

October, 2020

## The Valley Buzz

### MANAGER'S MESSAGE:



As of October 23, 2030, the District has had 13 positive West Nile virus mosquito samples this year.

California has had 2,534 positive West Nile virus mosquito samples so far this year, with 135 human cases of West Nile virus and 5 fatalities.

The end of the peak mosquito season is rapidly approaching. However global warming contributes to year-round mosquito production. It remains important to wear mosquito repellent when outdoors.

For more information on mosquitoes and other vectors, connect with us on Facebook or Twitter, or go to [www.wvmvcd.org](http://www.wvmvcd.org).

*Dr. Michelle Brown*

### TECHNICIAN'S TIPS:

#### A Real scary Trick or Treat – Make your own mealworm chocolate candies!

Eating insects, known as entomophagy, is a growing area of cuisine. While this cuisine might initially make you queasy, there are some real advantages to eating bugs!

1. Farming insects requires a tiny fraction of the land it takes to farm beef,

pork, and chicken.

2. Insects provide more protein and nutrition per pound than other livestock

3. Over 2 billion people already eat insects, but here in the States it is considered unappealing.

So, here's your chance to join a culinary revolution and enjoy your family's revulsion – follow the link for a mealworm candy treat!

<https://www.bugs4beginners.com/blog/mealworm-chocolate-crunch/>



## FROM OUR LABORATORY:

### Cannibal Mosquitoes!

If you're a mosquito, it sounds like a horror story...giant mosquito larvae that eat your progeny! Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction, and the *Toxorhynchites* (Toxo-rine-kite-eez) mosquito fits that bill.

These mosquitoes lay their eggs in the same places as many pest and vector species of mosquitoes, but when they hatch, they eat the other larvae!

*Toxorhynchites* mosquitoes do not blood feed as adults so they are not a pest to people, and their larvae are predatory in all stages. In fact, when they are about to pupate, they kill all other larvae in the water! Now that is the stuff of nightmares!





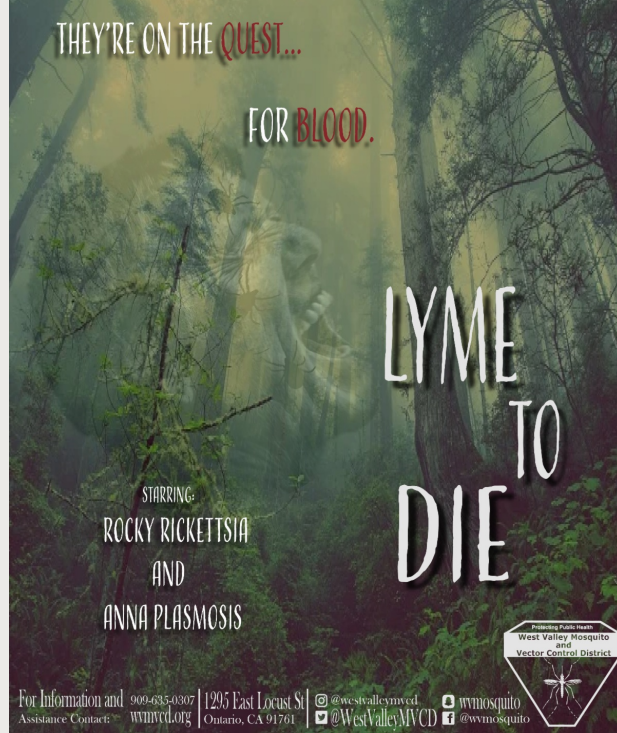
The elephant mosquito, *Toxorhynchites* on Dr. Cameron Webb's (@mozziebites) finger

## OUTREACHING OUT TO YOU!

### Happy and Safe Halloween!

We decided to include something different this time, we jumped on the “spooky train” and made a few horror movie posters featuring our favorite critters! We hope you enjoy them! We will be releasing a new poster each day the last week of October on social media.

Remember, we are still experiencing warm weather, so if you are trick or treating or spending time outdoors, be sure to add repellent to that list of things you need – tiny vampires are still afoot!



While we face many challenges in public health, we are confident that with your continued support, cooperation, and friendship, we can continue to protect our residents in this vast and ever-changing landscape.

*Thank you for supporting us over the years!*

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