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Pocket News

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The Sweetest Kind of Community Service

see page 3

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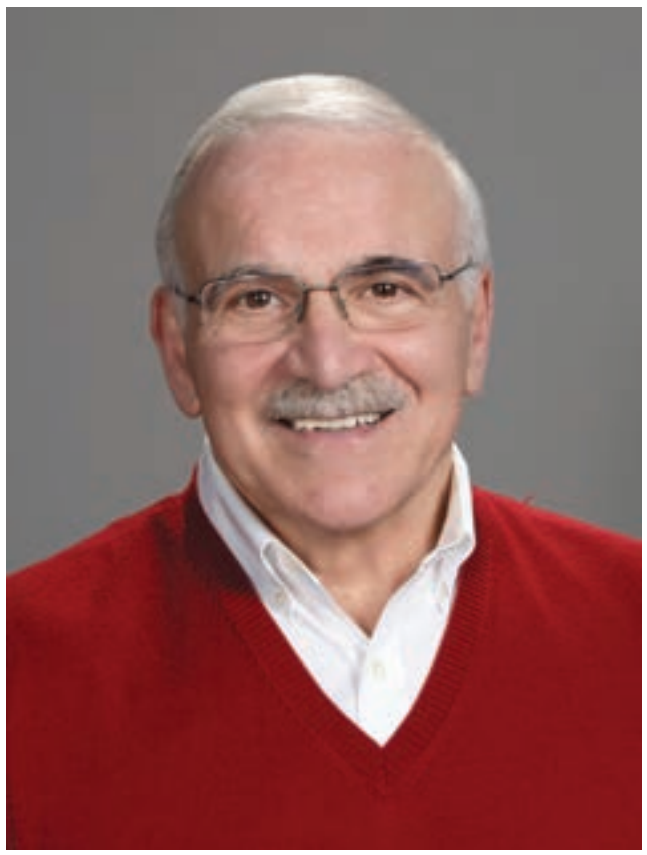

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Dine Local:

Try Devin's Favorite Things!



By Devin Lavelle

Being in the Farm-to-Fork Capital, we have the opportunity to enjoy some really amazing seasonal ingredients, which we all love. We can enjoy fresh ingredients at the peak of their flavor while knowing we're supporting the local economy and avoiding the environmental impacts that come with transporting products around the world.

The downside of seasonal ingredients is that some of our favorite things are only for a few weeks or a few months of the year. In the summer, I look forward to great dishes highlighting amazing fresh tomatoes and corn.

In the winter, I look forward to crab, most of all, I look forward to Cacio's Torchio e Granchio.

We can start by unpacking the name. Torchio pasta is known for its torch shape that allows the sauce to really coat each piece.

Granchio means crab. Fresh, amazing Dungeness crab, a little sweet, a little nutty, a little buttery. Its delicate flavor is wonderful on its own, as we typically enjoy crab feeds around our region. But that flavor really sings with a few specific, simple ingredients.

Lemon crème Fraiche accentuates the crab's natural buttery flavor, adding a tart brightness from the citrus note.

Calabrian chilies (just a few of them, it's not too much heat) bring a zing that sits on the back of your palate and helps the whole dish just come alive.

Toasted breadcrumbs could seem like a throw away to some, but you'll find yourself looking forward to that occasional crunch to set off the tender crab and pasta. And, of course, the chives just help pull it all together. And they look pretty!

It's a wonderful dish. Each of the major components is

see Dine page 17

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Cover photo by:
Devin Lavelle

The Sweetest Kind of Community Service

By Devin Lavelle

Something is missing at our shopping centers this year. Usually, we would see tables set up with a stack of colorful cookie boxes, staffed by cheerful, diligent young ladies. It is a time of year many of us look forward to – let's be honest, we all have a favorite cookie and we inevitably buy a few too many boxes each year (Carmel de'Lites are this author's guilty pleasure). But this year, with COVID, in-person sales like that are out the window.

With schools online and so many social activities canceled, however, the kind of constructive, interactive experience that kids get through activities like scouting is all the more important – which means fundraising needs to continue.

Luckily, girl scouts in our community have found new and creative ways to help us all satisfy our sweet tooth.

One local girl, Olivia Tafoya, found a way to promote her sales that, as your Parks Commissioner, I found particularly motivating. I met Olivia and her mother, Natalie Paus-Tafoya, at a local park to discuss her strategy.

Devin: Hi Natalie, thanks for talking to me today. How long have you been a girl scout?

Olivia: Hi! I've been in Girl Scouts since I was 5 when I started Kindergarten. I am 6 years old now and this is my first year in Girl Scouts as a Daisy.

Devin: That's great! What is your favorite part of girl scouts?

Olivia: My favorite part is when we do activities like paint, dance, and seeing the other girl scouts and troop leader on the computer.

Devin: You're selling cookies? Can you tell us about that?

Olivia: Yes! This is my first year selling cookies and I know people love Girl Scout cookies like I do. Our troop 28 will use the funds toward membership fees, patches, and uniforms. We also hope to take a few virtual field trips and hopefully in-person ones too. Eventually, it will cover day trips and camping.

Devin: So I hear you have a really great way to encourage people to buy cookies?

Olivia: For every box of cookies I sell, I pledge to pick up a piece of trash from our community parks.

Devin: That's great! I spend a lot of time cleaning up our

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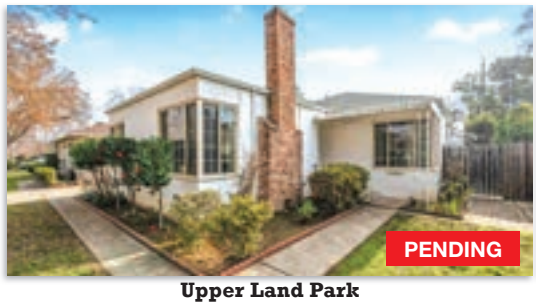

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Community:

continued from page 3

parks too! Why did you choose to clean up parks?

Olivia: To help animals like the squirrels that live there from getting sick from the trash. Animals might think it is food. The parks are beautiful when there is no trash there.

Devin: You are so right! So what's your favorite park? What is your favorite thing to do there?

Olivia: My favorite park is this park right by my house. I like to go for walks and look for bugs like rollie pollies, ladybugs, flowers, and daisies. I also like to play soccer and play on the playground.

Devin: OK, back to business. What's your favorite cookie?

Olivia: Anything with chocolate! Like thin mints are my favorite.

Devin: Yum! Alright, I'm hungry, how do we order?

Olivia: There are two ways! One option is having the cookies mailed directly to you and the other is where we may be able to deliver to you based on location. Please email my mommy at tafoyafamily2011@gmail.com to order.

Devin: Mom, you must be pretty proud?

Natalie: We (along with Dad, Chase Tafoya) are proud that our daughter, Olivia, is gaining a sense of community service and being a Girl Scouts is the perfect platform to serving our community by keeping our parks beautiful while fulfilling our neighbor's Girl Scout cookie cravings.

Devin: That is great! Thank you so much for helping keep our parks clean. Your daughter is a great example, showing that anyone can help contribute to beautifying our community. It just a few minutes and a trash grabber. Thanks for your time today, I've ordered my cookies. Can't wait!

If you have any stories you'd like to share about neighbors spreading positivity, please email me at devin@devinlavelle.com.

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6	3	0	4	7	3	5	4	3	7	8	0	5
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E	A	O	S	A	N	Y	E	G	R	E	A	R

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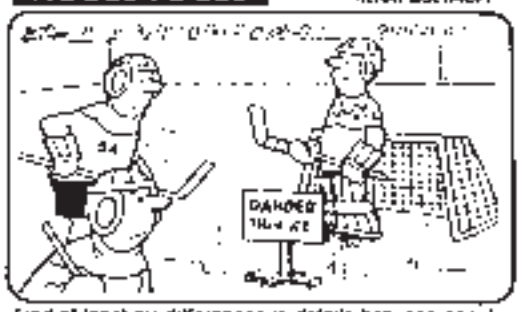
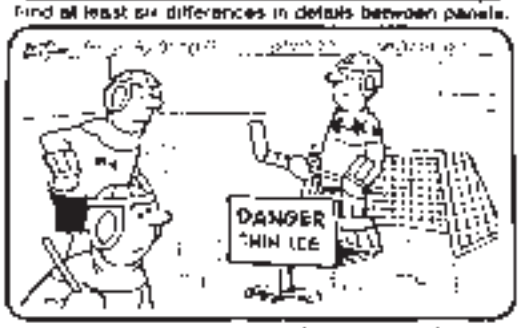
HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

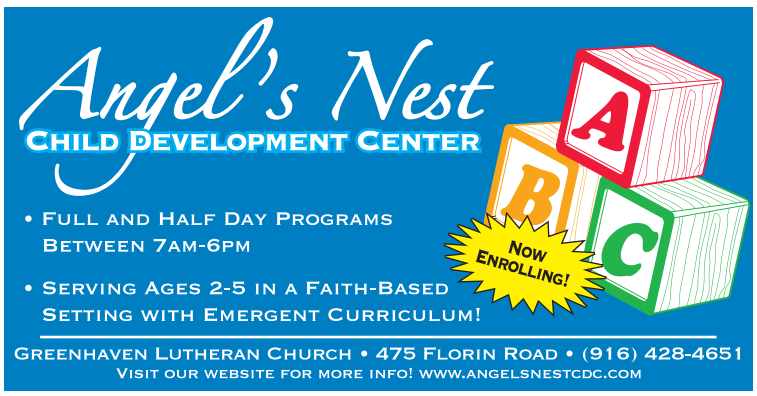


Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1	Backeye	N		Got goosebumps	V
2	In need of practice	R		In need of a polish	D
3	Infuriate	_ _ R _ _ _		Place behind bars	_ _ C _ _ _
4	Rosa's hair	T		Dandruff	R
5	Chalkboard material	S		Cause happiness	E
6	Skin blemish	L		Stew in a closed pan	A
7	Puff up with pride	W		Turtle's hideout	H
8	Wall hanging	S		Worker on a train	R
9	West Indian dance	_ _ _ _ O		Arms and legs	_ _ _ _ S
10	Tent dweller	M		Friendly apparition	S





top ten

Collector Car Sales*

1. Porsche 911
2. Chevy Corvette
3. Ford Mustang
4. Mercedes-Benz SL
5. Chevy Camaro
6. Ford Shelby Mustang
7. Ford GT
8. Chevy Chevelle
9. BMW 3 Series
10. Chevy C/K

*2020 dollar volume
Source: Classic.com

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THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

Somewhere There's A Rainbow

BY CAROL BOGART

I'm a person who believes in signs. I think God reassures us when we're worried if we know what to look or listen for.

As is not unusual, I've managed to misplace the photo of a rainbow I bought and framed when, pregnant with Mike, I waited anxiously for the results of my amniocentesis.

I was, at the time, what was then-called (and perhaps still is) an 'elderly primate' in reproductive terms. Close to 36 when I finally succeeded in getting pregnant, my eggs were as old as I was. The pregnancy itself was a miracle of sorts. Assorted fertility workups found I unlikely to ever have a child. Endometriosis, and other problems. So, to achieve pregnancy without Danazol or other interventions, was, to me, a miracle.

I understood, though, that my older-than-optimum ovum could result in birth defects. Down Syndrome chief among them.

Before I had the amniocentesis (a long needle collects amniotic fluid. The fluid has clues to the status of the fetus); I thought about a high school friend whose younger brother had Down Syndrome. We all knew Ronnie. A happy-go-lucky always cheerful kid. Karen and her siblings watched out for him, but always treated him as though his 'difference' was just Ronnie. Their mom, an RN, told them, 'Just treat him as though Down Syndrome is his 'normal' – and others will accept him."

We didn't just accept him. We adored guileless happy Ronnie.

When I saw Karen at my 10-year Class Reunion, I asked, "How's Ronnie?" I knew that, typically, Down Syndrome children, may not live that long. I hadn't yet had Michael. She smiled and said, "Ronnie lives with me now." Her mom had died. Karen, single, was caring for her brother.

As I waited for my amniocentesis I'd decided: If my baby had Down Syndrome baby, I would keep it.

Of course I prayed for a healthy baby – 10 Ten fingers, 10 toes, healthy body, healthy brain – as I waited for that phone call.

Keeping busy as best I could, I happened to look out a window. There, perfectly framed, was a perfect rainbow. The entire arc. Beautiful, clear and brilliant. And, I knew. Just knew. The baby would be normal. I found and framed a photo of a perfect rainbow; the Rocky Mountains were in the background. Mike was born in Denver. I put the photo was in his bedroom.



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS GONZALEZ

West Sacramento's January rainbow as seen by West Sac resident Phyllis Gonzalez by the Russian Baptist Church in Broderick.

There were challenges, both physical and more, for my newborn, blue at birth. Severe birth asphyxia placed him in newborn intensive care for four days. He is still, today, at 35, a client of the California Department of Rehabilitation. ADHD can be managed. It isn't curable.

But thanks to effective accommodations through preschool, grades 1-12 and college, Mike manages his disability on his own. He pays his own bills and graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a 3.2 BS degree. Tough major: Cognitive Science (psych&tech). It wasn't easy, but, he did it.

We're, all of us, going through a tough time right now. There are times, like you, I feel discouraged and defeated. But last month, on a gray and drizzly day, for a moment, the sun broke through, and we had a rainbow!

We'll get through this. Some say by fall. Some say, two years. I'm a believer that things happen for a reason. As we worry which virus we'll deal with next, we're learning a new vaccine doesn't have to take 10 years. Advances in technology mean we can do our work from home. Fewer commuters on the road equal air that's healthier, and indicators are, we may be slowing climate change. Struggling forests, birds, wildlife, even oceans may recover. An improved planet for our children?

In time, we'll know, but for now, just know: On dark days; somewhere, there's a rainbow.

According to forecasts Tuesday, 1.23.2021, the region was in for 'the worst storm of the year.' Carol usually posts extreme weather warnings timely on her public Facebook page, Bogart Communications. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.

Even Exchange
answers

1	Shiner, Shiver	6	Bruise, Bruise
2	Rusty, Dusty	7	Swell, She
3	Entage, Entage	8	Poster, Poder
4	River, River	9	Limbo, Limbs
5	State, Fate	10	Camper, Casper

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Sac State grad authors new book on Japanese Americans of Florin



Photo by Dorothea Lange/Courtesy of Densho.org

A group of mostly children of Japanese descent are pictured in front of H. Kato's fish market and grocery store in Florin in 1942, just prior to their internment during World War II. A sign on the market reads: "Clearance sale."

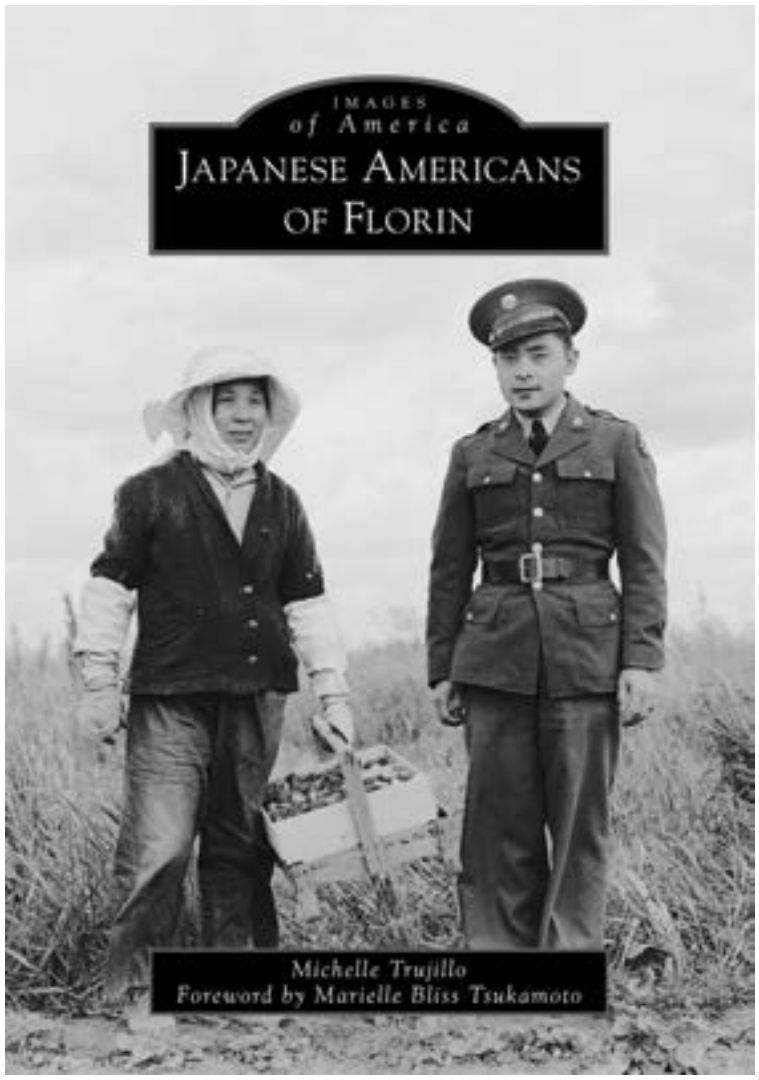

Photo courtesy of Arcadia Publishing

"Japanese Americans of Florin" features photographs and words highlighting the accomplishments, challenges and lifestyles of the Japanese Americans of the historic Florin area of Sacramento.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

A newly published book, titled "Japanese Americans of Florin," by California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) graduate Michelle Trujillo, captures the accomplishments, challenges and everyday lives of Japanese Americans of the historic community of Florin.

The former town of Florin, which dates back to the 19th century, was once a Japanese farming community. Japanese agricultural laborers began working in this area in the 1890s.

Many Issei and Nisei – first and generation Japanese Americans, respectively – farmed in that area, which would become renowned for its strawberry production, leading to its recognition as the "Strawberry Capital of the World." The Japanese of this area were also involved in local viticulture.

But Florin's agricultural success was drastically changed with the removal of its Japanese American residents during World War II. Through Executive Order No. 9066, all person of Japanese ancestry were ordered to be sent to internment camps.

In May 1942, trains loaded with Japanese – more than half of whom were American citizens – left Florin, changing both the population and landscape of that community.

Trujillo's new, 127-page book, published by Arcadia Publishing, features 189 black-and-white images, highlighting historic scenes of former Japanese American residents of Florin.

In an interview with this publication last week, Trujillo explained how she became involved the creation of a book about Florin's Japanese American history.

"The book itself, it (was) my culminating master's (degree) project for my public history degree at Sac State," she said. "I sort of was on a path of learning about this topic, going back about three years ago when I started going to grad school.

"When the time came to select a topic, looking at Florin, I thought (it) was something that was really fitting that kind of fell into my purview as a researcher."

Aiding in Trujillo's project was CSUS' Japanese American archival collection of photographs and documents related to national, local and cultural history.

Observing old photographs for her book was an

see Florin page 7

interesting and educational adventure, Trujillo noted.

One of the photographs that most captured her attention was an image that would eventually be featured on the book's cover.

"The cover tells so many stories," she said. "You have the son that's in (his military) uniform and the mother who is there in her gear for agricultural labor – that difficult labor – and the two generations, the landscape is there. So, just discovering all of those dots connected at one point. And being able to use that cover to me, I was just excited about it."

The book is divided into five chapters, including The Town of Florin, Florin's Farming Families, and A Community in the Crosshairs.

The latter chapter focuses on the forced removal of Florin's Japanese during World War II.

Trujillo recognized Julie Thomas, CSUS special collections and manuscripts librarian, as the person who connected her with Arcadia Publishing to create her book.

It was also through Thomas that Trujillo was introduced to Elk Grove resident Marielle Tsukamoto, who as a child was placed with her family in an internment camp in Jerome, Arkansas.

Marielle eventually wrote the forward for Trujillo's book.

Trujillo expressed gratitude for Marielle's assistance with her project.

"(Marielle) was such a helpful person, available, generous with her time and her memories, her stories and her resources," she said.

Trujillo mentioned that she discovered many interesting historical details during her research.

Among those findings was her discovery of a letter from then-first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Something that struck me was finding a typed letter from Eleanor Roosevelt responding to correspondence from (Murielle's mother), Mary Tsukamoto, and how Mrs. Roosevelt wrote in the phrase 'for the future' at the end of that particular sentence," she said.

In her book, Trujillo noted that although the letter was dated Nov. 24, 1943, Tsukamoto did not receive it until January 1945.

Trujillo also recalled learning about the World War II Japanese assembly camp at Walerga, 14 miles northeast of downtown Sacramento.

"I learned about the Walerga Assembly Center, which actually is about 10 minutes away from where I grew up," she said. "I was just kind of amazed that this kind of huge thing happened so close to where I grew up and I had no idea about it."

According to an article in the May 12, 1983 edition of The Sacramento Bee, 4,749 Japanese Americans from the Sacramento area were assembled in the 780-acre Walerga center. After spending two months there, they were transported to internment camps.

Asked to reflect upon some of the traits that impressed her about the Japanese of Florin, Trujillo referred to the ingenuity and resilience of the Issei generation.

"To come to Florin with literally nothing, to deal with racism, to deal with (a) racist system, and also dealing with the land itself and learning how to cultivate the strawberries and working with the hardpan clay," she said.

"Being able to endure those difficulties and to build families and to build something for themselves and to really work from going from the labor class to the business class."

With her book finally in print, Trujillo expressed pride in the completion of her published work, which she noted can serve people ranging from those with a general interest in local history to researchers of history.

"I just thought it was a wonderful opportunity to be a part of preserving so many important stories that are important for local families and any researchers of World War II history and Japanese American internment, of racism, as well," she said.

"I just thought that this would be such a multilevel project, and to be able to have it in a book form was a good chance to make it accessible beyond simply that institution of archives that few people are really kind of aware of number one, but who go and do research there beyond academics and people directly related to the subject."

"Japanese Americans of Florin" can be purchased at Target, Walmart, Barnes & Noble and other major bookstores, and through the websites, www.Amazon.com and www.ArcadiaPublishing.com.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Trujillo

Michelle Trujillo is the author of the newly published history book, "Japanese Americans of Florin."

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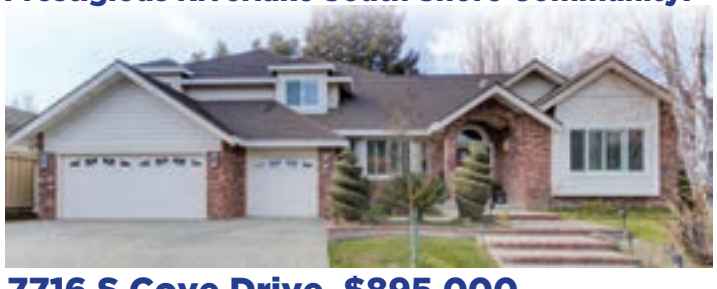

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Homero's is Open!



By Devin Lavelle

For the last several months you may have seen a new restaurant under construction and then "coming soon" at the Promenade (Bel Air) shopping center. Happily, Homero's opened their doors on January 29, serving up tacos, burritos, and other taqueria-style Mexican dishes. Many neighbors have bemoaned the lack of a local taqueria since El Faro closed about ten years ago and their wishes are now answered! I stopped in on opening day and sampled a tasty carne asada super burrito. They have Taco Tuesday specials and a long menu with many favorites, too many to list, so stop in (tell them Devin sent you!) and be sure to let us know what you enjoy and then be sure to check back here in a coming issue for a deeper dive into the Pocket-Greenhaven's newest restaurant!

Get a jump start on summer -- Performing arts camp registration open now!

Campers who confirm their spot by March 15 save 10%



The weather might tell a different story, but at CLARA Studios, summer is fast approaching. CLARA Performing Arts Camp offers an extensive, arts-focused range of activities for campers ages 11-18. Students will explore 15 different performing arts disciplines over the two-week period -- and registration is open now. The camp is offered in two sessions -- June 21 - July 2 and July 26 - August 6 -- and costs $495 / student.

Building on the success of the two-week camp, CLARA is also excited to introduce a one-week Performing Arts Junior Camp for kids ages 6-10. Students attending this camp will discover nine dance, music, and theatre genres over the course of a single week. Junior camp is offered in one single-week session July 19-23 and costs $245 / student.

Campers who confirm their registration for either camp by March 15 will save 10% on their tuition; returning campers receive an additional discount. In keeping with CLARA's mission of making the performing arts accessible to all, financial assistance is available based on need.

"Camp is my absolute favorite time of year," said CLARA Education Outreach Director Emili Danz. "Last summer, we were very proud of the virtual summer camp we created in response to COVID-19, but I am really looking forward to being in-person with our campers and getting to see -- firsthand -- their enthusiasm for discovering new performing arts forms."

"This was a fantastic experience," wrote a parent whose child participated in the 2020 Virtual Camp. "Every day [our child] left happy and inspired by the creatives who shared their time and talents with the kids. You have left a lasting positive impact on our daughter. Thank you!!"

This will be the fifth year that CLARA has offered youth summer programs, but the organization recognizes that the continued presence of COVID-19 means this summer is not "business as usual." While the intention is to offer an in-person camp, CLARA does have a digital camp contingency plan should continued increases in COVID rates make an in-person camp against the best interests of artists and students.

Camp will run Monday through Friday, from 9-4pm, with drop off beginning as early as 8. Each day will include classes in dance, music, and theater, with students learning over 15 different performing arts disciplines during the two-week camp, and 9 disciplines in the one-week camp. Tuition includes healthy snacks and daily lunch, all teaching supplies, class and performance materials, a reusable water bottle, and a T-shirt. All camps take place at CLARA -- 1425 24th St -- in Midtown Sacramento. For more information and to register, visit www.claramidtown.org/camp.

About CLARA: CLARA provides studios for both professional and community-based arts groups and a place for creative collisions and collaborations – including an innovative partnership with Sacramento City Unified School District which provides underserved students with access to arts summer camps, internships, tickets and in-school programs fostering interaction with professional artists in a studio environment. Housed at the historic Fremont School in Midtown Sacramento, CLARA was funded by grants from the City of Sacramento and private donations, including the Raley-Teel family. For more information, visit claramidtown.org.



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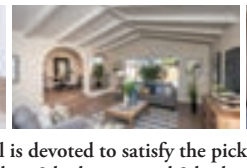



Spectacular remodel is devoted to satisfy the pickiest of buyers with its welcoming open floor plan, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, a separate kitchen/family room combo with a wet bar and plenty of storage. Front yard features custom iron gated courtyard and backyard has a sparkling pool with all new deck and patio that will accommodate all of your post pandemic entertaining plans. This gorgeous home feels like a new home. Brand new roof, white cabinets, white quartz counter tops, high-end luxury Vinyl floors throughout and so much more. Way too much to mentions. The new kitchen and bathrooms are truly amazing. Lots of natural light shines through the dual pane windows. The lush greenbelt down the street is wonderful for walking it leads to the Sac River.

3 beds, 2 baths, 2203 square feet per assessor

Winery operated at 15th, R streets a century ago

Establishment was founded by Italian immigrant

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Although few Sacramentans are aware of its history today, a thriving winery was once located at 1800 15th St., between R and S streets.

Known as the Roma Winery, the establishment was founded, owned and managed by Alfredo "Alfred" Simi Sr. (1863-1937). His home was also located on the grounds of that winery, which began its operations in the early 1900s.

The Roma Winery was established as an immigrant success story.

A native of Lucca, Italy, Alfred Simi Sr. immigrated to the United States in about the mid-1880s, and after completing necessary requirements, he obtained his American citizenship on the testimonies of Italy natives Pietro Antonio "Peter" Galgani and Martino "Martin" Morrelli on Feb. 25, 1891.

Morrelli, who immigrated to the United States in 1869, and Galgani, who came to America in 1888 and owned a groceries and provisions business at 1801 M St. (now Capitol Avenue), both testified that they believed Alfred Simi Sr. was an honest man who would be a good American citizen.

An article in the Feb. 26, 1891 edition of The Sacramento Union notes that, during the previous day, Alfred Simi Sr. "renounced his allegiance to King (Umberto I) and the Italian government in the presence of Judge (Amos P. Catlin)."

Alfred Simi Sr. was the son of Paulo "Paul" and Altamira (Picasso) Simi, who were also natives of Italy.

His wife, Maria "Mary" Simi, who he married in 1898, was also an Italian immigrant, having emigrated from Lucca to the United States in 1890.

The couple would eventually have three children: Alfred Jr., Libero and Giusto Simi.

During research for this article, it was found that prior to establishing his 15th Street winery, Alfred Simi Sr. owned a winery at 1722 2nd St. His home was also located at that address.

The first city directory to recognize the existence of the 2nd Street winery was the 1902 directory.

It is noted in the 1893 city directory that Alfred Simi Sr. was then working as an employee of the Southern Pacific Company, and was then residing at 416 10th St. Other city directories show his positions for that company, at separate times, as locksmith, machinist and brass finisher.

The 1901 city directory lists Alfred Simi Sr. as a Southern Pacific employee and his address as 1722 2nd St.

Although the following year's directory lists Alfred Simi Sr. as the proprietor of a winery at that address, the 1903 through 1905 city directories once again list him as a Southern Pacific employee.

It can be speculated that Alfred Simi Sr. maintained his 2nd Street winery while also working for the Southern Pacific Company, considering that the 1906 directory recognizes him as the proprietor of that winery.

In July 1906, Alfred Simi Sr. officially asked the city for permission to have a railroad spur extend to his 2nd Street winery.

A brief summary in the Feb. 3, 1907 edition of The Union refers to this winery as "one of the thriving institutions engaged in spreading the fame of this section."

The summary also describes the Roma Winery as having a capacity of about 30,000 gallons and "enjoying a large trade."

Continuing, the summary notes: "The wines are made from the best grapes obtainable, and bear the reputation of being among the purest and highest grade on the market."

It was also in 1907 that the then-new city directory listed Louis Simi as a winemaker at the Roma Winery. The following year's directory refers to him as a laborer for the Southern Pacific Company.

The Roma Winery is once again praised in an article in the Nov. 26, 1908 edition of The Union.

It is recognized in that article as a "thriving institution" and one that is "helping to spread the name and fame of Sacramento abroad, and placing our city in a class second to none in California."

Other details in that article include that the winery used domestic and foreign grapes, and had vaults with high concrete walls and floors.

The winery is briefly mentioned in the Nov. 10, 1908 edition of The Sacramento Bee as follows: "A. Simi was granted permission to sell liquor by the quart at the Roma Winery, 1800 Fifteenth Street."

A 1912 listing of members of the Sacramento County Winemakers' Protective Association includes the Roma Winery.

Alfred Simi Sr. was also a trustee of the Italian Bersaglieri Society No. 3, of Sacramento, and a member of Sacramento Druids No. 12.

The following words appeared in an advertisement for the winery in the Nov. 25, 1912 edition of The Bee:

see Winery page 11

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Winery:

continued from page 10

"Thanksgiving and Christmas. For these two holidays, we will deliver to you in any part of Sacramento WINES of the finest quality at the most reasonable prices. Buy direct from the winery and get the special price for the holidays. ROMA WINERY, Fifteenth and R sts. We deliver. (Telephone:) Main 1668L."

The aforementioned mother of Alfred Simi Sr. – Altamira Simi – died at the age of 74 on Oct. 29, 1915. At the time of her death, she was living in Alfred Simi Sr's home at 1804 15th St.

An article in the March 7, 1916 edition of The Bee refers to an accident in which Curtis E. Metcalf Sr. ran into a stationary team of horses of a Roma Winery wagon at 15th and R streets. Metcalf suffered a broken arm and various bruises in the accident.

Although the issue made its way to police court, Police Judge John J. Henderson dismissed the case, because it was brought before him under the wrong ordinance. However, Henderson advised Metcalf to pursue a civil court case, if he so desired.

No evidence was found during research for this article that Metcalf sought civil damages in the matter.

Alfred Sr. and Mary Simi suffered the loss of their 17-year-old son, Libero, on March 5, 1917. His funeral was held at his former residence at 1804 15th St., and he was interred at East Lawn Cemetery – today's East Lawn Memorial Park.

That year's city directory recognizes Roma Winery's owners as Alfred Sr. and Giusto Simi, and the 1918 directory lists the same information, with the exception of the addition of Alfred Simi Jr. as one of the proprietors.

By 1920, the Roma Winery no longer existed, and Alfred Sr. and Giusto Simi had formed Simi & Son tomato conservers at 1800 15th St.

Although Giusto Simi was no longer involved in that operation by the following year, Alfred Simi Sr. is mentioned as a tomato conserver in the 1921 city directory and a farmer in the 1922 city directory.

The 1923 city directory lists Alfred Simi Sr. as simply a resident of 1804 15th St. Giusto Simi is referred to in that directory as a mechanic living at the same address.

When he was 12 years old, Alfred Simi Jr. made news on Oct. 7, 1925, as The Union reported that he swallowed a copper coil.

During his examination by Dr. Gustav Henrickson at his office at 902 J St., an X-ray was taken to determine the location of the coil. No further details pertaining to this situation was found during research for this article.

Alfred Simi Jr. obviously survived that incident, as on Sept. 12, 1933, The Union reported that he graduated from the University of California, Berkeley's College of Pharmacy.

On July 17, 1937, Alfred Simi Sr. died at the age of 75, and he was interred at East Lawn Cemetery. His wife, who died in San Francisco at the age of 81 on April 8, 1960, was buried alongside him.

Giusto Simi died at the age of 41 on Feb. 28, 1943, and was survived by his wife, Mary Simi, and their daughter, Corrine Isola (Simi) Gibbert (1926-2020). He was interred at Odd Fellows Lawn Cemetery on Riverside Boulevard, following his services at the Palm Chapel of James R. Garlick, at 20th and P streets.

According to the obituary of his grandmother, Rose Picasso, in the May 3, 1946 edition of The Bee, Alfred Simi Jr. was then residing in San Francisco.

Through further research for this article, it was found that Alfred Simi Jr. died in that city at the age of 54 on Dec. 18, 1966.

During a visit to the former Roma Winery site for this article last week, the block was oc-

see Immigrant page 18



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Iron Horse Tavern is among the businesses that occupy the former site of Roma Winery at 15th and R streets.

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Vocalists George Connor and Mary Nakamura perform old standards and contemporary music. Watch it live on YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.



Francesca Anderson and Daniel Roest, Friday, February 26, 2:30 pm
Francesca is the principle flutist for the Folsom Lake Symphony. Guitarist Daniel Roest will join her in what promises to be a masterful performance. Watch it live on YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.

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Casa Garden announced Feb. 1 permanent closure



Photos courtesy

By Monica Stark

Tucked back from the hustle and bustle of traffic on Sutterville Road rests a hidden landmark that announced its closure on Feb. 1 – the almost entirely volunteer-run Casa Garden Restaurant.

Picture the scene, on a pre-pandemic Friday morning just a few years ago.

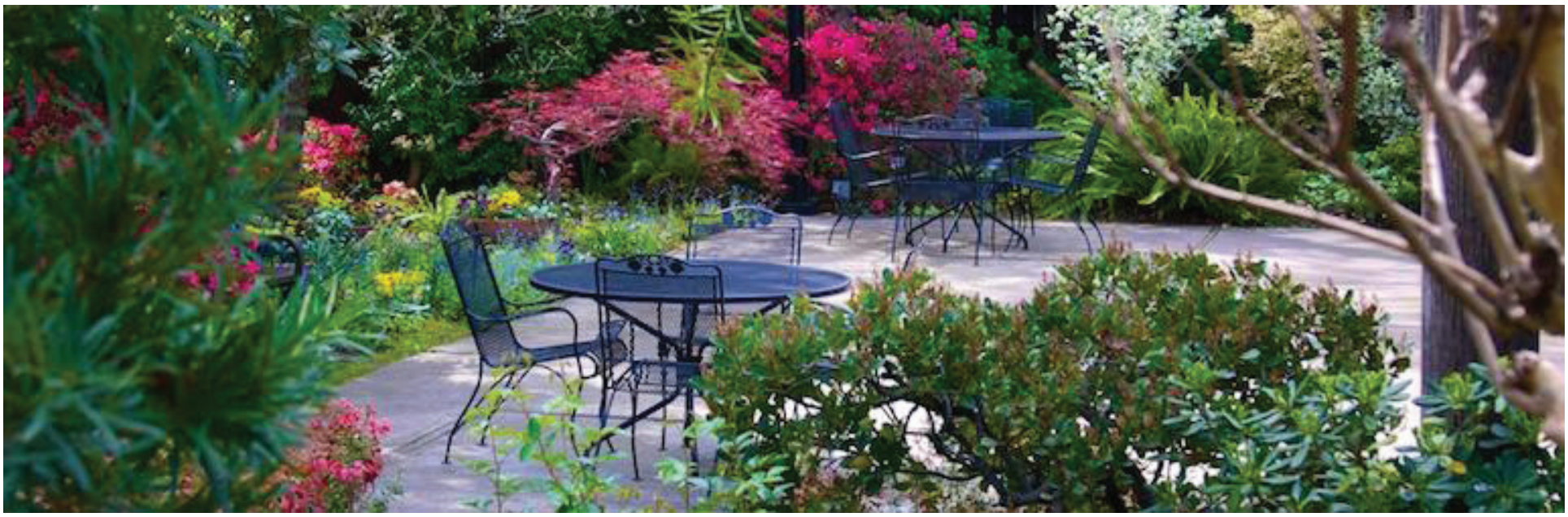
A few working in the garden, watering the beautiful trees and tending to the flowers and fauna as one of the regular, long-time volunteers took a look around inside to see if the dining room was set up for the day before supervising the wait "staff" and telling them what to do. Casa Garden Restaurant has had 250 volunteers, including 60 active ones who have provided a range of tasks, including: gardening, serving, bartending, organizing the pantry, preparing food, and ringing up receipts. All of that is done not just for the weekday lunches, but for special events, like anniversaries, retirement parties, weddings, and memorials.

Forty-six years ago, the Casa Garden was just a fundraising idea from two Sacramento Children's Home board members, yet, with a rubber stamp of approval from the others on the board, the restaurant was designed so that if it failed it could become one of the cottages for the Children's Home.

Far from ever becoming a cottage, the restaurant has raised more than $3 million for the next-door Sacramento Children's Home. Or as one volunteer put it, "That's a lot of lunches."

According to the Casa Garden website, the Los Ni-

see Casa page 13



Casa:

continued from page 12

ños Service League has operated Casa Garden to provide ongoing financial and moral support to the children and families served by the Sacramento Children's Home.

For long-time volunteer Marlene Oehler, Casa became her "home away from home" after retiring in 1994 from the California Department of Fish & Game and then Jones & Stokes Associates, an environmental firm. Whenever there was the occasion to recognize a staff member, she always made a reservation at the Casa. "It was my go-to place."

In the early days, organizing meetings took place inside volunteers' homes.

Over the years, the menu has become more sophisticated and updated, though Casa has been limited in what they can accomplish because they're all volunteers.

One of the big changes since it opened was a weekly menu that started changing every week to give people more of a choice.

A year or two after Casa was opened, the board was approached by a woman who sat on the Children's Home board who asked if she could have her granddaughter's wedding reception at the restaurant, which launched them into doing wedding receptions. The Children's Home has been at its location since 1905 when all around the premises was beautiful country where the children got to grow their own food and where staff lived. Fast forward, the Children's Home is still fortunate to have this huge piece of acreage in the middle of the city.

Many of the long-time volunteers have been pretty lucky in life and nothing feels better than giving back to children who haven't had a good start. Also, friendships among each other have been lifelong.

"With a membership exceeding 300 within the Los Ninos Service League, I would be remiss not mentioning the greatest friendships developed with more than a handful – friendships that today are still in place. As volunteers, we were a team and when I chaired a wedding, retirement, or other special events, I surrounded myself with volunteers who would execute their assignments to the fullest to make the Casa look good. Together, we accomplished great things to remind the community that the Casa was a great go-to place to plan gatherings," Oehler said.

Marlene and late husband Bob Oehler (former owner of George L. Klumpp Chapel of Flowers) have always been supportive of children's programs, so the Casa was a good fit, knowing that gratuities from dining clients would benefit the Home's programs. "My volunteer time wasn't work, but a pleasure having recorded some 22,000-plus hours and not counting all."

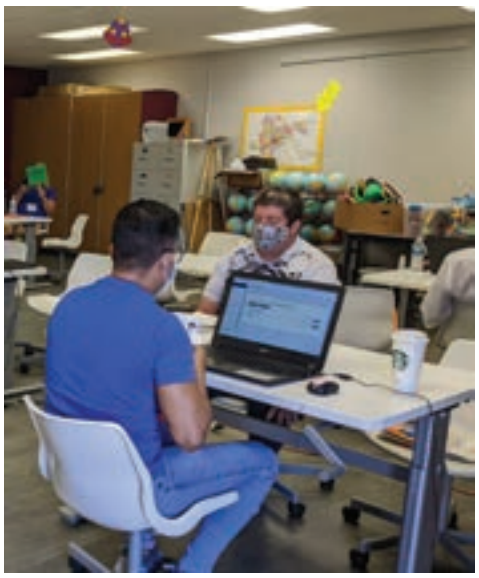
Marlene Oehler contributed to this article.





Free tax help available virtually across Sacramento region through united way

Qualifying residents can receive free help applying for up to $8,000 in tax credits



Households throughout the Sacramento region are eligible for free virtual help preparing taxes and claiming credits this year, saving an average of $200 in preparer fees and earning up to $8,000 in credits. More households are eligible to participate in United Way California Capital Region's Free Tax Prep program this year, including those earning $65,000 or less in 2020. Qualified households can upload documents online and a United Way IRS-certified volunteer will call them to help claim the maximum tax credits for which they are eligible before submission, including the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC and CalEITC). The IRS will not begin accepting electronically filed returns until Feb. 12, but United Way recommends filing as soon as tax documents are in hand and it will submit the returns on Feb. 12. To learn more, visit YourFreeTaxPrep.org.

"After a year where many people lost employment and income, it's more important than ever for households in our region to take advantage of this program that helps people save money on tax preparation fees and ensures they apply for the maximum refund and credits for which they are eligible," said Stephanie Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "This program is an important way for our community to jumpstart the local economy in 2021, and it's a key element of our Square One Project that provides resources for local families so their children can graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college or career."

This year, more people are eligible to receive the CalEITC and Young Child Tax Credit, includ-

see Tax page 18

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great on its own. But when you get that perfect bite, a good chunk of crab, pasta nicely coated with the lemon crème Fraiche, a small bit of chili, and that breadcrumb crunch. When those all come together perfectly, that bite brings so much amazing flavor together in a subtle, nuanced way. Everything sings. Every flavor stands out, but nothing is overpowered. It is a truly wonderful experience.

And be warned, crab season is a fickle thing. You never know how long this dish will be around. Don't wait, get yours now!

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And then there's the meat. Rib-eye, the most flavorful cut of steak, that's your star. With that rich, meaty taste, thin sliced and dripping with delicious goodness, flavoring the bread from the inside out. Settle for nothing less.

Right around the corner, the Banh Mi at A Taste Above Café is my favorite 'lighter' lunch.

Banh Mi, again, starts with great bread. So much so, in fact, the word "Banh Mi" is the generic term for bread in Vietnamese. Great Vietnamese French bread is light and airy with a thin, but very crispy, crackly crust. Baking at a higher temperature while simultaneously steaming the bread is the key to achieving that perfect texture, which is much more delicate than traditional French bread.

The Banh Mi has all the great veggies that you would expect, pickled carrots and daikon, combined with fresh cucumbers, jalapenos, and cilantro offer a bright, slightly tart, slightly spicy healthy base to your meal.

But then ATA throws you a little curveball when it comes to the meat, replacing your traditional Vietnamese-style bbq pork or pate with Korean-style bulgogi: marinated and grilled beef, pork or chicken (pork for me, please – though they have a great plant-based option for those who enjoy that sort of thing as well), kicking up the flavor. It's a little sweet, a little smoky with plenty of umami to back it up.

I could go on and on, but I suppose that's enough dishes for now. Maybe I'll write another one of these in the future? I'd also love to hear about your favorites. Email me at devin@devinlavelle.com if you have any recommendations you would like to share.

But most of all, keep on supporting those restaurants that serve your favorite meals. Luckily, while it has been hard for them, so far we have not lost any Pocket-Greenhaven restaurants to COVID.

We're so close to the end of this. Let's all do what we can to get through these last few months as safely as possible and to support our restaurants so they will still be with us to celebrate better days ahead.



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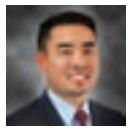
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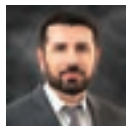
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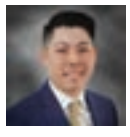
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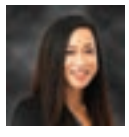
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A line of buildings front 15th Street on the former Roma Winery property.

Immigrant:

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cupied by several businesses, including the Iron Horse Tavern, the European Wax Center, Mas Taco Bar, and the law offices of attorneys Desmond, Nolan, Livaich & Cunningham.

Kayla Courchaine, a manager at Iron Horse Tavern – one of several businesses that share the historical address, 1800 15th St. – said she was excited to learn that this bar and restaurant sits on the former winery's property.

"That's awesome," she said. "I had no idea. Yeah, I think it's phenomenal. And we just grow on top of it. It makes this land and this area seem more valuable. I think everybody should know that. I'm going to be telling everybody it used to be a winery, too. That's amazing."

After explaining that Iron Horse Tavern was named after a historic term for early locomotives, Courchaine referenced the R Street train tracks that border the tavern.

"I believe they may have brought the grapes in on the trains and then exported the wine on the trains," she said.

While visiting that business with two of her friends, Elk Grove resident Monique Figueroa also commented on the site's history as the location of a winery.

"I think that's really neat (that) it was part of a winery," she said. "You're here [at Iron Horse Tavern] enjoying spirits and having a good time and when you go to a winery [it is the same concept]."

After also learning about the history of the Roma Winery last week, Sean Kinlock, a 2005 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, told this paper that he hopes that a marker will one day be placed on the site to recognize its winery history.

"It's hard to believe there was a winery here," he said while standing near the tracks, just west of 15th and R streets. "I would like to see the past incorporated with the present. I'm bummed there is no indicator that a winery was here. It would be nice if they put a plaque at this site to recognize the old Roma Winery."



Tax:

continued from page 14

ing qualifying ITIN holders, after Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1876. Households may be eligible for CalEITC if the taxpayer is at least 18 years old and the household earned less than $30,000 in 2020. Many CalEITC-eligible households are not legally required to file taxes due to low income; however if they file, they can claim state and federal credits. Experts recommend everyone files early, noting that many people do not realize that unemployment income is taxable.

United Way's Free Tax Prep program was shifted online last year when the pandemic and stay-at-home order hit. Even with the pivot to virtual services, United Way's Free Tax Prep volunteers filed 7,060 returns for the 2019 tax year and put $10.5 million back in the pockets of local families through federal refunds.

For nearly 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought local people together to make community change happen. Today, the nonprofit is bringing people together across Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties for its Square One Project, a 20-year promise to significantly increase the number of students in our region who graduate from high school ready for success in college and beyond. United Way believes ending poverty starts in school and is working to ensure kids meet important milestones and their families receive support and resources. To learn more and make a donation, visit YourLocalUnitedWay.org.

Fallen trees in the neighborhood

Photos by Stephen Crowley

Trees fell throughout the valley in the aftermath of the storm that brought winds up to 70 miles per hour on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 26. Here are some photos taken the falling day in the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhoods.







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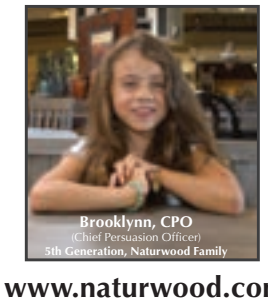

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