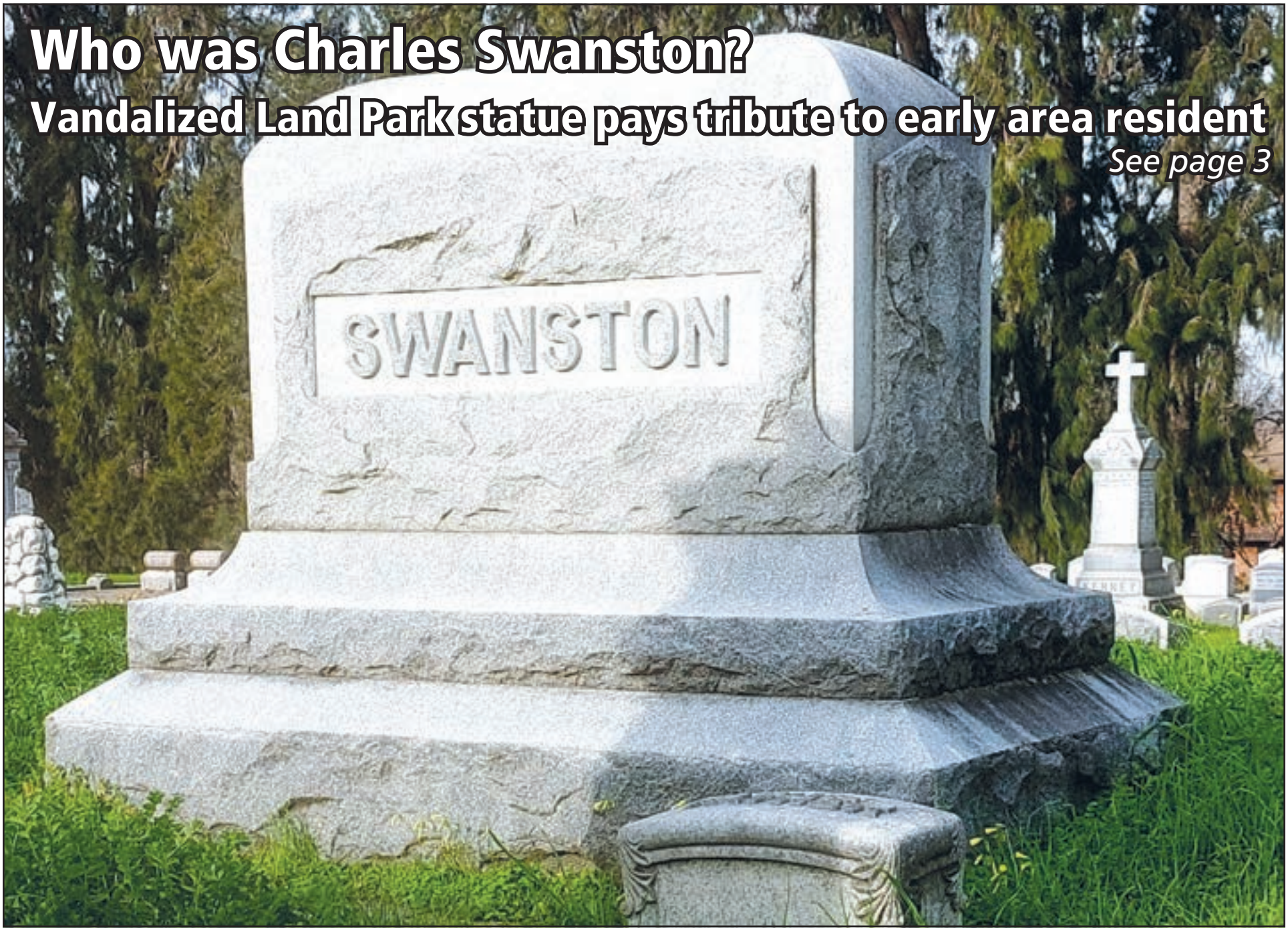
February 23, 2023

# Land Park News

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## Who was Charles Swanston?

### Vandalized Land Park statue pays tribute to early area resident

*See page 3*



# Sacramento bobsledder wins silver, bronze medals in first international competition

When most people think of Sacramento, California, the thought of winter sports rarely crosses their minds. Sure, it's only two hours from Lake Tahoe, but typically it's the idea of spending warm summer days near the rivers or hearing the jingle of the ice cream truck as it rolls through the neighborhoods. But a local Sacramento teenage bobsledder? No way. That was until Emily Bradley entered the scene.

You may remember Emily made headlines early last year as she became the youngest athlete to ever drive a bobsled from the top of the track in Lake Placid, New York – considered to have the most difficult bobsled track on the planet.

That accomplishment shattered a record set 21 years ago by former Olympian John Napier when he was just 15 years old. However, this was only the start of Emily's journey toward the Winter Youth Olympic Games, which will be held in Gangwon, South Korea from Jan. 19 to Feb. 1, 2024.

The Youth Olympic Games is an international, multisport event for athletes, ranging in age from 15 to 18 years old, and organized by the International Olympic Committee.

Shortly after returning home last March, Emily began a rigorous training program consisting of weight lifting at Hyperthrive Athletics in East Sacramento and speed training with the Sacramento-based sports performance coach, Ike Okoroike, of IkePerformance.

All of this training was for the current bobsled season when Emily must successfully complete eight races on three separate tracks to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games.

All of the off-season preparation has paid off for the young teen who is fresh off the plane after returning home from her first two races in Innsbruck, Austria.



Photos courtesy of Mike Bradley

Sacramento resident Emily Bradley poses with her silver and bronze medals after the award ceremony for the Winter Youth Olympic Games qualification races in Innsbruck, Austria on Jan. 28.

Emily competed fiercely in her first international competition on Jan. 27 and 28, as she earned silver and bronze medals for the U.S. team.

Asked what it felt like to stand on the podium wearing the U.S. flag draped over her shoulders, Emily said, "I had such a sense of pride and accomplishment to be standing there in a different country with the American flag displayed behind me. It also really justified all the hard work

See BOBSLEDDER on page 9




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# Who was Charles Swanston?

## Vandalized Land Park statue pays tribute to early area resident

**By Lance Armstrong**
**vcneditor@gmail.com**

*Editor's note: This is the second article in a series related to William Land Park's Charles Swanston Memorial Fountain, which was vandalized in December 2022.*

The nearly century-old, carved granite statue of Charles Swanston in William Land Park made news late last year after it was vandalized. But despite this recognition, most Sacramentans would have difficulty relating any trivia about this man who was once very well known in this capital city and beyond.

Legacies are not always long lasting, and were it not for the existence of the Charles Swanston Memorial Fountain, which includes the vandalized statue, Swanston's once strong legacy would be even more diminished today.

With the recent attention given to the statue, which had its head knocked to the ground on or about Dec. 26, it is quite timely to present a history about the life of this memorialized Sacramentan.

Charles was born in Northern Ireland to William and Elizabeth (McCurdy) Swanston on June 21, 1833. The Swanston family immigrated to the United States in 1851 or 1853 (depending on the source), and they settled in Youngstown (Mahoning County), Ohio.

William and Elizabeth were married in 1826, and together they had 11 children, nine of whom were born in Ireland. Their youngest children were born in Ohio.

While living in Ohio, Charles worked on his father's farm.

In a ceremony held in Mahoning County on Jan. 1, 1862, Charles was married to the then-21-year-old Nancy M. Powers, who was a native of Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Together, they had three children: Lillian, George and Frank.

In about 1879, Charles and his family made their way to Sacramento, where Charles would initially work as a stock buyer for various parties.




Photos by Lori Bauder

The grave marker of Charles Swanston (1833-1911) at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery is pictured on Feb. 16.

The 1880 Sacramento city directory is the first such directory to include a listing for Charles. That directory refers to him as a stock dealer residing at 1726 N St.

Charles' next financial endeavor was to establish a butcher's shop.

According to the 1931 book, "History of the Sacramento Valley, California, Vol. 2," Charles' expanded business later became the largest of its kind in the Sacramento Valley and the only meat packing concern in the capital city.

See SWANSTON on page 4



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Photo by William Phillips

The Charles Swanston statue in William Land Park is pictured in 2017, with its head intact. This nearly century-old, carved granite statue was beheaded in an act of vandalism last December.

# Swanston:

*Continued from page 3*

He was a large buyer and seller of stock for his business, which was also a feeder of beef cattle in Nevada and Oregon.

The aforementioned 1931 history book notes that Charles had an "unerring judgment in the selection of bullocks, sheep and hogs" and was "a man of great vision and abundant faith in the future development of the Sacramento Valley, a faith that he backed with his time, efforts and money."

Charles lost both his father and his spouse during a 14-month period.

His father died in Boardman (Mahoning County), Ohio on Jan. 28, 1881, five days prior to his 89th birthday, and Nancy died in Sacramento on March 29, 1882, 11 days before her 36th birthday. Nancy's funeral was held during the afternoon of the following day at the Swanstons' residence at 1423 K St.

Along with his son, George, Charles established the meat packing firm, Swanston & Son, at Riverside Boulevard and 4th Avenue in 1886.

It would eventually become known as the West's largest independently owned meat packing concern.

George, who initially served as the general manager of the business, was heading a branch office in the Stoll Building at the southwest corner of 5th and K streets by at least 1898.

On April 14, 1911, Charles returned to Sacramento from a trip to Bakersfield, and he complained of feeling faint. He died in his home on Riverside Boulevard during the early morning of the next day, before a doctor could arrive at his residence.

The doctor reported that Charles' death was due to a weak heart that eventually failed him.

Charles was interred alongside his wife in the old city cemetery – known today as the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery – which is located at the modern day address of 1000 Broadway.

An announcement of Charles' death in the April 16, 1911 edition of The San Francisco Call notes that he was "known from the Mexican border to Nevada, Oregon and Idaho as one of the biggest cattlemen in the state," and that through his business, he owned large tracts of rich agricultural land in the Sacramento Valley.

For an article in the Sept. 10, 1938 edition of The Sacramento Bee, Sacramento native Walter Dunlap, a porter at the Southern Pacific passenger station on I Street, recalled Charles, who he met in about 1898 while he was working as an elevator operator in the Stoll Building.

"I can remember old Mr. Swanston clearly," he said. "He always was dressed in a long box overcoat and wore a wide brim hat. He tried very hard to teach me to speak German, but I couldn't learn much while riding up and down for the few minutes he was with me in the elevator."

Research for this article found no further references to Charles having the ability to speak any other language than English.

An article in the April 15, 1911 edition of The Bee mentions that it was not uncommon for Charles to be misidentified as German.

The article notes: "While many people thought he was a German, owing to the name, Swanston always boasted of his Irish parentage and traced his ancestry back to the old McCurdy stock. His uncle, John McCurdy, fought with Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo."

On a trivial note, the 1870 U.S. census shows that Charles was then living in Berlin (Mahoning County), Ohio, which was named after Berlin, Germany, the ancestral home of some of the settlers of that place, which was established in 1828.

It could be speculated that

See SWANSTON on page 5

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# Swanston:

*Continued from page 4*

Charles picked up a few German words or phrases while living in Berlin, Ohio, and that he later shared a few of those words or phrases with Dunlap, when he was an elevator operator in Sacramento.

As for Swanston & Son, the business continued its successful operation following Charles' death.

An example of the business's latter large-scale operations appeared in a brief news item in the April 5, 1913 edition of The Pacific Rural Press. That item reads: "Swanston & Son have been putting 1,000 head of steers from the San Joaquin Valley on their Colusa, Yolo and Lake county range. The cattle will be sent later to the Klamath Meadows to be finished for beef."

The Swanston & Son meat packing plant operations were relocated from Riverside Boulevard to Arden Way, near the Southern Pacific crossing, in 1914.

On Nov. 14, 1922, The Pacific Rural Press reported: "Swanston & Son, Sacramento, topped the steer sale (at the California National Livestock Show in San Francisco) by paying 25 cents per pound for the champion shorthorn steer, Straloch Corporal, (who was dropped at the Straloch Farm in Davis on Jan. 11, 1921)."

Among the employees of Swanston & Son was Oswald Hall (1886-1934), a butcher whose Sacramento addresses included 1930 F St. and 330 18th St.

Robert Swanston Sr., George's son, began serving as president of Swanston & Son in 1923.

During the latter years of this business, Robert Swanston Jr. joined his father in its operations.

Swanston & Son sold its packing plant and slaughterhouse to the Safeway grocery store chain in 1943, but maintained ownership of its farmland and feeding pens.




Charles Swanston's wife, Nancy M. (Powers) Swanston, was interred at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. She died in Sacramento on March 29, 1882, 11 days prior to her 36th birthday.

The company ceased operations in 1948, and its old packing plant on Arden Way was demolished eight years later.

As a tribute to his father, George Swanston donated $10,000 for the creation of the Charles Swanston Memorial Fountain, which sits upon a knoll just north of the Sacramento Zoo.

The base of the statue includes the inscriptions: "To the pioneers" and "Erected by George Swanston in memory of his father Charles Swanston."

Although the featured topic of this article is the legacy of Charles, it should be recognized that George's legacy is also substantial.

In addition to his successful business affairs with his father, George, in association with F.B. McKevitt, was involved with the 1922 sale of property, which would become William Land Park.

See SWANSTON on page 6

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# Swanston:

*Continued from page 5*

George died on July 23, 1923, prior to the completion of the park and its memorial fountain.

The memorial fountain is mentioned in the Jan. 4, 1923 minutes of the Sacramento City Council, as follows: "Communication from George Swanston, relative to the adoption of plans for the improvement of William Land Park and his offer to build or cause to be built a public drinking fountain to be placed in the William Land Park and to be known as the Charles Swanston Memorial Fountain, was ordered filed."

The memorial, which sits in the park's formal garden area, was designed and sculpted by the famous sculptor, painter, muralist, etcher and art educator Ralph Stackpole (1885-1973). It was officially accepted by the city on June 18, 1926.

Charles Swanston left a strong legacy in this world.

In addition to his monument and other Swanston named local landmarks, including Land Park's Swanston Way and Swanston Park at 2350 Northrop Ave., Charles has been memorialized through many positive words.

Among the words that support the worthiness of having a monument dedicated in his honor are the following words published in the aforementioned 1931 book: "Indeed (Charles) was a prominent factor in the commercial development of this city and was recognized as a man of reliable judgment, fine public spirit and genuine worth."

As presented in the first article of this series – published in the Feb. 9 edition of this paper – preliminary stages of a developing plan to restore William Land Park's Charles Swanston Memorial Fountain in William Land Park are underway.




The Charles Swanston family plot is located in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery at 10th Street and Broadway.










1. Which artist released the album titled "All Things Must Pass"?
2. Who was the first to release "Blue Bayou"?
3. Which group released "Tears of a Clown"?
4. Who released "Venus in Blue Jeans"?

**Answers**

1. George Harrison, in 1970, right after the Beatles broke up. It was a triple album: two records of songs and one of jams with other musicians. It went to No. 1 in most places around the globe. The 50th Anniversary box set (2021) did not do nearly as well.
2. The song's writer Roy Orbison, in 1961. Linda Ronstadt released her cover of the song in 1977, and it became her signature song.
3. Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, in 1970. Robinson had been about to leave the group until he saw how well the song charted. He stayed two additional years.
4. Jimmy Clanton, in 1962.

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# Land Park Farmers Market: More than just shopping

Are you tired of the same old routine on Sundays? Do you want to break out of your comfort zone and experience something new in your community? If so, the Land Park Farmers Market is the perfect solution for you.

This market is a local, small, community farmers' market that began last July.

The market was originally located behind Funderland children's amusement park in William Land Park, but due to a storm early this year, was upgraded at a new location in the heart of the Land Park area. This new location, on the concrete floor of the park's Village Green area at Sutterville Road and Freeport Boulevard, was built specifically for events, making it the perfect spot for a farmers' market.

Not only does the new location offer live music for some weeks, but it also eliminates the worry of muddy grounds for shoppers.

The Land Park Community Farmers Market is a weekly event that presents a diverse array of vendors for all to enjoy.

From coffee and bread to soaps and dog treats, there is something for everyone. And, of course, the market offers a variety of fresh produce, microgreens, mushrooms, meat and more.




Photos courtesy of Rafael Medrano

The Land Park Farmers Market has a new location: in William Land Park's Village Green area at Sutterville Road and Freeport Boulevard.

But this farmers' market is more than just a shopping experience. The market aims to provide a weekly event for the Land Park community to participate in and have fun.

The market offers free yoga in the park and free games for kids and adults to join in, build connections and get to know their neighbors.

Bicyclists in the community will also be accommodated with free bike parking, provided so they can relax and explore the market.

The market recently had a small opening in its new location due to inclement weather. Despite the rain, a small group of vendors still showed up to serve the community, including Baklava and Coffee, Naan Tikka, Esquivel Farm, Yañez Farms, and EcoFriendly Greens.

These vendors are committed to the Land Park Farmers Market and are a testament to the strong sense of community that exists here.

Whether you are looking to stock up on fresh produce or simply want to spend some time with your neighbors, this market is the place to be, and more than just a shopping destination.

With shopping, socializing, and fun all in one place, it's the perfect way to start your Sunday. So, be sure to stop by between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sundays, and experience the Land Park Farmers Market for yourself.

## Spring Concert

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds will present a spring concert, the "John Williams Spectacular," on Sunday, March 19, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

This event will be held at the El Camino Fundamental High School Center for the Arts at 2340 Eastern Ave.

Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult symphonic wind ensemble that is conducted by music/artistic director Dr. Matthew Morse.

For more information, visit the website, www.SacWinds.org.

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# Elk 6's farmers' market to open two months early

**By Stephen B. Clazie**
**Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6**
**past exalted ruler**

Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6's farmers' market on Riverside Boulevard will open two months ahead of schedule, on Saturday, March 4 at 8 a.m.

The main attraction of all farmers' markets is farm-fresh fruits and vegetables.

Elk 6's Vic Cima is really proud that there will be returning vendors, including Moua Farm, on opening day. He is also happy that Dhillon Farm will be back in April.

Starting in March, it will be winter vegetables, but by May they will have a full selection of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Alpine Blue Farms will be there with their nuts in March, and berries starting in April.

By late April or early May, Tom Gwinn will be back with his freshly picked strawberries from Watsonville, with his helpers Shannon Lewis and Gunner Lester.

Cima got a big smile on his face when he mentioned Felicità Wine Company and KC Flowers will be there on opening day.

Besides the wine and flowers, and the fruit and veggies, the very popular bread man, Greg Severn, will be back, and so will Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show.

Uncle Jer, aka Jerry Johnson, had a great time visiting with anyone and everyone at Elk 6's farmers' market last summer.

At this market, Uncle Jer quickly realized it wasn't just a morning of shopping, but a "Saturday morning of family fun."

"Children were playing with Frisbees while parents sat under the trees visiting," he said.

It was also an educational experience with children and adults learning about bees from Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show.

Some customers recognized him as the fellow from the early 1980s to 2013, when he delivered Uncle Jer's quarter-pound cookies to Sacramento area schools.

There is also a variety of other special vendors.

One of the most interesting questions last year was "What motivates a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation office supervisor at Folsom Prison to spend her Saturday mornings as a vendor at the Pocket-Greenhaven and Land Park farmers' market located at Elks Lodge No. 6?

Last summer, Paula Gardner, who is a Folsom Prison employee, was at the Elks farmers' market, which is located where Florin Road dead ends into Riverside Boulevard. Gardner was there in memory of her 30-year-old niece, Michelle Benavidez, who was killed just 4.6 miles down Florin at 3000 Florin Road, near the light rail station.

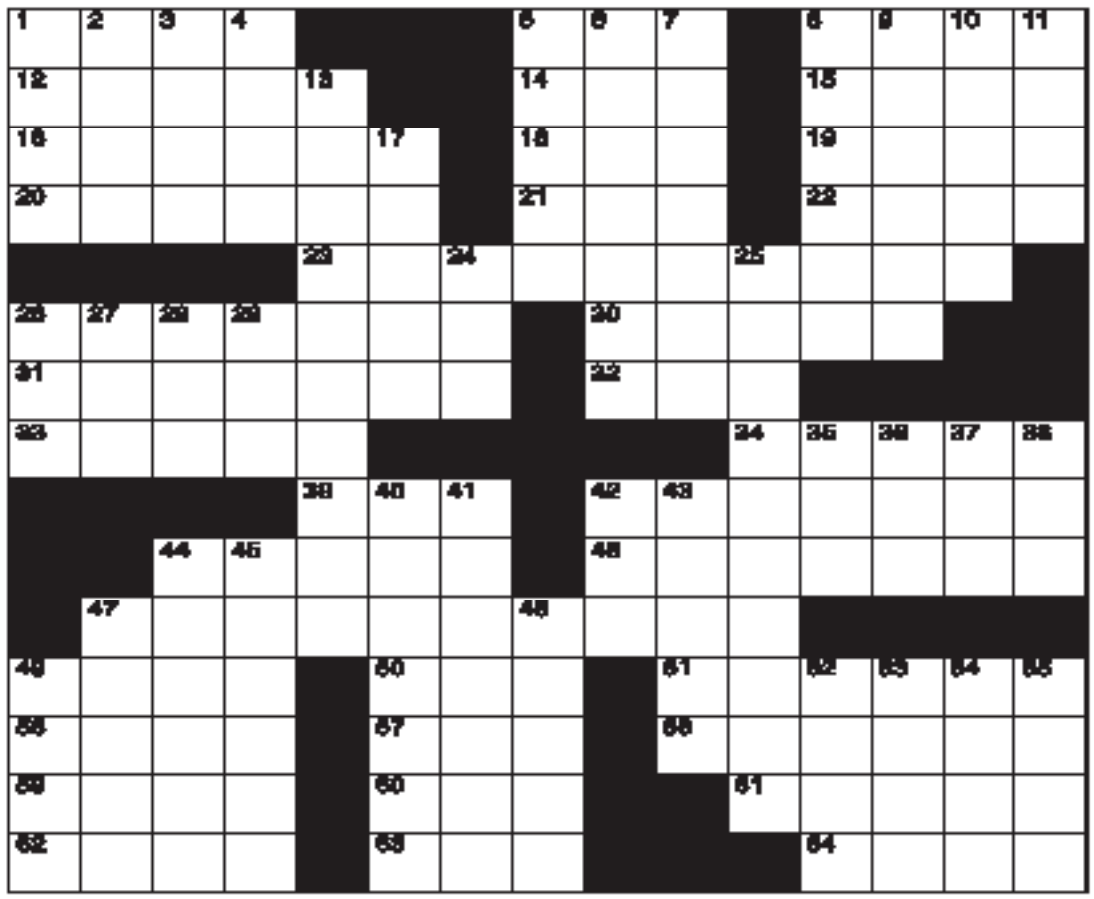
Gardner's tribute to her departed niece was not to throw money at a problem, but to take a hands-on approach to a problem. She brought passion, commitment and empathy for her young teenage employees at the Farmer's Market.

Gardner's company, Bumble Bear Cafe, was named in memory of Benavidez. As a child, Benavidez loved to dance to the "Bumble Bear" song, and her family gave her the nickname, Bumble Bear.

At the Bumble Bear Café, one can buy a cup of coffee and a croissant from a teenager who is trying to deal with the hazards of appearing and resembling a stumbling, bumbling bear who is trying to talk, think and

See ELKS on page 9

## CROSSWORD



**CLUES ACROSS**
1. River in Tuscany
5. A way to represent
8. Rocker's guitar
10. Civil Rights group
14. Brew
15. Scratch
16. W Asian country
18. The Eye Network
19. Classified letter
20. Part of the Cascade Range
21. Downwind
24. A way to steer
25. Loop
26. Not ingested
30. Swampy coniferous forest
31. Musician
32. Signing
33. Containing iron
34. Part of a theorem or proof
39. Veterans battleground (slang)
40. Of enormous proportions
44. Italian city
45. Come before
47. Bahn
48. Undergarments
50. Male parent
51. Hopes
56. Ear part
57. Investment vehicle
58. Dictator
59. Rain and __
60. A type of rate
61. Border river along India and Nepal
62. It's what's for dinner
63. Consume
64. Christian __, designer

**CLUES DOWN**
1. Cushion
2. Skin issue
3. City in central Japan
4. Swords
5. Twinned diamond
6. Canadian province
7. Monetary units
8. Head honcho
9. Goddess of wisdom
10. Part of a play
11. Get rid of
12. Applicant
17. Bowling alleys have many
24. Explosive
26. "The Say Hey Kid"
28. Ultrahigh frequency
27. No (Scottish)
28. Make a mistake
29. Credit card term
31. Keyboard key
36. Woman (French)
37. In the middle of
38. Store perfectly
40. Coat a metal with an oxide coat
41. Deadly disease
42. A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
43. Relish
44. Member of U.S. Navy
46. "In __": separate from others
47. Examine extensively
48. Adjust
49. Tattle
52. Actor Pitt
53. Gills
54. Within
55. Exceptionally talented performer




While draped with an American flag, Emily Bradley stands on the podium after being awarded the bronze medal at the Winter Youth Olympic Games qualification ceremony on Jan. 28.

# Bobsledder:

*Continued from page 2*

I had put in over the summer, because I was able to win two medals for my country."

Emily's father, former bobsledder Mike Bradley, has been guiding Emily through this sport from day one and was there to witness Emily win her first medal.

Mike described his experience watching his daughter's silver medal-winning run.

"I held my breath the entire run just watching the clock," he said. "I probably looked like a statue. When she crossed the finish line and I saw that she had secured a silver medal, I jumped up and down and started hugging everyone around me. I was hugging my wife, the coaches of Emily's competition, officials, strangers and whoever was within reach, honestly.

"I was so proud of what Emily had accomplished. She had one week to learn a new track in Europe before the race and was able to be competitive and earn a medal."

The celebrations didn't last long though.

After spending only a short time at home, Emily left her home on Feb. 11 en route to train and compete in Pyeongchang, South Korea for races #3 and #4, which will take place on March 1 and 2.

The next day after those races, she will depart for Lake Placid for the season's final two races.

Emily spoke about her upcoming travel schedule.

"I'm really excited to travel and compete in all these different places around the

world," she said. "I have met such amazing people and athletes from all over, and made friends with people I would have never met without this sport. It is truly something special to have teens from so many different countries coming together to share their culture through sport. It's what I love most about bobsledding."

Each of the races this season puts Emily that much closer to qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games, which are held every four years and feature only the top 18 nations in the world.

The games in Korea are sure to be both a challenge and an opportunity, as most of the competition has never seen this track before, so it will be a level playing field.

Korea will also be the host of the 2024 Youth Olympics, so these races could be an indicator of what's to come.

The hope for Emily is to secure more medals for the U.S. in Korea before returning to her home track in Lake Placid in March.

Emily is currently a sophomore at St. Francis High School in East Sacramento.

She and her parents say that St. Francis has been extremely supportive of her athletic endeavors and has assisted in making accommodations for her training and race schedule.

"I'm so proud to be a Troubie (an adopted nickname associated with the school's Troubadour mascot) and represent St. Francis on an international platform," Emily said. "My school has a long history of successful women breaking barriers, and I get to be part of that history and culture through my own journey towards the Olympics."

# Buddhist church food, shopping event to return March 4

**By Karen Adachi**

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19 and its variants, the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., will once again host the Sakura Matsuri Food & Shopping Faire on Saturday, March 4.

This event will include many local vendors, and will feature a "Grandma's Attic" booth, selling new and gently used Japanese items. These items include vintage Japanese dolls, doll display cases, dishware, serving platters and bowls, vases, tea sets, decorative items, framed pictures, small appliances, and much more.

Many of the church's organizations will have food and craft booths, with all proceeds going to their individual organizations. Food items such as teriyaki beef sandwiches, kahlua pork rice plates, chicken curry rice plates, barbecue pork yakisoba, and spam musubi will be available for pre-order on the church website's online store through March 2.

Food, including baked goods, will also be available for purchase on the event day.

The shopping portion of the event will be held in the indoor gym from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The food fair will run from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the courtyard.

For more information, visit www.BuddhistChurch.org.

# Elks:

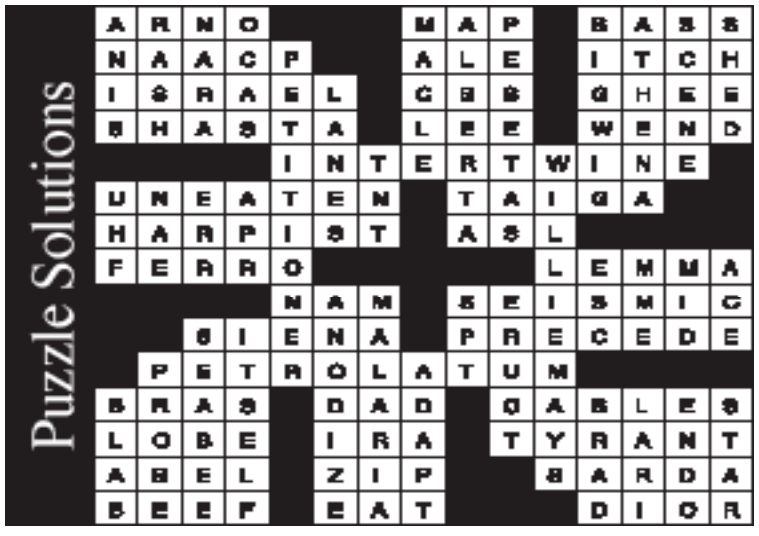
*Continued from page 8*

count money all at the same time in their awkward years as a young teenager.

Gardner is not trying to make extra money as a vendor on Saturday mornings, but she is trying to teach teenagers to plow a straight row. She is back this year with a small trailer housing the Bumble Bear Cafe.

Elks 6 is a friendly neighborhood market with plenty of off-street, free parking. A number of shoppers come on their bikes or walk to the market.

One of the fun benefits of the Elks 6 farmers' market is getting to see the wonderful variety of dogs that live in the neighborhood. It is like attending a dog show and finding yourself in awe of the beautifully groomed and well trained pedigree dogs of the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood.



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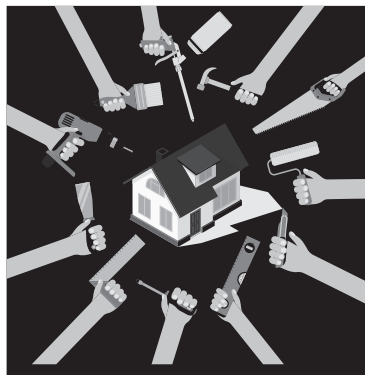


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