby Birmingham. Madeline Victoria was born weighing in at only 6 lbs. Both mom and baby girl are doing well. They recently had state officers Kyle and Matt visit and put on

some incredible workshops for their students. They had a very busy fall with National Convention, FFA meetings, BIG, co-ops, FARMS leadership, and fundraisers!

Soledad is excited to welcome Ms. Daniela Oliva and Ms. Tiffany Hendrickson to their department. The year is off and running with many different activities. Students had a great time at Greenhand Leadership Conference. They had a successful and exciting state officer visit with Kyler and Devin. They are already gearing up for their spring fair and had great attendance at their parent livestock meeting.

## SOUTH COAST REGION NEWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

North Salinas FFA has been busy. Their officer team is all new and energetic. They had a great time at the officer retreat and playing laser tag. FFA meetings, minute to win it game night, and movie night have been well attended. They got a new truck for the ag department. They are a part of the FARMS leadership program. Six Greenhands had a blast at GLC this year. They competed in Opening and Closing. They had an amazing state officer visit by Aalexia Woolf and Orrin Jones. Classes are busy working on their agriscience fair, planting plants in the grow cart, making concrete stepping stones and working on their knot and hitch tying ability. They are looking forward to planting more plants and getting the garden area up and running, new greenhouses, more activities for their members, and being a part of competitions and conferences.

Everett Alvarez FFA recently completed a successful Opening and Closing contest with five teams participating. The fair circuit is complete with one of their student's receiving grand champion hog at Santa Cruz County Fair. The orchid sale this year was very profitable for the chapter.

Salinas FFA hosted a Fall Kick Off Party for the state officers and they had a blast with tacos, s'mores, and pumpkins. They now have an egg enterprise and all eggs are donated to teachers at Salinas High. They had a productive pumpkin crop and recently wrapped up a successful Monterey and San Benito Fair. They have started their CDE teams and are excited for a great second quarter of school.

The school year started strong at Watsonville FFA, with the addition of Savannah Rhine who is fitting in perfectly in their department. They have seen overall student membership more excited to participate in chapter activities, with many members attending the meetings and activities. The Santa Cruz Fair was extremely successful. With the champion FFA steer and reserve champion FFA hog. And three students competing in round robin. Students all made money on the sale of their projects. Greenhand Conference was also a success with 38 freshman attending. Watsonville looks forward to the upcoming field trips and activities!

Camarillo FFA has finished installing a 298 tree avocado orchard and state of the art irrigation control system. They will be getting both agriculture classrooms replaced within the next 18 months. Oxnard Unified School District has approved the addition of Guide Dogs as SAE projects for agriculture students.

Carpinteria FFA needs an agriculture teacher ASAP!

Nice on-campus livestock/greenhouse facility (ocean views almost).

Fillmore FFA hosted over 120 students at Opening Closing/BIG for the Ventura Section! Welcome Veronica Lemus (new teacher) and Pamela Klittich (re-located from Santa Paula), who are replacing retired teachers Bobbi Roderick and Joe Ricards. Pam and Veronica have submitted a grant to obtain a new ag farm facility.

Santa Paula FFA has a brand new school farm at long last! Ribbon cutting during FFA week! Thanks to their superintendent for showing support by coming up to COLC! 35 students attended the Cal Poly Fall Preview and toured meats and dairy labs led by Armando Nevarez, former state officer. Santa Paula took ten teams to Opening and Closing and won the novice and open divisions as well as BIG first and second place high individual awards.

Ventura FFA is working collaboratively with wood shop/construction class to complete sliding barn doors on their greenhouse. They are also working in conjunction with the Environmental Science ROP and Ventura County Nature Conservancy programs, to germinate native tree, shrub, and grass seeds that were fortuitously collected before the Thomas Fire. From those plants a native plant nursery will be developed on .2 acres, to help replant areas hardest hit by the fire and slides that followed. A system of "micro-proficiencies" are being developed in horticulture and floral classes to help evaluate skills being learned by severely autistic and other special needs students within their fully inclusive program. These can be shared if anyone is interested. Installing Madagascar vanilla bean orchids in the greenhouse and coffee plants in the orchard to replace fruit trees damaged by stress from the Thomas Fire. Maybe lattes by conference??? Who knows!!

The Santa Barbara Section is in full swing with competitions. Over three hundred students competed at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies competition hosted for the first time at Pioneer Valley High School. Many chapters are gearing up for drive-thru BBQs and other fundraisers.

The Los Angeles Section currently has three high schools, Canoga Park, Grant, North Hollywood and one middle school that's just been added, Paul Revere, actively participating in FFA. Both Grant FFA and North Hollywood FFA are going through renovation, getting new facilities, equipment, etc. Canoga Park FFA has a new, first year teacher Trevor Hendershott, who is teaching ornamental horticulture.

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**CATA CONFERENCE AND AGRISKILLS JUNE 23 - JUNE 27, 2019**