

VISALIA TIMES

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

COUNTY NEWS

Why the fight against HLB is slow

John Hendrixson came to the 2016 citrus showcase hoping to hear some good news about the fight against huanglongbing, a disease capable of wiping out California's citrus industry.

"We would have liked to hear they have an antidote," or at least that significant progress has been made toward that end, the Orange Cove citrus farmer said.

During the day-long conference, he and his fellow farmers instead heard from researchers that in some aspects, they're still trying to get a handle on the disease — commonly known as "HLB" — after years of research.

"We're trying to solve the problem of HLB," but a big part of that will involve understanding the bacteria, said Wenbo Ma, an associate professor for the University of California, Riverside's Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, who is working on HLB detection.

Normally, scientist can get samples of bacteria and regrow them in labs, as they can with E. coli, for example, but HLB grows only in branches, leaves and insects, she explained.

"That makes the research very, very difficult," Ma said. "Because of that, we know little about the disease, too."

Still, she said, her lab is working to identify the proteins produced by the HLB bacteria that affects changes in the infected trees.

"We're trying to understand these proteins ... so we can help detect the disease faster and then also help treat the trees so they are not that susceptible to the bacteria."

Among the challenges in detection is how early it can occur, as most of the HLB research has been done

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OUR WEATHER

High: 56° Low: 40°

Pollen forecast today: 0.9



Tuesday: 6.3

Wednesday: 7.6

Predominant pollen: Elm, ash, oak

Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

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The Visalia Times-Delta (USPS 661-200), a Gannett Co. Inc. Newspaper, is published Monday through Saturday by Visalia Newspapers Inc., P.O. Box 31, Visalia, CA 93279. Regular subscription price \$24 per month. Periodical Postage Paid at Visalia, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Visalia Times-Delta, P.O. Box 31, Visalia, CA 93279.

\$1.00 retail
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Wrestler Campbell captures state gold medal

SPORTS, 1B

Nancy Reagan dies at 94

Former first lady exuded 'grace' in White House

DAVID JACKSON
USA TODAY

Former first lady Nancy Reagan, the former actress who played a pivotal role in the political rise and presidency of hus-

band Ronald Reagan, died Sunday of congestive heart failure at the age of 94, the Reagan library announced.

She will be buried next to her husband at his presidential library in Simi Valley, California.

"Prior to the funeral service, there will be an opportunity for members of the public to pay their respects at the Library," a statement from the library said.

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KAREN BLEIER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Former first lady Nancy Reagan has died of congestive heart failure at 94.

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY RON HOLMAN

Basketball Beauties' Dawn Raven, right, defends against Woodlake Police officer Alan Lara as he goes up for two with members of local law enforcement and fire departments teamed up as the "Road Dawgz," against the "Basketball Beauties" at El Diamante High School on Saturday to raise money for the Tulare County Peace Officers Memorial and Education Foundation. "Basketball Beauties" is a Women's Entertainment League of 10 basketball teams in Southern California.

BEAUTIES, BADGES BALL FOR CHARITY

Above: Tulare County Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, right, looks to shoot under pressure from Basketball Beauties' Dawn Raven, left, as members of local law enforcement and fire departments teamed up as the "Basketball Beauties" at El Diamante High School on Saturday to raise money for the Tulare County Peace Officers Memorial and Education Foundation. "Basketball Beauties" is a Women's Entertainment League of 10 basketball teams in Southern California comprised of actresses, models, singers, producers, role models and entrepreneurs.

New rancor, tougher talk in Clinton-Sanders debate

NANCY BENAC AND CATHERINE LUCEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLINT, Mich. - Ratcheting up the rancor, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled aggressively in a Democratic presidential debate Sunday night over trade, Wall Street influence and more, with Clinton accusing him of turning his back on the auto industry and Sanders countering that Clinton's friends on Wall Street had "destroyed this economy."

It was a marked change in tone for the two Democrats, signaling Sanders' increasingly difficult effort to slow the party's front-runner. Both candidates frequently interrupted one another and

accused each other of misrepresenting their records.

"Let's have some facts instead of some rhetoric for a change," Clinton snapped at Sanders at one point.

"Let me tell my story, you tell yours," Sanders shot back at another. "Your story is voting for every disastrous trade amendment and voting for corporate America."

More than once, Sanders chafed at Clinton's interruptions, saying, "Excuse me, I'm talking" or "Let me finish, please."

Their disagreements were clear, but still the debate's tone was nothing like that of the Republican debate in Detroit just three days earlier, a four-way face-

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