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WELCOME

The Daily Democrat is publishing a series of “Focus” sections on neighboring communities. In this second “Focus” section, the art, recreation and business aspects of West Sacramento are being highlighted.

West Sacramento serves as a bridge between Yolo County and the greater Sacramento region. The city was incorporated in 1987 and has been on the rise ever since. With roots in industry, it is now home to around 54,000 residents but will keep growing as city officials have agreed to take on a large portion of the region’s personal growth.

Meanwhile, current residents and visitors can take advantage of what the city has to offer.

This section will look at the city’s growth from a new tree top adventure park to a Bay Area coffee company moving to the area. It will also touch upon some of the city’s breweries along with a slew of other eateries, including Manchurian Indian Cuisine.

Learn more about city programs including those from the Arthur F. Turner Community Library and the city’s Home Run initiative, which creates a “cradle to career” pathway for West Sacramento students.

West Sacramento is also home to the River Cats.

The River Cats baseball team has been a West Sacramento fixture since 2000 as the Oakland A’s affiliate and beginning in 2014, the San Francisco Giants’ affiliate. Despite the nature of a triple-A baseball being extremely fluid – players come and go between major and minor league teams on a near-weekly basis making it difficult for fans to get to know the players. The River Cats have always enjoyed a strong following in the area.

The team plays at Sutter Health Park – formerly Raley Field – which faces outwards toward downtown Sacramento and the Tower Bridge, giving it a scenic panorama largely unparalleled among minor league stadiums.



COURTESY

Construction plans are in the works for a bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing on Highway 50, Hosley said. This would be an extension of the Sycamore Trail on the north side of town.

A look at upcoming city projects

By Sarah Dowling

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The city of West Sacramento is growing in more ways than one.

While the population continues to rise — reaching 54,000 — development projects are in the works to make it easier for residents to travel from one side of the city to another while reducing the city’s carbon footprint. Other projects involve improvements to the city’s waterfront.

Paul Hosley, the city’s communications and media officer, recently reviewed some of these plans.

Pedestrian overcrossing

Construction plans are in the works for a bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing on Highway 50, Hosley said. This would be an extension of the Sycamore Trail on the north side of town.

“This would provide a new route for people to get from the north side to the central part of town,” he added. “It will help a lot of kids and provide a safe way

“This would provide a new route for people to get from the north side to the central part of town. It will help a lot of kids and provide a safe way across the highway.”

— Paul Hosley, communications and media officer

across the highway.”

The overcrossing will actually let out near a K-8 school campus. According to Hosley, more than half the kids who go to that school can’t make it there unless their parents drive them.

“There wasn’t a way to get across other than driving a car,” Hosley explained. “This will save people from having to drive over.”

The city hopes to start construction on this project at the beginning of summer 2020.

I Street Bridge

Another project in the works is the I Street Bridge Replacement Project.

The bridge has “outlived its lifespan” according to Hosley, and plans are in the works to build a new bridge near the original.

Connecting the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento for over 100 years, the new construction doesn’t mean the existing bridge is going anywhere.

The replacement will be built a little upstream from the original and link the Sacramento Railyards to planned developments in West Sac’s Washington Neighborhood serving motorists, bicyclists, transit and pedestrians. The old bridge’s lower deck will continue to be used as a railroad crossing and the upper deck is being studied for use by pedestrians and bicyclists, according to project plans.

Raley’s Landing

The commitment of the Teel Family Trust to fur-

ther transform the Sacramento waterfront in West Sacramento is progressing with the latest design plans submitted to the West Sacramento City Council for a mixed-use project adjacent to the Tower Bridge.

Mike and Julie Teel recently formed a partnership with Mark Friedman of Fulcrum Property in an effort to explore the site’s development potential. The plans submitted include a concept that will enhance, activate and connect both sides of the waterfront with residential development and a hotel.

The proposed project sits on the Raley’s Landing development on the shores of the Sacramento River.

Raley’s Landing spans about 18.2 acres located on the West shore of the Sacramento River. It is comprised of four parcels of land initially identified as the Washington Street Property, River 1, River 2 and River 3.

The River 2 site is home to the pyramid-shaped Zigurat building that marks the existing skyline.

Contact reporter Sarah Dowling at 530-406-6234.

On-demand rideshare service launches in West Sac

By Sarah Dowling

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In May 2018, the city of West Sacramento launched a pilot program aimed at providing on-demand rideshare services to residents.

Known as “Via,” the service is similar to Uber or Lyft in that users summon rides on their smartphones, or by calling a dedicated phone line. Where Via differs from other rideshare services is that the program is “trying to incentivize pooling,” according to Sarah Strand, senior transportation planner with the city of West Sacramento.

Typically, a solo person will call an Uber or Lyft to get from point “A” to point “B.” In West Sacramento, Via aims to reduce the city’s carbon footprint by providing a service to multiple riders at a time, combining the on-demand rideshare concept with that of more traditional public transportation options such as a bus route in what Strand called a “love child” between the two models.

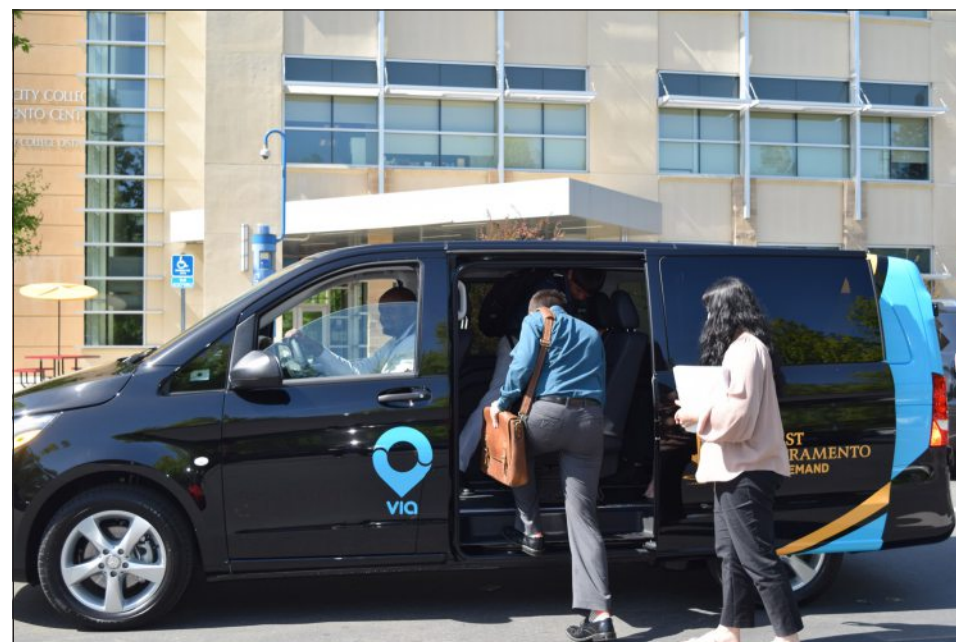
Strand noted that Via’s response times are “really good,” with an average ETA of about 12 minutes. If a rider misses a bus, it would likely take much longer to catch another one.

In terms of cost, Via follows a flat-rate model “rather than paying per mile or minute,” as is seen with Uber and Lyft. The cost is the same no matter where you go in the city.

As for the vehicles themselves, those riding Via ride in style with a dedicated fleet of Mercedes Benz Metris vans. There are 11 vehicles total and two of those are retrofitted to have rear entry for wheelchair access, which was “really important to us,” Strand said.

The vans were not purchased by the city, Strand clarified, but used in partnership with NoMad Transit LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Via Transportation Inc.

“The program has been



CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO — COURTESY

Known as “Via,” the service is similar to Uber or Lyft in that users summon rides on their smartphones, or by calling a dedicated phone line.

really well received by the community,” she added. “It is a benefit to them.”

Halfway through the pilot year (November 2018), a survey was conducted to help the city better understand who was using the service, how they were using it, and what potential impacts it was having on the travel behavior or quality of life of riders. The survey was intended to capture high-level trends and will be followed by a more rigorous academic evaluation in partnership with UC Berkeley toward the end of the pilot term.

The survey received a 14% response rate (521 respondents) and a 92% completion rate. Respondents generally reflected the West Sacramento community, with a few exceptions.

Relative to the general population, a slightly higher response was received from young men aged 13-17, men and women aged 40-49, older women aged 60-79, from households earning less than \$10,000 a year, and from people who have attended some college but did not obtain a degree.

Community members of all ages, incomes, educational backgrounds and genders are using the service.

However, young people under the age of 21 appear to be the most frequent users, followed by older adults (50+).

High school students are regularly using the service to commute to school, work and social or recreational activities. Users in their twenties are also commuting, but also take rideshare for more errands, like groceries and shopping. Conversely, seniors that tend to be retired are not commuting at all but appear to depend on the service for daily goods and services, like groceries, medical or dental appointments, and going to social or recreational activities.

The rideshare program is expected to continue. For more information, visit cityofwestsacramento.org.

Awards for via

- US Conference of Mayors City Livability Award — Outstanding Achievement (Small Cities Category)
- CA League of Cities Helen Putnam Award of Excellence (Public Works, Infrastructure and Transportation Category)
- METRO Magazine 2019 Innovative Solutions Award

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• The New Deal 2019 New Ideas Challenge Winner — (Empowering disadvantaged populations Category)

Contact reporter Sarah Dowling at 530-406-6234.

So long Raley Field, hello Sutter Health Park

River Cats' home gets new name

By Heather Kemp
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It was the end of an era for River Cats fans as the iconic red letters that spelled Raley Field were removed from the stadium's entrance in November.

New, blue letters labeling the team's home turf Sutter Health Park have gone up in their place.

The change comes as part of a multi-year agreement with Sutter Health, announced in August.

"Sutter Health has been a long-time partner to the Sacramento River Cats, whether it was their network doctors serving as team physicians or through their sponsorship of our Saturday night fireworks," said River Cats General Manager Chip Maxson. "We are excited about this new opportunity where we can concentrate on a variety of community-focused projects on and off the field, while also lending the Sutter Health name to the home of the River Cats, a premier venue for fun, affordable and family-friendly entertainment in the Sacramento region."

As the team's lead community partner, the organizations will collaborate on community-focused projects to improve health and wellness in the region. Through their partnership, the River Cats and Sutter Health plan on supporting local youth with programs



HEATHER KEMP — DAILY DEMOCRAT

The home of the River Cats is officially Sutter Health Park after two decades as Raley Field.

aimed at increasing mental health awareness and by providing makeovers for baseball and softball fields, according to the announcement.

"Sutter Health is excited to expand our nearly 20-year community partnership with the River Cats. The organization is a fun, affordable and family-friendly community asset that we are proud to support," said Sutter Health Chief Operating Officer James Conforti. "Together we call this region home, and we are passionate about supporting our vibrant community. Communities are stronger when there is greater access to sports, athletics and outdoor activities, which are powerful ways to improve individual health and wellness."

Raley's was the first and only community sponsor the River Cats had since coming to West Sacra-

mento in 2000.

"Twenty years ago, Raley's made a commitment to support our local baseball club, which was a defining moment for our region," said River Cats President Jeff Savage. "We are very grateful for their partnership over the years and all that we have accomplished together in support of our organization, our players and the larger community."

After the announcement, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon commented on the "special imprimatur" that the River Cats and Raley's have made in the community.

"They (Raley's) are a part of our city's history and will continue to shape our future," he said. "We welcome Sutter Health into their new role with the River Cats and all the different ways it will champion greater community health."

5 prospects on track to play for the River Cats this season

By Carlos Guerrero
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It was a season full of accolades for the Sacramento River Cats.

Not only did they win their third Triple-A Championship in 2019 for a record third time, but executive Chip Maxson was also named Pacific Coast League Executive of the Year for his work building the championship roster.

As their major league affiliate, San Francisco Giants begin year two under Farhan Zaidi, the president of baseball operations, newly acquired prospects, and holdovers from the previous regime are expected to continue their progression through the farm system.

With the 2020 season soon underway, there are plenty of players in line to make an impact or just quickly pass-through for the Sacramento ball club before making a jump to the major leagues.

The team could look vastly different from the opening day roster, but these five players will have a chance to play critical roles for the 2020 team.

1. Heliot Ramos, Outfielder

Ramos is perhaps the farthest away from the majors, but that's not due to his talent. Ramos just turned 20 in September after posting a batting average of .306 and 13 home runs in High A ball for the San Jose Giants. He showed signs of a weakness striking out 31% of the time in 25 Double-A games, but that could be due to his young age.

The Giants selected Ramos in the first round or the 2017 MLB draft, with the 19th overall selection, so they likely won't be rushing their young rising star through the minors. Still, if Ramos continues his ascension, he is expected to be called up to the Rivercats sooner rather than later.

2. Joey Bart, Catcher

Bart, like Ramos, started the season in San Jose and finished it in Richmond. After being promoted in August, Bart played in 23 games for the Flying Squirrels and posted a .301 batting average with four home



KARL MONDON — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Joey Bart of the San Jose Giants is introduced by the team at Excite Ballpark, formerly known as Municipal Stadium on April 2, 2019, in San Jose.

runs and 11 runs batted in. Bart, 23, is seen as the long term heir apparent to Buster Posey after the Giants took him second overall in the 2018 MLB draft.

The Giants will likely wait to start his major league clock as long as possible as they did with Posey in towards the end of 2011, so Bart should start the season in either double or triple-A. With solid performances wherever he starts the season, in double-A again, or with the River Cats, he could be a September call up for the Giants.

3. Marco Luciano, Shortstop

The Giants acquired Luciano from the Dominican Republic for a measly \$2.6 million in July 2018 in what looks to be a steal for the future San Francisco shortstop. Of course, one never knows about how a teenager will progress, but Luciano has all the tools and potential in the world, so it's hard not to get excited.

The 18-year-old is still just scratching the surface of his potential, and while his 6-foot-2-inch frame and power could move him away from shortstop, Luciano could still find himself thriving in the outfield. He figures to be one of the Giants' most exciting prospects and would play a massive role for the River Cats if he is to continue his upward progression through single and double-A baseball.

4. Hunter Bishop, Outfielder

Mauricio Dubon was in line for this spot after being acquired in a trade late from

the Brewers last year, but the 25-year-old middle infielder is likely to start the season on the Giants major league roster due to his position versatility in both middle infield spots and possibly in the outfield, so instead, the final spot goes to outfielder Hunter Bishop. The 21-year-old was selected 10th overall in 2019 after hitting 22 home runs and posting a .342 batting average in college.

Bishop is a high-grade athlete who was a two-sport star in high school before heading to Arizona State. The outfielder doesn't have a cannon for an arm, which could force a move to left field, especially in the Giants ballpark, but he should still feature plenty in the lower levels as he works his way to the majors.

5. Sean Hjelle, Right-handed pitcher

Hjelle, 23, was a second-round pick for the Giants in 2018 finished last season in double-A, like many others on this list. After tearing through the lower minor leagues posting a 2.66 ERA in Augusta and 2.78 ERA in San Jose, Hjelle would go on to struggle in Richmond, posting a 6.04 ERA in five starts.

The 6-foot-11-inch literal giant, should get an opportunity to jump to Triple-A at some point and then to the big leagues next season perhaps as another September call up or if there are struggles in the Giants starting rotation. He is currently the second-best pitching prospect in the Giants farm system behind Logan Webb.

The Sacramento River Cats Triple-A National Title defense begins in Reno on Thursday, April 9.

West Sacramento program a 'home run' for students

By Sarah Dowling
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It is about fostering West Sacramento's youth from "cradle to career."

This is how Justine Jimenez described the West Sacramento Home Run initiative, which uses different "bases" to level the educational playing field.

Jimenez has worked with the city of West Sacramento for years to "improve our education system" in terms of providing free quality preschool opportunities for residents. This early learning focus has been part of the city's framework and Jimenez's livelihood for over a decade.

This program provides the first "base" of the city-wide initiative that will benefit the city of West Sacramento in the long run.

"We see it as a workforce development initiative," Jimenez described, sitting in her West Capitol Avenue office. It is about having equal opportunities in education and career development.

Jimenez oversees the program as the West Sacramento Home Run business manager, working with a small team to ensure its success.

While the first base revolves around quality preschool for the city's youth, it also provides a college savings account. This savings account is available for students who complete preschool and enroll in kindergarten in the Washington Unified School District.

However, Jimenez clarified, the preschool itself does not need to be one offered by Washington Unified. There are other preschool options, as long as they meet the program's criteria.

For students who follow these guidelines, the city of West Sacramento offers financial incentives, including a \$50 seed deposit

when opening an account.

When these students are a bit older, they can move on to the program's second base. This milestone involves partnerships with career technical education programs within Washington Unified. These programs expose students to practical experience in high paying careers and trades, Jimenez explained, and range from more traditional woodshop classes to robotics and engineering.

Students who take courses in these CTE pathways are able to apply for an eight-week paid summer internship. This allows students to get real-world training, exposing them to career options and preparing them for entry-level jobs.

"It is about evening the playing field."

— Justine Jimenez

The Home Run program has partnered with local businesses to provide a range of internship opportunities for these kids, Jimenez said. The internship had a full cycle this past summer and the goal now is to grow the number of internships offered.

"It is about evening the playing field," Jimenez said of the internship program. Since it is paid, students who may not have been able to participate — because perhaps they have to help provide for their families — can also participate.

During their time in the Home Run program, students can earn "digital badges," which go "beyond a resume," Jimenez explained. Badges can reflect work in CTE courses as well as achievements during an internship and beyond. They reflect skills and are a lot more "meaty" than a simple resume or even recommendation on LinkedIn. Programs like

this are gaining popularity across the country, Jimenez added.

The third base is called the "college promise."

Under this base, every West Sacramento graduating senior who is directly enrolling at one of the three Sacramento City College campuses will be eligible for fee-free community college.

The second part of this is a scholarship opportunity.

Beginning in fall 2020, students graduating from a Washington Unified School District high school will be eligible for a points-based scholarship of up to \$1,000.

The amount of the scholarship amount is determined by the applicant's involvement in the other West Sacramento Home Run programs. By participating in all three bases of Home Run, students can receive the full \$1,000 amount.

According to Jimenez, the scholarship money can be used for "anything that's related to college," such as books, lodging and meals.

The college promise is made possible by a partnership with the Los Rios Community College District.

In terms of the program as a whole, Jimenez noted that "the partnership with the city and the school district is key" to making it a success. Funding for the initiative comes from the city of West Sacramento's Measure E and the state of California.

As far as she knows, West Sacramento is the first community to incorporate "the whole suite" across all the programs and age groups.

"We seem to be the only ones to do this cradle to career," she concluded.

For more information, visit cityofwestsacramento.org.

Contact reporter Sarah Dowling at 530-406-6234.

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Tree top adventure park opens

By Heather Kemp
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With the opening of Tree Top Sac in West Sacramento last week, there's a new way for Yolo County residents and visitors to test their limits while having some fun in the great outdoors.

Marin County native Johana Stranner is one of the adventure park's owners.

About six years ago she was a founding member of a similar venture in Austria, where she's resided for roughly a decade.

While visiting her brother, Sacramento architect Kale Wisnia, she noticed a gap in the local market.

"When we came to California I thought 'where are these parks?'" she said. "They're on every corner in Europe, but in California, there's only a few."

The Sacramento region's closest tree top adventure courses of this kind are in Lake Tahoe, Santa Cruz and Sonoma, according to Stranner.

That's when Wisnia and his wife, Catherine Reon, made contact with someone they knew at the city of West Sacramento.

"They said 'we have a great city park that might be perfect,' so we entered into a lease agreement," Stranner explained.

Fast forward four years and the park, located at the intersection of Lake Washington Boulevard and Village Parkway, had its soft opening on Jan. 24.

With five parkours — defined by Stranner as "circuits of different obstacles that are connected by platforms in the trees" — the courses range in difficulty from beginner to more advanced.

Sessions last two to two-and-a-half hours and begin with a "ground school" introduction.

Stranner explained how things work once adventurers are ready to begin:

"For example, you would hook your carabiner onto



Tree Top Sac began its soft opening on Jan. 24.



The adventure park is located near the intersection of Lake Washington Boulevard and Village Parkway.

the safety cable, go up a ladder and from that tree you, go over an obstacle to the next platform and then on to another obstacle," she said. "There are between three and 10 obstacles per circuit and every landing in our park is with a zip line."

Participants must be at least 7 years old and 51 inches tall. The maximum weight allowed for safety reasons is 250 pounds.

As for price, Stranner said it will be around \$55 per person, though season passes and discounts for kids, seniors, students and

residents in surrounding areas will be available.

Prior to opening the European park, Stanner, a longtime yoga teacher, had never done a ropes course.

The idea came about while she and husband Thomas were having coffee with a friend who mentioned they had recently inherited a large piece of land and wanted to build an ad-

venture park on it.

After visiting parks around Austria and Germany for research, they built and began operating Kletterwald Ossachier See in 2013.

One of Stranner's favorite parts of the job is seeing people make their way through the courses with friends and family.

"There's the experience

"There's the experience of just having a fun day or some people seriously overcome a fear of heights or do things they never thought they could."

— Marin County native Johana Stranner

of just having a fun day or some people seriously overcome a fear of heights or do things they never thought they could," she said. "The main thing here is that people are outside. These trees are hundreds of years old and have lots of energy. It's a beautiful grove."

To ensure guests are safe, the park utilizes one of the top continuous belay systems on the market, according to Stranner.

"Once you hook onto the system you cannot unhook until you are back on the ground," she said.

Taking safety a step further, they made sure to meet all of the Association for Challenge Course Technology's best-practice standards in addition to passing state inspections.

Stranner, who plans on going back and forth between Europe and California, said there is room to expand and build more parkours and possibly even an event area in the future.

"We are starting with the basics and will see how people respond and what they want to have added. Over time we will make adjustments as needed."

Yet to come in 2020 on the same site is a kiosk building that will serve coffee and other beverages as well as light snacks and some merchandise. A play area and a parking lot are permitted and coming soon.

Visit treetopsac.com for hours and more information.

PHOTOS BY TREE TOP SAC, KLETTERWALD HERITAGE OAKS PARK LLC



Tree Top Sac currently has five parkours that range in difficulty level from beginner to more advanced.

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River Cats cap off 20th season in style

By Carlos Guerrero
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The Sacramento River Cats 2019 season came to an end in the ultimate fashion with the ultimate prize. In a year in which they celebrated their 20th season playing ball in the state capital, the West Sacramento outfit won a one-game winner take all match up in Memphis on Sept. 17 against the Columbus Clippers, the international league champions, earning their third Triple-A national championship, the most by any other team.

However, the road there wasn't easy. The River Cats ended the 2019 regular season 73-67 and recorded their first winning record since becoming the San Francisco Giants' minor league affiliate in 2015. They were formerly the Oakland Athletics affiliate. The record was good enough to clinch the club their first Pacific Northern Division title since 2012 and became the first Giants Triple-A club to win its division since 1998.

In the first round of the playoffs they would go on to defeat the Las Vegas Aviators in five games, the A's current affiliate, then the Round Rock Express in a sweep to claim their first Pacific Coast League crown since 2008 before winning it all against Columbus, the Cleveland Indians affiliate.

Like most Triple-A teams, the Sacramento roster was a revolving cast of characters. In the 146 games they played, 319 transactions and 85 different players featured for the West Sacramento ball club at one point or another, but a few key players stuck around long enough to influence the season.

The River Cats were able to win it all despite losing



ROGER COTTON — MILB.COM COURTESY

The 2019 Triple-A champion Sacramento River Cats pose for a team photo after shutting out the International League Champion Columbus Clippers by a score of 4-0, in a winner take all game in Memphis.

Like most Triple-A teams, the Sacramento roster was a revolving cast of characters.

perhaps their best player, outfielder Mike Gerber, who enjoyed a call up to the Giants the night following their PCL sweep. Gerber, 27, had a batting average of .308 for Sacramento this season, including 41 doubles, 26 home runs, and 83 RBIs in 119 games.

Mike Yastrzemski, who became a fan favorite for the Giants, was one of the River Cats first-half stars before getting the call up to the major leagues. Yastrzemski posted a .316 batting average to go with 12 home runs and 25 RBIs in only 40 games.

One player who joined the club instead of leaving it was left-handed pitcher Caleb Baragar. After spending almost all of 2019 with Double-A Richmond (he had made one Triple-A spot start), Baragar was added to the Triple-A Sacramento roster for the playoffs. During game 5 of the first round

of the Pacific Coast League playoffs, Baragar allowed only two hits and one run in five innings to pick up the win.

The late-season addition was a marvel for the River Cats in his playoff starts. In just his third Triple-A appearance, the National Championship, Baragar held Columbus scoreless for five innings, allowing only two hits. For his performance, Baragar was named the National Championship MVP.

One player who played the whole season with the River Cats also happened to be Sacramento's all-time leader in appearances. Perhaps fittingly, it was only right for pitcher Steven Okert, 28, to be on the mound for the final out of the National Championship.

This upcoming season should have its own exciting moments, especially with the San Francisco Giants in a rebuild or reset mode. More and more exciting prospects should be making their way up the minor league ranks and will hope to feature at one point or another for the River Cats. Even if it's only for short stints at the beginning of the season, a tune-up or rehab start or if they're lucky, another postseason run.



JIM SMITH — DAILY DEMOCRAT

Baker Family Wines has a tasting room in West Sacramento, which is becoming a popular attraction.

Winery joins West Sacramento breweries

San Francisco Giants' Dusty Baker opens tasting room

Democrat staff

Former San Francisco Giants manager and Sacramento native Dusty Baker has moved his winery to West Sacramento and it's right near a popular brewery.

Baker Family Wines has moved production from San Francisco, where it had been based since 2014, to West Sacramento, at 2568 Industrial Blvd., Suite 120. Partners Baker and winemaker Chik Brenneman also opened a tasting room at the space, directly across from Bike Dog Brewing Co.'s taproom.

In fact, the two are planning a collaboration sometime this year. They intend to combine their tasting rooms at the same building, expanding operations beyond their separate 3,000-square-foot spaces to offer wines and beers as well as some food through food trucks.

Both Brenneman and Baker live in the Sacramento region, so they're close by to monitor the winery.

The winery produces 800 cases of wine a year, and sources fruit from around the Sierra Foothills and Northern California.

Before getting into the wine business, Baker enjoyed a long career in professional baseball, including 10 years as manager of the Giants in the 1990s and early 2000s. Baker played baseball at Del Campo High School in Fair Oaks and American River College, before being drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 1967.

The winery is only the latest offering in West Sacramento, which has seen many breweries over the years.

The industrial area of West Sacramento wears the brewery culture well. Three companies have sprouted amid shipping centers and factories, filling a niche among people who truly enjoy a quality beer straight from the source.

All of the breweries — and now winery — are within a half-mile of one another.

Bike Dog Brewing Company

As the banner might suggest, Bike Dog came about in the name of cycling, canines and a love of beer. The same beer flows through the bike-handle taps of both locations: 2534 Industrial Blvd., in West Sacramento and 915 Broadway across the river.

The West Sacramento location peddles the theme with hoisted bikes, decorations and dog-based events. Also in the heart of the industrial sector, they brew the beer on site at the West Sacramento location, and send kegs over to the Broadway location for the Sacramento crowd.

The Sacramento location opened earlier this year and features a clean-cut, brand new look with ample lighting and seats. It also shares a portion of the Selland's Market Cafe food menu.

The West Sacramento location also has food trucks, thematic events, merchandise for sale, and a very large tap list. They've had popular success with IPAs, Saisons and Goses, with the occasional stouts and porters.

Yolo Brewing Company

This brewery, located at 1520 Terminal St., has seen progress by balancing a home-base brewing operation and distributing their craft locally to Yolo County and beyond. Their concoctions can now be found throughout Yolo County and beyond.

They've been known locally as experimental brewers, making dozens of beers using unconventional ingredients and methods. The result? Something for everyone, shipped for miles.

At home, the brewing company features daily food trucks, an outdoor beer "dock," loads of seating and an eyewitness look at the brewing process and equipment.

The site is open to children and dogs, but no dogs are allowed in the warehouse during brewing.

Jackrabbit Brewing Company

Specializing in darker, thicker brews, Jackrabbit sets itself apart from the usual IPAs and lagers of California brewing. In fact, they recently won a gold ribbon from the California State Fair in the Belgian Trappist section for "Square Hare," a very bold, dark ale.

Also child and dog friendly, Jackrabbit offers tables, a large collection of board games and plenty of space for cornhole. They also feature retro arcade systems and have televisions hooked up with old Nintendo consoles.

At Jackrabbit, comfort keeps people returning to the taps. Large couches, backed chairs and entertainment creates a section of the otherwise ordinary warehouse.

All three of these award-winning brewing companies feature regular food trucks, child and dog-friendly environs, and of course, quality beer.

Drake's Brewing Company

When it came time for Drake's Brewing Company to expand its business, it did so at West Sacramento's The Barn. The venue opened in 2016.

Drake's, a San Leandro-based craft brewery, relaunched the space in the end of October 2018

The Barn was a public/private collaboration between the city and Fulcrum Property. On two-acres, the community gathering spot houses one of the most interesting looking buildings on the riverfront.

The sophisticated open air canopy-like structure is grounded by two "pods" on either side.

According to city documents, the venue was "designed to generate buzz with a young demographic, drawing more visitors to the Bridge District."

Located at 985 Riverfront St., Drake's The Barn is dog and kid friendly.

Blue Bottle Coffee comes to West Sac

By Heather Kemp
hkemp@dailydemocrat.com

By the beginning of 2020, Blue Bottle Coffee had officially moved its roasting operations to West Sacramento.

Founded in Oakland in the early 2000s, the business has since expanded to include dozens of cafes across the U.S., Japan and Korea.

Though roasting had occurred in the Bay Area since the company's inception, Blue Bottle took over space at West Sacramento's Riverside Commerce Center in 2018 and began using it for packaging and distribution.

Apparently, higher-ups had been eyeing the Yolo County city as a roasting location prior to that.

"The plan for Blue Bottle to move all roasting operations to the West Sacramento facility has been in the works for three years," a spokesperson said. "After careful evaluation, we chose Sacramento as it is an ideal geographic location to supply both our Northern California and Southern California cafes.

"The new state-of-the-



Blue Bottle Coffee products are sold in Nugget West Sacramento's refrigerated section.

HEATHER KEMP — DAILY DEMOCRAT

art facility allows Blue Bottle to improve quality control overall, roasting coffees for all West Coast cafes from the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, and points in between, as well as for digital subscribers," the spokesperson continued.

While its headquarters will remain in Oakland, the 39,000-square-foot building allowed the business to more than double the size of its previous West Coast production facility.

Shoppers have likely spotted Blue Bottle beverages on the shelves of local grocers like Nugget, but its closest cafes are in the Bay.

"At this time, we don't have any plans for a cafe in the Sacramento area to

share," the spokesperson said.

Blue Bottle also sells products online. Its website offers some background on the business, which focuses on single-origin beans.

"We work directly with farmers around the world to source the most delicious and sustainable coffees we can find. Then, we roast them to our exacting flavor standards and serve them to you at peak deliciousness ... We think it's a privilege to deliver the coffees we love, by farmers we admire, into your hands or onto your doorstep."

Nestlé paid roughly \$425 million to acquire a 68% stake in Blue Bottle in 2017, according to Bloomberg.



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The outside of Blue Bottle Coffee's 39,000-square-foot facility in West Sacramento.

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QUESTIONS & APPETIZERS

Manchurian Indian Cuisine

Open at West Sacramento's Riverpoint Marketplace since April, Manchurian Indian Cuisine serves traditional dishes in a fast-dining setting.



Heather Kemp

The 2,200-square-foot restaurant is owned by Simran and Aditya Vaidya, Jimmy Saetern and Michael Park.

During a recent visit, Simran talked about some of her favorite menu items, including the "fresh" butter chicken, malai kofta vegetable dumplings and fish curry.

She also shared her vision for the business and what she wants potential customers to know ahead of their first visit:

Q: Describe your restaurant's atmosphere.

It's friendly and family-oriented. I think the whole concept was to invite all ages. We wanted family and friends to come in and be comfortable so one of our partners (Park), who is an architect, designed the space trying to accommodate that. There is a wall with wallpaper that shows the street food of India. We wanted to bring that traditional touch in and blend it with modern decor.

Q: What is your specialty?

We recently changed the menu. We were known as Manchurian Hakka Cuisine and served Indian-Chinese fusion dishes but now we're all Indian. You don't ever really see Indian fast dining places. Usually, they are sit-down restaurants where there are 100 items on the menu.



Manchurian Indian Cuisine owner Simran Vaidya preparing a sample for a customer.



The 2,200-square-foot restaurant, located in West Sacramento's Riverpoint Marketplace, has been open since April.

We didn't want to confuse customers so we narrowed it down to about 14 options and give sam-

ples so they make sure they're getting something they like. A lot of people say we're like Panda Ex-

press where you walk in and choose your meal whether you get a plate or à la carte. We added a new cook from Nepal and his style of cooking is different than someone who was raised here. He brings more authenticity into this restaurant and you can taste that in his dishes. We also do catering and have a broader menu for that.

Q: How did you come up with the restaurant's name?

The original idea was Indo-Chinese and my husband thought of the name. He said 'let's do something that relates to this concept' and the main dishes are gobi manchurian, so

the deep-fried cauliflower in the manchurian sauce, and chicken manchurian are popular Indo-Chinese dishes so we ran with that. We knew a lot of the Indian crowd that comes from India would be familiar with that name.

Q: Do you have previous restaurant experience?

No. This is our first and first location. We hope to franchise at some point. The Indo-Chinese restaurant didn't work out too well for us so that's why we changed the menu to only be Indian. My husband and our partner Jimmy (Saetern) have restaurant experience, not as

When you go

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owners but as employees, so they always said they wanted to open their own restaurant.

Q: Why did you pick this location?

We thought people coming to this shopping center would pop in. It's a good location for any kind of restaurant.

Q: How many people does your restaurant seat?

About 46.

Q: Do you serve alcohol?

We will. We're in the process of getting a license.

Q: When are you busiest?

Lunchtime for sure and dinner time.

Q: What's the menu's price range?

It's from \$2 or \$3 to \$35 for a whole family meal.

Q: What else should people know about Manchurian Indian Cuisine?

I would want anyone to come in and try us out. We welcome everyone. We have top-notch customer service and great food.

Questions & Appetizers is a Q&A styled interview featuring local restaurants throughout Yolo County.

West Sac Dining Guide

By Heather Kemp
hkemp@dailydemocrat.com

Restaurants

- Pooja Indian Grill 1223-25 Merkle Ave. poojaindian-grill.us
- Whitey's Jolly Kone 1300 Jefferson Blvd. whiteysjollykone.com
- Vince's Ristorante 840 Harbor Blvd. vinceswestsac.com
- Manao Thai Cuisine 715 Harbor Pointe Place manaothaisac.com

- Tsuki Sushi 2210 Lake Washington Blvd. tsukisushirestaurant.com
- La Crosta Pizza Bar 330 3rd St. lacrostopizzabar.com
- Chando's Tacos 2530 Boatman Ave. chandostacos.com
- River City Grill 2521 Del Monte St.

Cafe

- Westside Identity Coffees 289 3rd St. identitycoffees.com
- Savoury 240 Lake Washington Blvd.

Dessert

- Devil May Care Ice Cream & Frozen Treats 322 3rd St. devilmaycareicecream.com

Brewery/Bar

- Yolo Brewing Company 1520 Terminal St. yolobrew.com
- Jackrabbit Brewing 1323 Terminal St. jackrabbitbrewingcompany.com
- Bike Dog Brewing Company 2534 Industrial Blvd. Suite 110 bikedogbrewing.com
- Kick N Mule Bar and Kitchen 2901 W Capitol Ave. kicknmule.com

West Sacramento farm provides produce to Nugget Market

Democrat staff

A partnership between Nugget Markets' and the Center for Land-Based Learning, based in Woodland, but with an office in West Sacramento is allowing shoppers to purchase "hyperlocal produce" while supporting up-and-coming farmers.

The Nugget Markets store in West Sacramento has been offering a variety of produce from farmers in the West Sacramento Urban Farm Program throughout the summer.

This program is part of CLBL's California Farm Academy Business Incubator Program, which provides opportunities to beginning farmers in the form of land, tools, infrastructure and mentorship.

"Nugget Markets has always been dedicated to supporting new and local farmers," said Jose Torres, director of Produce at Nugget Markets. "It's an honor to be able to support farmers who are just starting out, while also offering our guests the freshest produce from farms that are literally just around the corner."

Nugget Markets' West



Glen Baldwin of Six O'Clock Farm works in a field.

NUGGET MARKETS

Sacramento location has been offering seasonal produce from the West Sacramento Urban Farms since 2017. The store receives weekly deliveries throughout the spring, summer and fall, with an increasing volume of purchases each year as farmers improve their production skills.

Some of the produce sourced from the farms includes heirloom and slicer tomatoes, butternut and spaghetti squash, watermelons, sweet potatoes and more.

The California Farm Academy is one of several programs that further CLBL's mission to cultivate opportunities for youth, agriculture, business and the environment.

Since Nugget Markets is working to support local

farmers, agricultural preservation and youth and education, their partnership for CLBL's various programs and events is a natural fit.

"Nugget Markets has been one of our long-time supporters," said Mary Kimball, executive director for the Center for Land-Based Learning, "and their continued belief in our beginning farmer program is a prime example to the food community that initiatives like ours and business can work together for the benefit everyone involved."

Nugget Markets includes 12 stores across Northern California, including Woodland and Davis; Fork Lift by Nugget Markets in Cameron Park, Food 4 Less Woodland and Sonoma Market in Sonoma Valley.

INTRODUCING

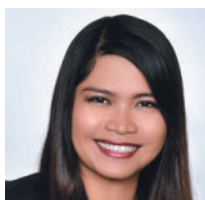
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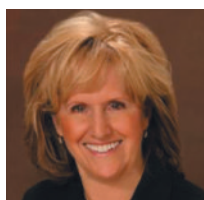
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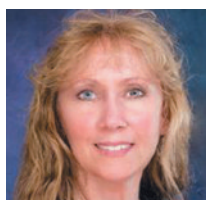
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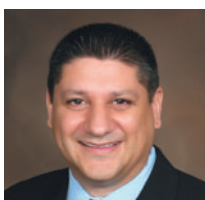
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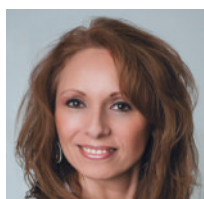
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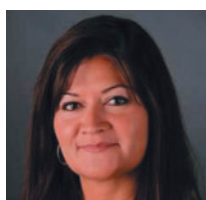
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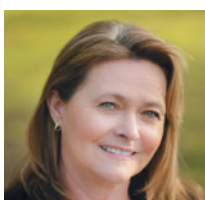
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HEATHER KEMP — DAILY DEMOCRAT

The existing I Street Bridge has connected the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento for more than 100 years.

I Street Bridge Replacement Project design announcement coming soon

By Heather Kemp
hkemp@dailydemocrat.com

The design selection process for the I Street Bridge Replacement Project is coming to an end as the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento narrow in on an architectural plan.

Members of the public can expect to learn what the structure will look like in early 2020, according to a statement from West Sacramento's Transportation Division.

Last March, nine options by Bay Area-based engineering firm T. Y. Lin International were unveiled at a community workshop. Four refined architectural drafts were published in July before the updated versions — Spring 1 and 2 and Thru 1 and 2 — were introduced on Oct. 17.

The cities had secured \$158 million in funding as of October. Approximately \$188 million would be needed to execute either Thru concept while Spring would require roughly \$210 million.

"On the local level, the last bridge built was the Tower Bridge in 1935. It has taken us almost 85 years to find the funds for a new bridge," Jesse Gothan, supervising engineer at the City of Sacramento, said previously. "This bridge is something great and significant to the waterfront in both cities."

According to officials, the plan is to spend 2020 fine-tuning the final concept. Construction could begin in 2021 with the lift bridge opening as soon as 2024.

Connecting the cities for over 100 years, the new bridge doesn't mean the existing one is going anywhere.

The replacement will be built a little upstream from the original and link the Sacramento Railyards to planned developments in West Sac's Washington Neighborhood serving motorists, bicyclists, transit and pedestrians. The old bridge's lower deck will continue to be used as a rail-



BRIDGE GRAPHICS COURTESY — T. Y. LIN INTERNATIONAL

Spring 1 concept.



Spring 2 concept.



Thru 1 concept.

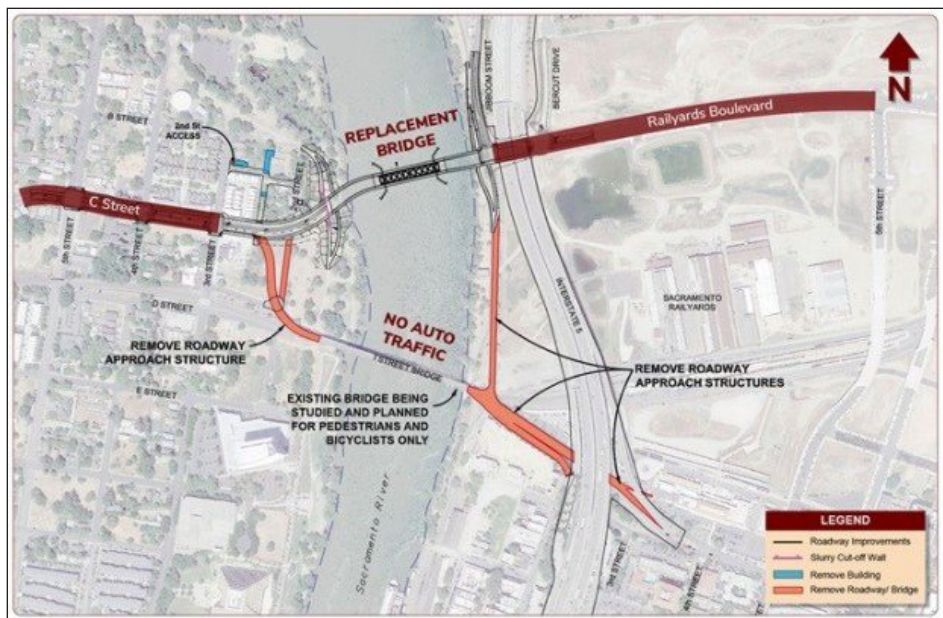


Thru 2 concept.

road crossing and the upper deck is being studied for use by pedestrians and bicyclists, according to project plans.

The project is the result of the Sacramento River Crossing Alternatives Study, completed by the cities in 2011, which identified the purpose and need for an additional method of crossing the Sacramento River. Some of the reasons include the existing bridge's lanes being too narrow to serve buses, a lack of bicycle lanes and sidewalks being too narrow to meet accessibility standards.

Some of the reasons include the existing bridge's lanes being too narrow to serve buses, a lack of bicycle lanes and sidewalks being too narrow to meet accessibility standards.



COURTESY — CITY OF SACRAMENTO

A project-area map shows the relationship between the existing I Street Bridge and the new construction.

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West Sacramento has a new fire chief

By Carlos Guerrero
cguerrero@dailydemocrat.com

West Sacramento native Steve Binns has been the city's new fire chief for two months now as he was appointed as to the role on Nov. 19.

Binns has been the city's deputy fire chief since 2017, shortly after Woodland's former fire chief, Rebecca Ramirez, left that city where she had been serving as deputy chief since July 2016.

"I was working with the fire chief every day as the deputy fire chief," Binns said. "I don't know if there was a day that went by that we didn't talk about operations or budget or whatever the hot topic is, so he did a great job preparing me for my new role. The transition was much easier than I thought it would be."

Binns was nominated as "Firefighter of the Year" in 2011 and promoted to the rank of battalion chief in 2012. Binns also served as captain and engineer for the West Sacramento Fire Department.

"It has been exciting," Binns said. "I've gotten to meet with my command staff and firefighters who are very talented and professional individuals and was able to express to them

my intent and the direction I see the department going."

Prior to that, he was a firefighter for the city of Davis Fire Department from 1998-2001.

"Steve has a unique connection to the community as a longtime employee and even more so as a native of Broderick," City Manager Aaron Laurel said previously. "Steve will build on the extraordinary work and legacy of Chief John Heilmann, and I am extremely grateful to John for his service to the West Sacramento community."

Laurel also thanked "a distinguished group of fire industry leaders with strong ties to West Sacramento that helped us through this recruitment process, including retired Sac Metro and West Sacramento Fire Chief Rick Martinez, Woodland Fire Chief Becky Ramirez, and Yocha Dehe Fire Chief Gary Frederickson."

"As someone who was born and raised in West Sacramento and who continues to take great pride in calling this city my home, I am tremendously honored and humbled to have been selected to be the next chief of the West Sacramento Fire Department," said Binns. "I look

forward to working closely with the highly dedicated, professional, and skilled members of this Department to continue our pursuit of delivering service of the highest caliber to the public."

Binns began his career as a Reserve Firefighter for the city of West Sacramento Fire Department in 1990. He still often finds it hard to believe he's completed a full evolution with the department.

"It's hard to believe," Binns said. "I was fortunate to get into the reserve program at 19, and the rest is history. I could never imagine being the fire chief. One promotion leads to another, and next thing you know you here you are. It's pretty amazing, to be honest. My whole time in the service has been great."

He lives in West Sacramento with his wife and two children.

"I feel it is extremely important and beneficial to be from the community from which I'm serving as fire chief," Binns said. "I plan on leveraging the experiences, knowledge, and relationships that I have accumulated and fostered over a lifetime in this community to assist me and position the organization to be successful for generations to come."



COURTESY

West Sacramento native Steve Binns has been appointed as the city's next fire chief. He starts his new post on Nov. 19.

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