



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

SUPPORTERS OF Palestinians gather for a rally in Anaheim's Little Arabia neighborhood on Wednesday evening.

Rally held in Little Arabia

Hundreds of people voiced their support for Palestinians during a rally and vigil organized by the Arab American Civic Council on Wednesday night in Anaheim's Little Arabia.

According to the United Nations, more than 50,000 Palestinians have fled Israeli bombings and nearly 450 buildings in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged in cross-border fighting. More than 243 people, including 66 children, have been killed during Israel's aerial assault, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. At least a dozen people have been killed in Israel during the fighting.

On Thursday, Israel and Hamas militants announced a cease-fire.

— Ben Brazil



A MAN STANDS ATOP a school bus waving a Palestinian flag while parked in the middle of Brookhurst Street during a rally in support of Palestinians in Anaheim.



A YOUNG WOMAN chants during a rally in support of Palestinians.



PALESTINIAN SUPPORTERS hold a moment of silence while displaying pictures of children who they say died in the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Hero pay for grocery workers a no go in Anaheim

The City Council's decision not to mandate a bump in grocery workers' salary by \$3 an hour for 60 days comes as no surprise.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Anaheim is the latest city in Orange County to deny a mandate to require hero pay for grocery and pharmacy workers.

The council's decision on Tuesday to not increase grocery workers' pay by \$3 an hour for 60 days came as no surprise. Last week, four of the council's seven members said they were not in favor of the wage increase while having an initial discussion of the proposal.

Councilman Jose Moreno brought the item forward with the support of council members Avelino Valencia and Jordan Brandman.

"What we know is that grocery and drug retail employees working during COVID, as we heard from testimonies of the past two

"It's frontline workers that have borne the brunt of the risks of this pandemic and will continue to ..."

Andrea Zinder
President of UFCW Local 324

meetings, merit additional compensation in part because they were asked by our city, by our county, by our consumers, by our nation to put themselves on the front lines when everyone was being asked to stay home," Moreno said Tuesday night.

"...We also know that less than half of Orange County residents are currently fully vaccinated, and the folks who are taking the brunt of this virus, we know through data, is low-income folks in our county. Particularly Latino and immigrant families who traditionally work these jobs."

Moreno also said that the grocery industry has seen massive profits during the pandemic, which he said should be shared with workers.

There wasn't much discussion beyond Moreno and Valencia's comments because Councilman Trevor O'Neil then made a motion to lay the item on the table, bypassing further discussion. O'Neil's motion was approved with support from Mayor Harry Sidhu, and council members Stephen Faessel and Jose Diaz.

O'Neil voiced his opposition to the hero pay proposal during last week's discussion, stating that many industries have suffered during the pandemic, and the city shouldn't single out a single profession.

"Just last week we had a lengthy discussion on this issue and a majority of this council clearly expressed opposition to an ordinance like this," O'Neil said Tuesday. "But here we are considering it again. Well, it's been said that insanity is doing the

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Hidden haunts: A critic explores 3 O.C. ghost kitchens

Diverse restaurateurs throughout Orange County are operating on a small scale to offer big flavors.

BY EDWIN GOEI

Scroll through DoorDash, Grubhub and Postmates, and you've surely seen a ghost — a ghost kitchen, that is. Designed for online ordering and delivery, ghost kitchens operate from rented spots at shared commercial spaces such as Smart Kitchens in Irvine and the Hood Kitchen Space in Costa Mesa.

On the apps, you can sometimes tell the ghosts from the rest — they're usually that new concept you've never heard of. Often the people behind them are aspiring restaurateurs who use the lower investment costs of these spaces to test their ideas and themselves. But since the pandemic hit, you're more likely to see the other type of ghost kitchens, which aren't really "ghosts" at all.

These are brick-and-mortar restaurant chains who list themselves under a different name in the hopes of "catfishing" you into ordering rearrangements of their existing menu items. To them it's an easy way to rebrand and multiply their presence on the deliv-

ery sites. But for me, the ruse is, at the very least, disingenuous.

So I decided to hunt down some real "ghosts." And to make sure they weren't just figments of a corporate brand manager's imagination, I would cut out the delivery middleman and pick up the orders myself.

What follows are accounts of my experiences at three of Orange County's newest ghost kitchens and the stories behind them. They include the first foray into entrepreneurship for an amateur Cajun seafood cook, a seasoned Korean food executive looking to start his own brand, and an established Central American fried chicken chain that has discovered an opportunity to penetrate more markets.

POLLO CAMPERO

1560 S. Lewis St., Anaheim, CA 92805

us.campero.com/

With over 400 worldwide locations, Pollo Campero is, without question, the most dominant fast-food brand to come out of

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Edwin Goei

OUTSIDE CLOUDKITCHENS in Anaheim amid a block of industrial warehouses one finds little information that delectable takeout is prepared inside, including at ghost kitchen Pollo Campero.



Photo by Natalie Trinh

UC IRVINE PHYSICIANS produced masks for underserved populations and passed them out in Los Angeles last week.

UC Irvine physicians produce 4,500 masks for underserved communities

BY BEN BRAZIL

Early in the pandemic, two UC Irvine physicians started producing face masks for hospital workers from a material used to sterilize surgical equipment.

Dr. Aditi Sharma, a resident physician in the UC Irvine Health dermatology department, and anesthesiologist Dr. Melissa Chang put their recycling plan into action as hospitals were contending with shortages of N95 masks, which are a mainstay in the medical community and have a filtration efficiency of 95%. The sterilization wraps are made from recyclable material and can filter up to 87% of particles.

The pair formed a nonprofit, Recyclablu, and produced 10,000 masks for UCI Health employees from 1,200 pounds of medical waste. The nonprofit works with local seamstresses to manufacture the masks.

The nonprofit has presented its prototype and recycling initiative to the World Health Organization and was accepted into the 2021 WHO Compendium of Medical Devices for COVID-19.

“That will allow us to disseminate not only our protocols for how we collect and recycle our material, but also how we’ve manufactured so that countries that are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to then implement similar



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

DR. MELISSA CHANG, left, and Dr. Aditi Sharma, have teamed up to produce masks from recycled material.

initiatives in the case that they’re facing face mask shortages,” Sharma said in a phone interview.

Now that face mask shortages aren’t as crucial for hospitals, the physicians are focusing on producing masks for underserved communities.

In partnership with the Union Rescue Mission and UCLA Health, the nonprofit recycled 1,000 pounds of medical waste to produce 4,500 masks for homeless people in Los Angeles. Those masks were passed out last week.

Sharma said the nonprofit will also focus on shipping masks internationally to underserved communities.

“We can’t thank Recyclablu enough,” said the Rev. Andy Bales, Union Rescue Mission president and chief executive. “Like other groups, their generosity has kept our guests as safe as we can possibly be

as we’ve been in the battle to save lives. This has really been the toughest battle of our 130-year history and we wouldn’t have made it through without groups like Recyclablu stepping up in unprecedented ways.”

The Rescue Mission serves about 1,000 homeless people. Bales said there hasn’t been a deficit of masks for the homeless due to the generosity of groups like Recyclablu.

Sharma said the nonprofit will be implementing a campaign where Recyclablu will donate a mask to a local or international underserved community for every purchase of a mask.

Sharma said they are speaking with nonprofits in India to potentially distribute the masks to underserved populations.

“It is really our great hope that this recycling initiative is just the begin-

ning of a bigger movement towards sustainability within the medical field,” Sharma said. “Recyclablu hopes to continue to be a catalyst in promoting the medical field to think about how we can recycle and repurpose many of the materials that we are using in the hospital to reduce the waste we are producing.”

UCLA Health is now transporting its medical waste to Irvine for Recyclablu to produce the masks.

“It’s just a great way that we can use this material and have it for one more use before ultimately ending up in a landfill,” said James Evans, sustainability programs manager with UCLA Health.

Sharma said masks will continue to be important during the pandemic, despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s controversial recent decision to ease its recommendations on wearing masks in public for vaccinated people.

Following that announcement, California officials said the state won’t relax its mask rules until June 15, when it’s slated to reopen its economy fully. Many experts have also said it’s important to continue wearing masks.

“We should be cautious and continue to mask up until we can get the greater population vaccinated,” Sharma said.

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Watching a street race could soon lead to fines, jail time in Santa Ana

BY BEN BRAZIL

It may soon be illegal to watch street races in Santa Ana.

The City Council provided initial approval Tuesday to an ordinance that allows the police to target spectators who are knowingly attending a street race within 200 feet of the event. Although a violation of the ordinance may include a maximum of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, the city must first provide a written warning to any accused spectator.

Council members came to the decision to include the written warning after some heated debate on the controversial ordinance, which was ultimately approved with a 4-3 vote.

Mayor Vicente Sarmiento, and council members Johnathan Hernandez and Jessie Lopez dissented. Because this is the first reading of the ordinance, the council will provide final approval at the next council meeting.

The ordinance is meant to deter people from attending street races, which have been a problem in Santa Ana and other parts of Orange County. Some contend that spectators encourage street racing by promoting the events on social media. The presence of spectators may also attract street racers looking for an audience.

But some council members on Tuesday questioned whether targeting spectators is the right move, and whether it would lead to innocent



Daniel Miller

TWO CARS prepare to square off in an early morning street race in South Los Angeles in September 2018.

people being cited.

“Living in this community my whole life ... I’ve seen tons of horrible things that I did not want to see,” Hernandez said. “As soon as we heard something happen outside — myself, my neighbors, my grandmother, my mom — we all would run outside and watch what would happen. It would not sit well with me to see a cul-de-sac have a street takeover unwillingly, then residents come out of their houses, or come out of their business establishments, and be fined. I wouldn’t want to see that happen. That’s my concern.”

Santa Ana is not the only city wrestling with how best to quell the rise of street racing. Anaheim adopted an ordinance that punishes spectators along with San Diego, Ontario

and San Jose, among other California cities.

The dangerous events have led to serious consequences in Orange County. In January, longtime Orange County Register editor Eugene Harbrecht was killed when a car that was street racing hit his truck.

A month before that, a beloved Huntington Beach videographer was killed while filming an illegal street race in Carson. Daniel “Dano” Patten was known for filming car shows and other events around the city.

During a presentation to the council on Tuesday, traffic Commander Chuck Elms said two people were killed in July due to street racing. The deaths came amid a significant increase of street racing and intersection takeovers in the city. Elms said the city has cracked down on street

racing since then, which has resulted in fewer incidents in the city. The focus on punishing spectators is seen as the next step in deterring street racing.

“One of the main reasons for street racing and one of the biggest attractions to the street racers, are spectators,” said Councilwoman Nelida Mendoza. “So it is putting these spectators in danger and risk of being hurt or killed. So I believe that by issuing citations to those who violate the law is appropriate because it could be saving their lives, and eventually it will decrease the number of spectators.”

Lopez said she would rather police target the drivers involved in illegal street racing.

In response, Elms said the department does target drivers, but they can only pursue one or two vehicles at a scene because officers have to navigate through hundreds of spectators. Elms said spectators intentionally block and vandalize police cars, giving the drivers a chance to get away.

“We need to be able to not only target these drivers, which we have been doing, but also the spectators,” Elms said. “If we start targeting spectators, they will stop coming to Santa Ana. That’s what we want.”

Patten eventually made a motion to add to the ordinance that spectators be given a written warning before any fine or misde-

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Homeless man dealt setback in suit vs. deputy

A federal judge dismisses all but two claims in the case and postpones the trial until August.

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF

A federal judge has effectively gutted a civil lawsuit against an Orange County sheriff’s deputy accused of excessive force at O’Neill Regional Park three years ago, dismissing all but two claims and postponing the trial to August.

A lawyer representing the homeless man suing, however, vowed to press on.

“I think that we have a very solid case. I can’t wait to go to trial,” Narine Mkrtychyan told TimesOC.

Mkrtychyan’s case now rests on claims of excessive force and conspiracy to deprive constitutional rights, instead of additional claims for unreasonable search and seizure, false arrest, and a claim that Orange County’s policing customs and practices are unlawful.

The latter were dismissed recently in an order from U.S. District Judge David O. Carter. It’s a major loss for Mkrtychyan and her client, Jeremy Holloway, after a win in March that gave her access to the Orange County district attorney’s office criminal file against her main defendant, Deputy Chad Renegar, who is charged with perjury and report falsification in a separate incident.

But Mkrtychyan told TimesOC she believes she still has a solid case, and the judge left the door open for her to question Renegar about the criminal case should he testify.

Still, the lawsuit is largely gone, and Carter made clear Mkrtychyan can’t touch Renegar’s criminal case if he doesn’t take the stand. The judge vowed in a May 6 Zoom hearing to declare an immediate mistrial if she does.

Attorneys for Renegar and the county could not be reached for comment.

The dismissals, handed down May 5, follow two years of contentious courtroom battles that included a sanctions request for Mkrtychyan’s deposition of Renegar, which U.S. Magistrate Judge Douglas McCormick described in a court order as “to put it mildly, a train wreck.” McCormick, who is handling the case with Carter, blamed Mkrtychyan for acting unprofessionally.

Mkrtychyan said she plans to ask Carter to reconsider some of his decisions regarding what can be allowed at trial and what can’t, acknowledging that many were unfavorable to her case.

“This case has become a little bit more challenging

to me,” Mkrtychyan said.

Carter flatly rejected claims of a “code of silence” among the sheriff’s department and that deputies have a pattern of falsifying reports.

“Here, even viewing the facts in the light most favorable to the Plaintiff, Plaintiff has failed to establish evidence of an unlawful custom or practice,” according to Carter’s order. “At best, Plaintiff alleges the instant, single incident of deputies falsifying reports following a use of excessive force.”

Mkrtychyan said Renegar needlessly beat Holloway after responding to O’Neill Regional Park for a domestic violence call on Jan. 21, 2018. She also accused Deputy Brenden Billinger and Deputy Justin Gunderson of excessive force for not intervening. But Carter concluded “neither deputy had a reasonable opportunity to intercede.”

“To Deputy Gunderson’s knowledge, the deputies were properly arresting a suspect. The ensuing physical altercation took place quickly and Gunderson testified that when he arrived, Holloway was already on the ground and the deputies were attempting to handcuff him,” according to the 11-page order, issued May 5.

“Deputy Billinger testified that he never saw guns being pointed and that he only assumed there was a use of force because Billinger heard it over the broadcast.”

The case drew heightened attention after Orange County prosecutors announced their criminal case against Renegar in February. In that incident, he’s accused of forging a victim’s signature while falsifying a geographic location in a report about a stolen license plate.

Mkrtychyan told TimesOC that the allegations were similar to what she believed happened with Renegar and Holloway. Holloway was never charged with a crime, and Mkrtychyan believes deputies falsely arrested him.

But Carter concluded they had probable cause, and he dismissed allegations that the deputies acted out of bounds by investigating claims from other campers that a woman inside Holloway’s tent had been screaming for help.

“Regardless of whether the witness accounts were based on what they heard rather than what they saw, the Court finds that the information about a man allegedly beating a woman was reasonably trustworthy,” according to the judge’s order.

MEGHANN M. CUNIFF is a contributor to TimesOC.

HERO

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same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

“To our staff, I’m sorry that you’re tasked to work on something that we all know has no chance of being adopted when we have so many other important issues to deal with in Anaheim. And to the public, I’m sorry that there are members of this body who chose to waste taxpayer money in this exercise in futility.”

While Tustin rejected a hero pay proposal late last month, Irvine, Santa Ana, Buena Park and Costa Mesa enacted hero pay ordinances in February and March.

Several cities — including Oakland, Seattle, Santa Monica, San Jose, Montebello and Long Beach — have adopted hazard pay for grocery and pharmacy store workers, though the ordinances have not been without controversy. The California Grocers Assn. has sued many of these cities, including Irvine and Santa Ana.

Supporters of hero pay argue that grocery store workers deserve a wage hike due to the hazardous conditions they’ve endured over the last year. They also suggest the grocery industry should share some of its profits made during the

pandemic with employees.

Those in opposition to hero pay contend that the government shouldn’t be determining raises, and cities may face costly lawsuits.

Following the meeting, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 324 — a union that represents 22,000 workers in grocery, drug, pharmacy, healthcare, food processing and cannabis in Orange and Los Angeles counties — issued a statement against the council’s decision.

“It’s frontline workers that have borne the brunt of the risks of this pandemic and will continue to as new guidance on mask use and implementation of safety measures will change in the month ahead as our state reopens,” said Andrea Zinder, president of UFCW Local 324. “These essential workers have endured the toll of exposure every day and especially in cities like Anaheim where workers have seen the highest rate of infection among our membership. It’s unconscionable that Mayor Harry Sidhu, and council members Stephen Faessel, Jose Diaz and Trevor O’Neil chose to side with corporations instead of workers leading the charge to recognize frontline workers.”

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Literary groups seek O.C. poets to fuel social change

LibroMobile and Orange County Public Libraries are accepting applications for O.C. Poet Laureate and O.C. Youth Poet Laureate.

In a countywide effort, the organizations aim to reflect the diverse demographics of the region, promote cultural connections and community partnerships and inspire residents through poetry.

In the poet laureate program, one literary role model who is over 19 years old is chosen to help share poetry and local social justice initiatives with audiences.

Through the youth poet program, one laureate is selected among young writers from 13 to 19 years old. They receive an honorarium that can be applied as an educational scholarship or arts programming. Finalists serve as ambassadors alongside the laureate and have opportunities for performances, projects and peer support.

The two local organizations are also partnered



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

DONALD DUNGAN LIBRARY in Costa Mesa is one of the 32 Orange County Public Libraries, which is partnering with local literary organizations to launch poet programs.

with National Youth Poet Laureate Program and Urban World, which both center youth development in literary arts.

Applicants must demonstrate artistic excellence in poetry and a commitment to civic engagement and social justice. Requirements include applicants to reside in the

county and have a direct connection to the area but are not required to be U.S. citizens.

Applications are open online until July 15 and the two laureates will be announced on Aug. 15.

For more information, visit libromobile.com/ocpoetlaureates.

— From staff reports

Nonprofit collects school supplies to help students

The nonprofit Community Action Partnership is continuing its Backpacks for Success program, which is well into its 15th year.

The program collects funds or school supplies such as papers, pens, notebooks and folders to distribute to low-income students, some of which have returned to in-person learning.

"This past year has shown all of us just how resilient and strong our children and their parents are, and with in-person learning returning, we want to make sure we can ease the burden for a few of those in need," said Gregory C. Scott, president and Chief Executive Officer of CAP OC, in a statement.

"The impacts of the pandemic are long-lasting, and many students throughout our county do not have the supplies they need. We're calling on the many generous members of our community to help us provide 5,000 kids with the supplies they need as they transition back to our



FOR 15 YEARS, CAP OC has delivered backpacks and school supplies throughout Central and North Orange County.

Courtesy of Community Action Partnership

new normal."

Although in the past the nonprofit's goal has been to serve about 1,500 to 2,000 students, this year the goal has been raised because the nonprofit is seeing an increased need.

The students served range from kindergarten to high school seniors throughout more than 30 Orange County schools. However, 80% are elementary school-aged students. Deliveries primarily take

place through the nonprofit's Family Resource Centers located in Anaheim, Orange and Santa Ana.

They will continue to collect donations through the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

Community members, businesses and organizations who would like to donate or host a backpack drive, can visit capoc.org/backpacks for more information.

— From staff reports

HIDDEN

Continued from page R1

Guatemala. You might have read the recent Los Angeles Times article about how the aroma of Pollo Campero's fried chickens now fills the cabins of resumed U.S.-bound flights from Central America as travelers bring back a taste of home. It speaks to the brand's popularity that this happens even though there are already at least 10 Pollo Campero brick-and-mortar locations in the L.A. area. Orange County, in the meantime, had none.

This changed last month with the opening of Pollo Campero's ghost kitchen in Anaheim. It operates out of a 200-square foot space rented from CloudKitchens by Uber's Travis Kalanick. Officially called a "digital kitchen," this is the first of 10 "ghosts" Pollo Campero plans to open throughout the country this year.

They are making the investment after seeing their online orders and delivery increase by more than 300% last year. The company is betting this trend continues, even as the pandemic subsides.

Campero USA's Managing Director & COO Luis Javier Rodas puts it this way: "The digital kitchen model, with a smaller footprint and efficient cost structure, has enormous potential to help us further penetrate markets and bring our chicken to more consumers in a convenient way."

If you do decide to pick up your online order at Pollo Campero's Anaheim ghost kitchen like I did, trust where your GPS takes you. Forge ahead even as



INSIDE CLOUDKITCHENS in Anaheim, customers can pick up orders from Orange County's only Pollo Campero "location," a ghost kitchen.

bowl of beans that begs to be consumed next to a campfire.

Then, when you bask in the afterglow of the meal you just ate, be thankful that you didn't have to drive to any of Pollo Campero's L.A. branches, let alone LAX to pick up someone who has brought it back from Central America.

THE GOBAN

17951 Sky Park Circle Unit F, Irvine, CA 92614

thegobanbowl.com/

One of the owners behind the month-old the Goban is a gentleman named Joe. Though Joe declined to give his last name for this story, he did share that, for the last decade, he worked for a Korean restaurant chain that had branches in the U.S.

and a year. Rent, which includes utilities and cleaning fees, and the willingness of his landlords to help out with marketing and permits required by the city, have also made things easier for first timers.

So far, the arrangement has been working well for Joe. And with no dishwashers, no bartenders, no manager, no front-of-the-house staff and no cashier, it leaves his skeleton crew of three to dedicate themselves solely to the preparation of the food.

He notes that this laser-focus on cooking and packaging seems to have resonated. In the few short weeks since the Goban opened, Joe has already seen repeat customers for his Korean bentos. The meals are sealed inside attractive paper boxes that look like gifts waiting to be unwrapped. And in the Goban's Supreme Combo Box, there's a farm animal sampler with strips of grilled beef called bulgogi, breaded planks of deep-fried pork called katsu, and easy-to-eat white-meat morsels of Korean fried chicken shellacked in a sweet and spicy glaze.

And because Smart Kitchens is centrally located within one of the densest business districts in Irvine, Joe has noticed that office park workers are using Smart Kitchens not for delivery but as a convenient takeout spot with online ordering. They approach it as though it's a veritable food hall or mall food court, sans the hall or the mall.

Then COVID-19 hit. As the effects of the lockdowns rippled through the industry, the company — which Joe also declined to name — closed nearly all of its American stores. It was then that Joe left to create his own brand.

To test out his experience and the market without taking on too much risk, he decided to start with two ghost kitchens. Operating as the Goban, one cooks out of CloudKitchens' Long Beach branch and the other, Smart Kitchens in Irvine.

Being a tenant at these two different ghost kitchen spaces has allowed him to see their differences. But the common thread is the attractive low start-up costs and short-term leases that last between six months



INSIDE SMART KITCHENS in Irvine, one can find "Eight Under One Roof," including the Goban, a ghost kitchen offering Korean bentos.

BUCK'S CRAB TRAP KITCHEN

350 Clinton St. Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

instagram.com/bucksrabtrap/

Before you order from Buck's Crab Trap Kitchen, stick a few beers in the ice chest. Though you can only

well, you can't coach football over Zoom.

With options drying up, Buck decided to move his wife and young son back to his hometown of St. Louis after he secured another coaching job at a high school there. But soon COVID-19 restrictions



LOBSTER BITES from Buck's Crab Trap Kitchen, a ghost kitchen operating out of the Hood in Costa Mesa.

do delivery or pick-up, this is the kind of food you'd typically eat in a nautically themed Cajun seafood restaurant with a lobster bib around your neck, a small wooden mallet in one fist and a sweaty bottle of cold lager in the other.

Barely a month old, the concept is already winning repeat customers on the delivery apps. But the story behind this newest tenant of the Hood Kitchen Space started a year ago when, like everything else in the world, owner Roosevelt Buck III's life changed. He lost his job coaching football at Citrus College early in the pandemic because,

ended that gig too. It was then that he resolved to follow the entrepreneurial footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both own barbershops: He was going to start his own business.

He opened the first iteration of Buck's "ghost kitchen" with money from his own pocket. Though he had zero restaurant experience, Buck had been cooking seafood for family events for a decade. And in St. Louis, where COVID-19 curfews had forced traditional restaurants to close early, he saw an unmet demand. He would cook starting from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. And with the help of his

brother, they delivered the food themselves all night long to customers all over the city. Seeing that her husband's spin on Cajun seafood was a hit, Buck's wife convinced him that they can make Buck's Crab Trap Kitchen work in California. So, they moved back to the Golden State and secured a spot they currently rent at the Hood in Costa Mesa. Though he isn't doing door-to-door delivery himself anymore, if you do pick up, it will be Buck who hands you the food. He and his wife are the only employees.

In the future he wants to hire help, expand to a food truck and hopefully open the brick-and-mortar restaurant that you picture in your mind when you hear the name Buck's Crab Trap Kitchen. But for now, Buck considers it a blessing that he has this opportunity at the Hood. He enjoys the family environment there and notes that he and his fellow tenants have become each other's customers after sampling each other's food.

And through online ordering and on-site pick-up, you can sample it too. Though it's unnecessary to do so, you can dip his deep-fried lobster bites — Cajun-spiced morsels of battered decadence — into the garlic-packed melted butter sauce they come with. Or you can taste some of his unshelled deep fried king crab legs, which are unlike anything offered by the Boiling or Kickin' Crabs.

EDWIN GOEI is a contributor to TimesOC.

GRILLED AND

fried chicken with sides of corn salad and fried yucca at the ghost kitchen Pollo Campero.



dustrial warehouses. Then, look for the dancing plastic tube man in front of the warehouse that says "Food Pick-up & Takeout" in large block letters.

Enter through the door beneath those words and walk toward the opening at the end of an empty hallway. Because a handful of other concepts operate here, tell the waiting attendant your name and that you have an order from Pollo Campero.

Finally, rush home to eat the chicken, which comes either grilled or fried in an addictive thin coating of batter spiced with a flavor that is unique to this chicken. Enjoy sides such as spears of fried yucca that eat like gigantic fries, a corn salad bursting with the color of confetti and a creamy



THE GOBAN'S Supreme Combo Box with grilled beef, deep-fried pork and Korean fried chicken.



CALL BUTTONS on the door outside the Hood in Costa Mesa, where one will find Buck's Crab Trap Kitchen.

Brewery cheers O.C.'s reopening



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SERVER ANTHONY FRESHOUR presents a row of King Minutia beers for guests during the Rad Beer Co. preview and tasting room opening night in Anaheim on Wednesday.

A “rad” new brewery has opened in Anaheim aptly called the Rad Beer Co., offering cold brews on tap crafted in the traditional recipes and methods using German ingredients, proof of which is the King Minutia pilsner, master brewer Dylan Mobley’s favorite pint.

During a preview night, Mobley and partner Cameron Collins gathered a group around for a casual Q&A to describe the process, much of it very technical to the uninitiated, as socially distanced guests simultaneously sipped on the fruits of their labor. On offer during the preview were six beers to go with six food choices.

The partners behind the new brewery are also the guys behind Rad Brat in Dana Point.

— Don Leach

GUESTS ENJOY a few cold brews from Rad Beer Co.’s Cloud Bottom Hazy IPA and a King Minutia at the tasting room preview.



BREWING PARTNERS Dylan Mobley, left, and Cameron Collins talk things over on Wednesday.



RACE

Continued from page R2

meanor could be filed against a person. Her motion, which was approved, requires the warning to be issued before any fine or infraction, and a fine or infraction must be issued before anyone is subject to a

misdemeanor.

“I understand the desire to have something that has a lot of teeth to it,” Phan said. “The goal is to deter this dangerous activity, not necessarily to cite people, or give them a misdemeanor or record, or charge them fines. We want to prevent a dangerous activity from happening, and a written

citation, which we would have on record, would help us do that ... If you see the person the next time, it’d be very hard for them to claim, ‘I was just passing by,’ given that we have a history of them being warned.”

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Painter displays work inspired by COVID-19 journal entries

Artist Rick J. Delanty’s solo exhibit “Beauty Unites Us” is on view through June 6 at Casa Romantica.

The exhibit features 24 recent paintings, including works painted during the pandemic and onsite. The solo show is inspired by the artist’s journal entries from March 2020. Delanty focuses on landscape paintings of San Clemente, Orange County and across the U.S.

“What I think viewers will see when they come here is light and energy, and the impressionistic style in which I’ve worked,” Delanty said in a video interview. “What I’m hoping is that will convey to them the positive feelings that I have about the state of the world today. That it’s not all doom and gloom, but definitely that there are places where we can find beauty if we just look for them.”

The artist taught for 32 years at San Clemente High School and got his start in fine arts when Joan Irvine Smith invited him to art invitations. Since then, he has participated in the Laguna Beach Invitational, a local plein air event, for 13 consecutive years.

“Rick J. Delanty is one of the most accomplished plein air painters working in Southern California today.



Courtesy of Casa Romantica

AN INSTALLATION view of the exhibit “Beauty Unites Us” by artist Rick J. Delanty at Casa Romantica in San Clemente.

In fact, several of the most prestigious collections of California Impressionist art held by individuals and foundations in Southern California also include works by Rick J. Delanty — oftentimes his are the only works made by a living artist among early 20th-century heavy hitters like William Wendt, Granville Redmond and Edgar Payne,” Executive Director Amy Behrens said in a statement.

He was the first visual artist to be featured in a solo show at Casa Romantica in 2013 and is the venue’s spring 2021 artist in residence, hosting dinners, demonstrations and workshops. His last event at Casa Romantica will take place

IF YOU GO

What: “Beauty Unites Us”
Where: 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente
When: Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cost: General admission \$5, free for children ages 12 and under, active military and members; free admission for all ages on the first Sunday of every month
Info: casaromantica.org

on Wednesday where he will paint onsite along with other local artists.

— From staff reports

TimesOC

A Times Community News publication serving Orange County

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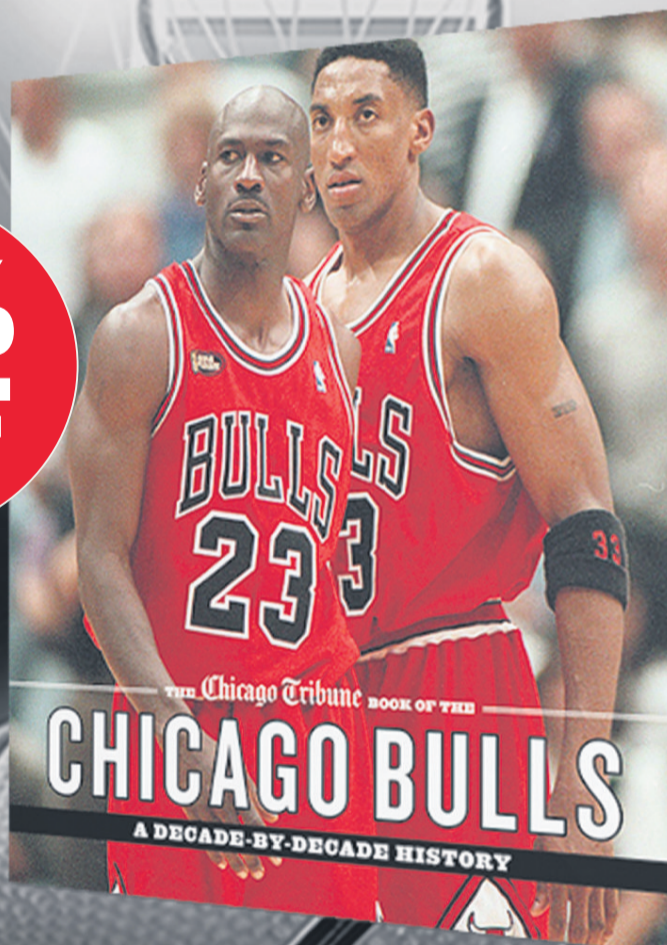
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COMPANY INFO

TimesOC is published Sundays by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

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