

# Mediterranean grocery store opens in Carmel

By Adam Aasen · adam@youarecurrent.com

Jimmy Abdumek moved to the U.S. from Egypt four years ago. Since he's lived in Carmel, he said it's been difficult to find the proper groceries to cook Mediterranean cuisine.

Of course, there are some specialty, ethnic food items at upscale grocery stores such as Whole Foods, Fresh Market, EarthFare, Market District and the newly remodeled Kroger. But Abdumek said there are some things — like real mango juice — that just aren't the same.

That's why he opened Grace Grocery. It's a small shop with a deli counter and a few aisles of imported items. It's next to a skateboard shop and in the same shopping center Monon Square, as clothing stores, a vacuum cleaner store and a chiropractor's office. But what Grace Grocery lacks in pizzazz, Abdumek said it makes up for in charm and authenticity.

"You can't find this stuff anywhere," he said. "This is the first store like this in Carmel."

He said his items are reasonably priced with many items costing less than \$5. He has a variety of spices, baked goods, meats, sauces, beverages, olives, varieties of hum-



Some of the nuts and breads offered at the grocery store. (Photo by Adam Aasen)

mus and garnishes.

Some unique offerings include smoked watermelon seeds, quail meat, rabbit, Mortadella Italian sausage and grape leaves.

"A lot of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean customers come in," he said. "But I also have American customers, and they are very good to me."

Grace Grocery is at 620 S. Range Line Rd. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 7 p.m. Sundays.

## DISPATCHES

### Top loan originator

Residential mortgage lender Ruoff Home Mortgage announced that Joe Harvey was the top loan originator for their Carmel office for the month of April. The top spot in each branch office is based on the number of closed loans during the month, as compared to their fellow peers.



Harvey

### New collections manager

**hired** - The Museum of Miniature Houses in Carmel is pleased to announce the appointment of Rachel Tavaras as its first collections manager, a newly created position. Tavaras' assignment is to direct donations of miniatures, care for and maintain the collection, assist in mounting offsite displays and museum exhibits, and administer the database.



Tavaras