



## MJC Agricultural & Environmental Sciences E-News

May 1, 2019

### In this Edition:

- Featured Staff - Lee Ridge
- Floral Certification
- FFA State Convention
- Young Farmers - Club of the Year
- Last Breakfast - Results
- Party on the Back Patio
- Young Farmer Officer Team
- Dairy judging in Oklahoma

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

May

- 3rd - MJC Graduation - Party in the Patio for Graduating Students!
- 17th - Irrigation Unit Open House

## Lee Ridge to retire after 30 + years of service to MJC Ag!

Lee Ridge was hired in April of 1987 and worked with Dr. Bender. One of their first activities was removing the existing greenhouses and replacing it with one large greenhouse from Napa Valley. Where they had to disassemble and then put together at its present location. Where it is the heart and sole of the Environmental Horticulture Science Program, without this greenhouse there would be no EHS program.

Lee is most famous for helping customers with their plant needs spending the time necessary to be sure they are satisfied with their plant choices. Skills he brought to MJC from Valley Nursery in Turlock where he worked for many years.

He has always been willing to help students with their concerns and helped them to grasp the horticultural skills necessary to succeed. One aspect that has



helped the students a great deal he maintains the plant identification plants for the two classes and puts the samples together for the class. With his efforts we had the plants to show the students and have a great plant identification class.

He will be missed by students, teachers, staff and customers.

One irreplaceable horticulturist! Congratulations on your future retirement, Mr. Ridge. We will miss you at MJC.

## ALL MJC STUDENTS ARE INVITED

### Party On The Back Patio

MJC's Ag Department once again is hosting a graduation celebration for our students! This is a time where we recognize the hard work and dedication you not only put into our agriculture department but, your schooling as well. It will be on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending please sign up on the spreadsheet with your name, I.D. number, and how many people you are bringing.

[READ MORE](#)

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



2019

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2019 MJC  
Agriculture Graduates  
& Certificate Recipients!**

**Come join us for a  
Pre-Graduation Ag Social  
at the East Campus Ag Patio**  
*(Between the Ag Division Office & the Greenhouse)*

**Friday, May 3 • 3:30-4:30 pm**

Please RSVP to the Agriculture Division Office by stopping by, calling 209-575-6200 or checking your email for the electronic sign-up option!

Students receiving Certificates & Graduates will be recognized.



### Young Farmers - Club of The Year

On April 24, 2019, the MJC Agriculture & Environmental Sciences Young Farmers Club was invited to ASMJC's "The Gala," put on by Modesto Junior College. Members that attended this event included Sydney Edwards, Kara Lipke, Liliana Llamas, Breanna Nunes, Jaclynn Collins, and Corie Lee Falaschi. Along with the members both advisors Mrs. Marlies Boyd and Mr. Steve Amador were in attendance as well. Mr. Steve Amador was nominated for "Advisor of the Year," and the Young Farmer's Club was nominated "Club of the Year."

[READ MORE](#)

## Floral Certification



On Monday April 8th, High School students of the Central Region FFA competed in a test run of the Floral Certification Program. Students completed two rounds of a design portion. The design test consist of a duplicate arrangement, hand tied bouquet, corsage, wire and taped flower. It was a great turn out!

[READ MORE](#)

## FFA State Convention



MJC Ag & Environmental Sciences took nine students to the 91st State FFA Convention. Students recruited and promoted the agricultural programs offered here at MJC. We brought a booth for the career show from Friday through Saturday, and showcased the degrees and certificates offered at MJC. Our students and staff were thrilled to be part of this event and to represent this great department!

[READ MORE](#)

## Congratulations to Scholarship Recipients

On April 23, 2019, numerous MJC Agriculture Students, Agriculture Instructors, Agriculture Instructors, college officials, and industry supporters gathered at the ACE Pavilion bright and early to receive scholarships at



the “Annual Last Breakfast.” The “Last Breakfast” also served as ending for the school year and as a farewell for students who plan to transfer in the fall. The students arrived to

a full omelet buffet, prepared and cooked by none other than their professors and college officials. Over 60 students were rewarded for their hard work and dedication throughout the semester, as the Ag Department handed out of \$71,000 worth of scholarships.

Dean Don Borges made some remarks regarding the success of each students and Al Alt also spoke on behalf of his years of service. The Livestock Judging Team also took the opportunity to thank their coaches, John Mendes and Cameron Rocha for a successful year of learning and new experiences.

We are so proud of each and every one of our students and are extremely fortunate to have the support from our community to reward the efforts of these students.

To see the list of recipients click below!

[Click Here](#)

---

## Young Farmers Officer Team - Fall 2019

---



The Young Farmers Club at MJC has a long tradition of leadership and community outreach. Holding elections every semester, it allows students to take a leadership role in their education. For the first time in over 10 semesters, the club elected an all woman's officer tam.

They elected, Liliana Trejo as President, Josie Booth as Vice President. Monica Arias, Lily Llamas, Megan Yoder and Abbey Douglas were also elected with their positions yet to be decided. "It's the officers in the club, to run any extracurricular activities such as Dodgeball night, volleyball tournaments, and winter sledding in the Sierra Nevada's" (Mr. Amador YF Advisor). These events boost community involvement and student outreach in the agricultural department. The club went to baseball games, took a trip up to the mountains, and the ACE pavilion housed many tournaments. These events truly bring joy to students and teachers alike.

---

## Dairy Judging Team visits Oklahoma State University

## 2019 Southern Spring National Contest ~ OSU, Stillwater, OK



SPRING 2019 MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE COMPLETE DAIRY JUDGING TEAM  
Left to Right: Joey Freitas, Gabrielle Gregorio, Elizabete Neves, Caydee Weese, Kaye Bettencourt, Kaitlyn Hay, Jacob Beach, Marco Marigli



SPRING 2019 MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE DAIRY JUDGING TEAM  
2nd High Team Overall  
Left to Right: Joey Freitas, Caydee Weese, Elizabete Neves, Gabrielle Gregorio

## Local Job Opportunities



### Job Position: Farmer's Market Sales Associate

**Company Bio:** DePalma Farms is family owned and operated. We are proud producers of quality fruits and vegetables in the Ripon/Escalon area.

**Job Description:** The market sales associate is responsible for the retail sales of fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets, establishing a strong relationship with customer client, and setting up fruit and vegetable displays. Transportation is provided from our facility location to the market location. This position is ideal for a student seeking a summer job looking for agriculture experience. He or she will be able to experience field production, packing, and retail of a variety of commodities such as: Cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, pluots, persimmons, corn, tomatoes, wine grapes, and much more.

### Qualifications:

- Age 18 +
- Valid driver's license
- Capable of lifting up to 40 pounds
- Available to work weekends

### Preferences:

- Interest/experience in agriculture
- Cash handling experience

**Contact:** Please feel free to contact Steven Silva at anytime with questions. Please send resume to email provided.

Phone: (209)-968-5060

E-mail: Steven.silva1021@hotmail.com



### WE ARE HIRING!

### FULL TIME WORKERS NEEDED AT OUR NURSERY!

We are looking for driven, enthusiastic, team players to provide ground support, customer service support and coordinate the daily operations of our Wholesale Nursery.

Duties will include assisting Nursery Manager in making orders, handling deliveries to the nursery as well as preparing and coordinating drop shipments to job sites.

### HOURS

Full Time & Part Time positions available  
Monday – Friday, Some Saturdays

### EXPERIENCE WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Must have enthusiasm for providing excellent customer service
- Collaboration and communication with Nursery Manager, Operations Manager, Lead Estimator, landscape crews, and clients.
- Willingness to learn and expand your plant knowledge
- Prior work experience in a nursery environment a plus
- Ability to multi task and adapt as things change
- Landscape industry knowledge a plus
- Experience with MS Office and Excel (preferred but not required)

### APPLICATIONS

Download: [www.groverlandscapeservices.com](http://www.groverlandscapeservices.com)  
pick up/drop off: 6224 Stoddard Road, Modesto  
7:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
email to: [hr@groverlst.com](mailto:hr@groverlst.com)

## Job Opportunity!

MJC Agriculture and Environmental Sciences department knows the importance of finding

a great job that accommodates to a school schedule. The job offered here is a part time 30 hours per week, pay is minimum wage \$12.00 per hour. Duties are washing out trailers, dumping trashes, sweeping, and assorted cleaning chores. Job can be done any days Monday – Saturday depending on the workers school schedule. It will also accommodate missing days because of Finals, school trips, etc.

To apply contact:

Mark Villines  
A.L. Gilbert Co  
209-216-5420  
Keyes CA

---

We would like to thank Stanislaus County Farm Bureau for sponsoring and helping our department develop and further our outreach to our community and our students.

---

**Stanislaus County Farm Bureau**  
1201 L Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

[farmnews@stanfarmbureau.org](mailto:farmnews@stanfarmbureau.org)

<http://www.stanfarmbureau.com>



---

**MJC Agriculture &  
Environmental Sciences  
Department**

435 College Ave.  
Modesto, 95350

209-575-6200

**FOLLOW US**



**Visit our website**