

Pasta cont. from front

about the recognition. "I was shocked when Assemblymember Brown chose me."

Prior to the establishment of their restaurant, the Stanckiewitzes developed a reputation for providing a variety of fine pasta products to upscale restaurants throughout the Inland Empire including Mario's Place, New York Grill, Ciao Bella, Café Allegro, Lake Arrowhead Resort, and the Mission Inn. After 13 years, they decided to open their own restaurant in June of 2003.

From business perspective, La Pasta Italia is a testament to the power of persistence and faith. The establishment has seen its shares of ups and downs but seems to have found a permanent home in the hearts, and hungry tummies, of Grand Terrace.

In honor of his mother, Walt's signature sandwich is the Da Riccio, inspired from her Naples background. The sandwich includes prosciutto, sopressata, parmesan cheese, red onion, pepperoncini, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar on an Italian roll.

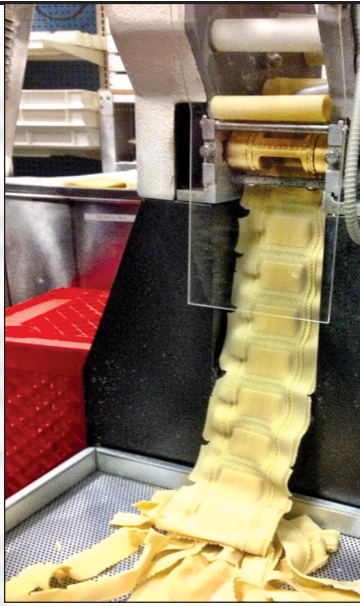
"Be prepared for the long run," Stanckiewitz says to those considering going into businesses for themselves. "Owning a business is not a get rich quick scheme."

And as a small business owner, Stanckiewitz knows not just the challenges but the opportunities and power in small business. During his trip to Sacramento on Monday, June 10 to receive the recognition, he met a lot of different people, including someone with whom he is considering doing business with, which also testifies to the power and importance of networking.

"Small business is the backbone [of the economy]," he said. "Most jobs are in small business. Big companies may be in one place, but small businesses are everywhere."

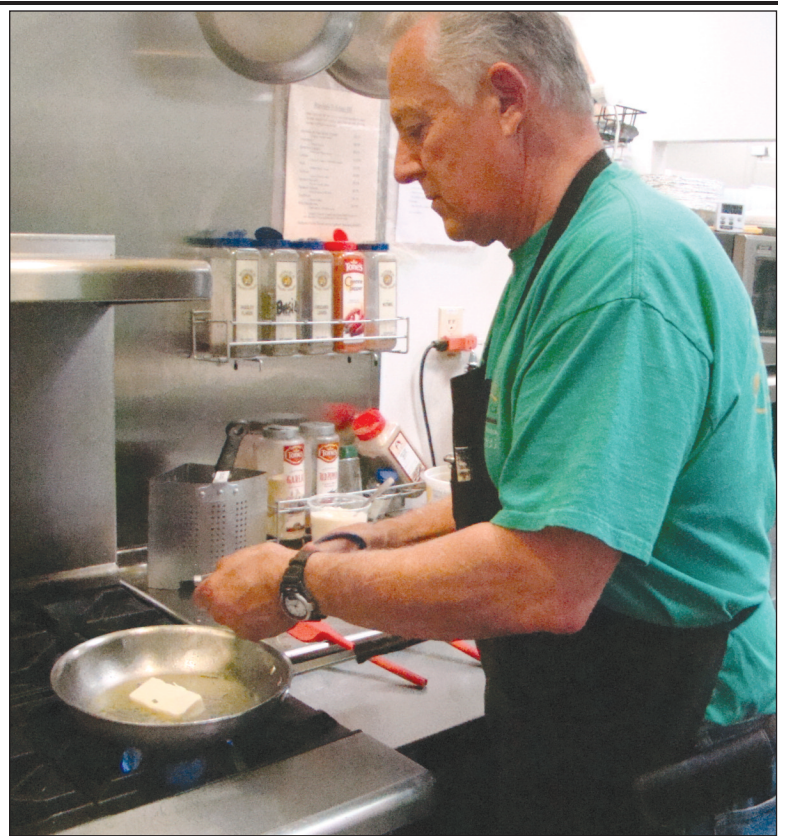
La Pasta Italia is located at 22320 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Their number (909) 783-6835. You may also visit their website at lapastaitalia.com

For more information on Assemblymember Cheryl Brown, visit her website at <http://www.asmdc.org/members/a47/>



COURTESY PHOTO

All the ravioli at La Pasta Italia is made fresh and never dried. "Pasta is like skin. It has pores. Pores absorb flavors," says owner Walt Stanckiewitz. "It is the vehicle to get the sauce from the plate to your mouth. Dry pasta can be cooked but doesn't absorb flavor."



COURTESY PHOTO

Everything is made fresh at La Pasta Italia, including the browned butter and sage sauce for the butternut quash ravioli. Owner Walt Stanckiewitz gained valuable cooking experience through chefs at the restaurants he used to work with preparing and delivering pasta, and today he incorporates many of the techniques and recipes he learned a long the way into his cooking at La Pasta Italia.



COURTESY PHOTO

Earlier this year La Pasta Italia recently welcomed a first grade class from Redlands Adventist Academy into their kitchen so they could learn how fresh pasta is made.



PHOTOS COURTESY/JON HENSLEY

The worship band from Colton First Assembly of God Church began the baccalaureate prayer service with a worship song service. From left to right: Brianne Florez, Pablo Estrada, Erika Estrada, Joshua Gray, and Derek Hussey.

prayer cont. from front

candidates for the degree of Bachelor (bacc) with laurels (lauri) of sermonic oration. The Baccalaureate ceremony is a service of worship in celebration of and thanksgiving for lives dedicated to learning and wisdom." (Wikipedia)

The service was held at Whitmer Auditorium at Colton high and included a worship band from Colton First Assembly of God Church, special messages of congratulations and encouragement from CJUSD Superintendent Jerry Almendarez and Jim Spellman, youth pastor from Centerpoint Church and finally, a special prayer by all pastors over all of the graduates as they go off into the real world. During the prayer, parents were invited to stand with their children to join them in the blessing.

Apart from the spiritual blessing, this baccalaureate service was also special in that it was the first held Colton High School in 17 years. The service was initiated by the Ministerial Association of Colton, in collaboration with many the ministers in and around Colton, including from Azure Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Grand Terrace, Centerpoint Church in Colton, Colton Church of Christ, Colton Community Church, Colton First

Assembly of God, The Door Christian Fellowship, Maranatha Community Church, Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Vineyard Christian Fellowship and Water of Life in South Fontana.

"The collaborative of pastors that put on this event have agreed to continue to make this event happen in the years to come and are excited to see it grow each year," said Jon Hensley, personal assistant to Pastor Jonathan Florez of Colton First Assembly of God Church. "The purpose of this service was to offer the graduates an inspirational message, and prayer as they move from one chapter of their life to the next."

One special feature in this year's service was that graduates were given the opportunity to award their parents or whomever they chose, as a thank you for inspiring them and encouraging them as they made their way through high school. The recipients were presented with a rose at the end of the service.

The service drew about 125, testifying to the fact that the 10 graduates who participated, each had a very strong support system of friends, family and community as a whole.

Plans are already in the work to conduct a baccalaureate service next year and it is expected more students will attend.



PHOTOS COURTESY/JON HENSLEY

Ten graduates drew 125 people to the baccalaureate prayer service on Sunday, May 26 at Colton High School, a number that testifies to the amount of family, friend and community support each graduate is blessed to have.