

4/22/13

(KNVN.com, Channel 24, Chico, CA.)

This week has been declared West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week by the Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). The mission of the MVCAC is to provide the public information, comprehensive mosquito and vector-borne disease surveillance, training, and effective legislative advocacy.

During this week, the MVCAC's goal is to educate the public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives, the viruses they carry, and the important service provided by mosquito control workers throughout the state.

The Butte County Mosquito Abatement District was formed in 1948 in order to combat an outbreak of Malaria, which was running rampant in the county June of that year. The District covers over 1,600 square miles, and includes all of Butte County except for small areas in Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts.

The District offers many services to Butte County residents, including free mosquito fish for ponds, horse troughs, unmaintained swimming pools and other breeding sources for mosquitoes. The District also offers mosquito surveillance, along with other services which can be requested by calling (530) 533-6038 or (530) 342-7350. The District's public education department is available for educational school programs, presentations for agencies and civic groups, displays at fairs, festivals expos, and guided facility tours. The District will also be hosting an open house from April 22 through April 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes by avoiding peak mosquito activity times, using repellent, wearing long pants and sleeves, and preventing breeding on their property. The District suggests inspecting properties for any standing water and do what is necessary to remove the water and ensure it won't become standing in the future. Residents are encouraged to report any suspected mosquito breeding sites to the District at (530) 533-6038, (530) 342-7350,