Times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 /// Times Community News publication serving Orange County /// timesoc.com



Photos by Raul Roa | *Staff Photographer* **THE OLD BREA** Chop House restaurant is among many in Orange County offering pickup meals – and in a few cases onsite dining – for the holiday.

Thanksgiving to go: These eateries want to help Orange County give thanks in spite of the pandemic

BY BRADLEY ZINT

www ith much of California returning to the purple tier because of a surge in coronavirus cases and health officials advising against nonessential travel, many Orange County families won't be celebrating Thanksgiving the same way they did last year, but area restaurants are gearing up to help make the holiday memorable and keep the tradition alive, with menus planned and pick-up a demi-glaze and four giant turkey legs with cranberry apple compote. You'll also get three sides: mashed potatoes (skin-on red potatoes, confit garlic, and chives), green bean casserole (mushrooms, bechamel, allium crumble and scallions) and stuffing (brioche, lardons, mirepoix and herbs). For dessert, it's a pumpkin cheesecake with cinnamon cookie crumble.

- Price: \$250
- Serves: six to eight
- Deadline: Preordering is

More O.C. inmates' calls may have been recorded

A court motion claims the practice may have continued after the telephone vendor said it was no longer doing so. **BY BEN BRAZIL**

A telephone vendor found to have recorded thousands of calls between Orange County jail inmates and their attorneys may have continued to record confidential calls even after the company said it was no longer doing so, according to a motion filed by Assistant Public Defender Scott Sanders.

It first came to light in 2018 that Global Tel Link Corp. — a Virginia-based contractor that oversees the county's jail phone system recorded the confidential calls for the previous three years. The company blamed the lapse on "human error."

Yet, Sanders' motion filed last week contends that the company recorded at least six calls between April to December 2019 from the number of the Westminster branch office of the Orange County Public Defender, though GTL had supposedly repaired the system that led to the lapses and added the number to a Do Not Record list.

The company was found to have recorded inmate-attorney calls also in 2015 in Pinellas and Charlotte counties in Florida.

Orange County is still contracting with GTL.

The reality is that the developments detailed herein, combined with GTL's history in this county and nation, eviscerate any reasonable faith that GTL reliably blocks the recording of calls from inmates to counsel whose numbers appear on the county's Do Not Record list." the motion says The motion was filed on behalf of Sanders' client, Ryan Franks, who had at least one call recorded by GTL. He is seeking records that would indicate how many calls were recorded between him and his counsel and whether prosecutors accessed those calls.

services arranged.

Here are a few selections from throughout the county to satisfy almost any palate.

THE BLIND PIG

31431 Santa Margarita Pkwy., Rancho Santa Margarita; 4975 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda

The two locations of the Blind Pig are offering a Thanksgiving feast package with a mix of ready-to-serve and heat-andserve food. The main courses are 4 pounds of prime rib roast with available through Sunday. Pickups available at both locations on Tuesday and Wednesday.

• To order: For Rancho Santa Margarita, call (949) 888-0072. For Yorba Linda, call (714) 485-2593. You can also email *contact@theblindpicoc.com*.

BRUXIE

215 W. Birch St., Brea and 292 N. Glassell St., Orange Bruxie is again serving its



See Thanks, page R4 **CANDIED YAMS** from the Old Brea Chop House.

Prosecutors originally filed a motion to quash the subpoena but withdrew that this week.

"We withdrew our motion to

See **Calls,** page R5

Artist's 'Happenstance' completes Muckenthaler sculpture garden

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Although Orange County may be closing up once again, the purple-tier pandemic status didn't put a halt to the recently completed sculpture garden at Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

The center has stayed away from virtual events for the most part, instead opting to expand its programming with drive-in concerts and the addition of a sculpture garden spread throughout 9 acres of land.

CEO Farrell Hirsch said the idea to turn the outside property into an art gallery had been circulating for a long time, but it wasn't a priority.

"When the pandemic hit in March and April, people had to stay in their homes, and the reaction of people was taking walks," Hirsch said.

"Foot traffic increased through our grounds much more than they ever had. We said, 'This is the time to do it and find a way to bring art to people where they are.'"

Because it serves the north O.C. area, the center tries to champion local artists, Hirsch said.

He was familiar with artist Bret Price's work and had admired the piece on public display in Century City. When Hirsch found out Price lived near the center, he thought he would be the right fit.

Price's "Godot" sculpture was the first piece added to the garden in May. The title of the 12-foot metal sculpture is a reference to Samuel Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot," an absurdist two-act classic that seemed like a relatable fit for the existential dilemma



brought on during the pandemic — a wait for going back to some kind of normalcy.

"From a certain angle, there's this sad questioning character of

See Sculpture, page R5



LEFT: 5-year-old Evelyn Wu poses on Nov. 12 with a sculpture called "Happenstance" by artist Bret Price, one of eight installations at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center sculpture garden, at the Fullerton landmark location.

FAR LEFT: Price stands next to his piece titled "Godot."

Photos by Raul Roa Staff Photographer

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TIMESOC

Early Christmas spirit



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

A 125-FOOT tall Christmas tree was lit at the Outlets at San Clemente following performances by students from the Orange County School of the Performing Arts and a special appearance by Santa Claus on Nov, 7. The show drew hundreds of visitors.



PERFORMERS STAND in front of the Christmas tree.



A STUDENT from the Orange County School of the Performing Arts sings before the the Christmas tree lighting.

As pandemic retightens grip, O.C.'s largest health insurer names new head

BY BEN BRAZIL

Richard Sanchez has been named the permanent replacement to lead Orange County's largest health insurer as the pandemic once again grips the county.

Sanchez had been serving as the interim chief executive for CalOptima since early May after leaving his role as the director of the Orange County Health Care Agency.

There was controversy surrounding Sanchez's departure from the leading health position in the county as it wrestled with the beginning months of the coronavirus pandemic and the politicization of masks.

Sanchez, who served on the board of CalOptima, takes the reigns as the in-



ship numbers increase, lifted by residents facing new financial

surer's

member-

Richard financial Sanchez hurdles amid the pandemic economy.

pandemic economy. CalOptima serves the poor and homeless with Medi-Cal in Orange County.

"We're anticipating that the financial hits that are being seen across Orange County are going to take its toll in terms of the population meeting criteria to be Medi-Cal eligible, and the signup may be ticking upwards," Sanchez said.

Membership has grown by about 70,000 between February and October from 709,000 to 776,000. The county's unemployment rate climbed to as high as 14.7% in May before tapering down to about 9% in September, according to CalOptima data.

Sanchez said the most difficult aspect of the new world under COVID-19 has been transitioning to telehealth for both employees and patients.

"The virtual nature of telehealth and transitioning to that very quickly and all the impacts that it's had on basically the health world, I mean I can just go on and on with that one," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said it was a "heavy lift" switching from in-person to telehealth. CalOptima doesn't provide direct care, rather it provides care through its network.

Sanchez said it was easier

for some of CalOptima's national health provider partners to transition over to telehealth, but it has been far more difficult for smaller community clinics to redefine how they provide healthcare through retraining staff and the expenses that went along with the transition.

There's still room for improvement.

"We've made headway in acceptance and usage," Sanchez said. "... Not at the same level where I feel our preventative care, our ongoing natural care of chronic conditions is where it should be."

Sanchez said member acceptance of the new telehealth system is a major issue. Since CalOptima is the county's healthcare provider for the poor and homeless, members may lack a computer or the technical knowledge to navigate the telehealth system.

"Our senior citizens may struggle with that and may be more vulnerable because of that," Sanchez said.

Sanchez also said he will work to put the millions of dollars earmarked for homelessness programs to use.

Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Andrew Do, who serves on the board of CalOptima, was critical of the insurer while it was under the leadership of Sanchez's predecessor, Michael Schrader for moving "too slowly" in rolling out programs to help the homeless.

"I am very frustrated," Do said in 2019. "It's to the point where they are either tone deaf or they don't know what the heck they are doing."

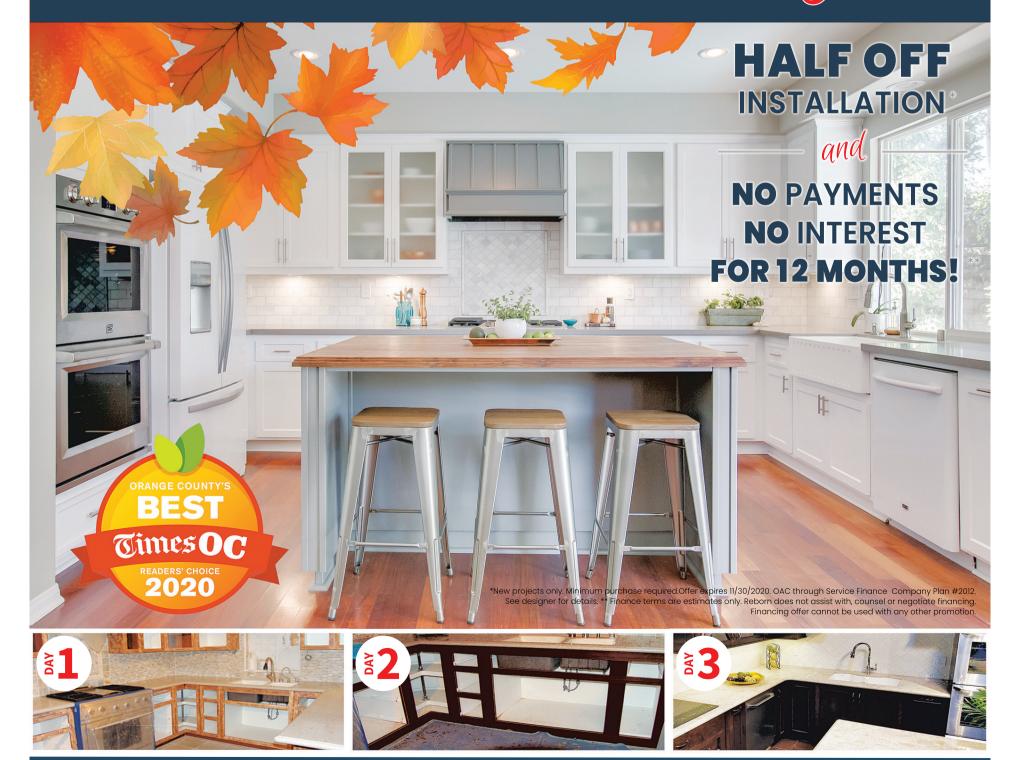
Despite requests for an interview this week, Do only provided an emailed statement.

"The CalOptima Board is excited to appoint Richard Sanchez as the permanent CEO," Do said in the statement.

"Richard's 36 years of experience in healthcare, together with his strong leadership at HCA and as interim CEO for CalOptima through the difficult challenges of COVID the past seven months, will allow him to be a strong leader in delivering a member-focused healthcare system centered on quality, increased access and equity."

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Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

THE OLD BREA Chop House's Thanksgiving dinner includes a turkey, yams, cranberry relish, pumpkin pie with cinnamon cream, creamed spinach, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, almond string beans, creamed corn, gravy, dinner rolls and roasted pear salad.

THANKS

Continued from page R1

special Thanksgiving waffle sandwich stuffed with Boar's Head turkey, sausage-herb stuffing, gravy and cranberry-orange sauce. They're also serving a pumpkin pie dessert waffle and pumpkin spice shake.

- Price: Varies
- Serves: 1
- Deadline: Sales begin

Monday and are anticipated to last through the week • To order: Visit either

store.

CAFE SEVILLA

The Triangle, 1870 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa

It's Thanksgiving in Spain at the Triangle in downtown Costa Mesa. On Thanksgiving Day, they're offering a three-course prix fixe menu for outdoor dining and takeout with butternut squash soup with lemon and chive cream, roasted turkey breast and glazed black forest ham with sweet mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, a brussels sprout casserole, corn bread, barbacoa pineapple chutney and pumpkin pie with cinnamon ginger whipped cream.

• Price: \$49.50 for adults, \$24.50 for children

 Serves: Varies • Deadline: Outdoor seating on Thanksgiving Day starts at 11 a.m. Last seating is at 9 p.m. Takeout can be ordered as late as Thanksgiving Day. • To order: Reservations

are recommended by call-



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holiday.

SAVE THIS COUPON Se SAVE THIS COUPON Se SAVE THIS COUPON COUPON **IMPLANT** ᅻ ing (949) 688-1555.

DRIFTWOOD KITCHEN 619 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Laguna Beach

Chef Rainer Schwarz is offering a prix fixe menu special on Thanksgiving Day. It starts with parker house rolls with Vermont butter and sea salt, followed by a choice of roasted baby beet and arugula salad, yellowtail carpaccio, butternut squash soup or panseared scallops. Entrees include Omaĥa prime rib or roasted turkey. Desserts are pecan pie, apple pie or cookies.

• Price: \$75 for adults, \$19 for children 12 and younger • Serves: Varies

• Deadline: The restaurant's Thanksgiving Day hours are 1 to 8 p.m.

• To order: Reservations are recommended by calling (949) 715-7700 or visiting driftwoodkitchen.com.

FABLE & SPIRIT

3441 Via Lido, Suite A, Newport Beach This Newport Beach institution is offering its expertise to supplement your Thanksgiving dinner. Contact sommelier Ali Coyle, who will recommend wines based on your menu. Drew Coyle, director of spirits, is also creating a "fabled spirit" for this year's

• Price: Varies

 Serves: Varies • Deadline: Orders must

be placed by Tueday. Pickup is between 4 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

• To order: Call (949) 409-9913 or email *info*@



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

EMPLOYEES UNLOAD boxes of frozen food on Thursday at Second Harvest's distribution facility in Irvine as they prepare for the 34th annual We Give Thanks event in Anaheim. The effort provides meals and supplemental groceries to Orange County residents struggling with food insecurity.

We Give Thanks volunteers prep Thanksgiving meals for drive-through pickup

Volunteers from the Anaheim Ducks organization started assembling Thanksgiving dinner boxes this week in preparation for the 34th annual We Give Thanks Thanksgiving Day event on Thursday.

The event provides Thanksgiving meals and groceries to Orange County residents. This year officials with participating organizations estimate it will take three days to package the boxes as they expect 7,000 cars to drive through the meal distribution area at the Honda Center on

Thanksgiving morning. Second Food Harvest Food Bank and CAP OC Food Bank partnered to provide 1,300 turkeys, 7,000 pies, 13,000 pounds of potatoes and 175,000 pounds of boxed food. Waste Not OC will help prep, package and blast-freeze meals as well as redistribute any excess food to local

pantries. Typically, We Give Thanks, Inc. has held the event as a buffet. It started 33 years ago in the parking lot of Frank Garcia's family-owned Anaheim restaurant, La Casa Garcia, when he decided to serve free Thanksgiving dinner to families in need. Each

chili mac, collard greens and red beans and rice. Sweet desserts offered are

IF YOU GO

What: 34th annual We **Give Thanks** Thanksgiving Day event When: Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Honda Center, 2695 East Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92806 (Distribution is off Douglass Road; follow directional signs) Cost: Free Info: wegivethanksinc.org

year, the numbers grew and for over a decade the event was held at the Honda Center co-hosted by Wells Fargo and the

Anaheim Ducks. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the buffet has changed to a drive-through setup with the help of Second Harvest, which held similar pop-up food distributions during the beginning of pandemic lockdowns in the spring.

There are a few slots open on the volunteer registration page for those who would like to help package or distribute meals in three-hour to five-hour shifts outside of the Honda Center. Second Harvest is also accepting donations of any size.

– TimesOC Staff

• Serves: four

• Deadline: The Thanksgiving Day to-go menu wil



fableandspirit.com.

FIVE CROWNS

3801 E. Coast Hwy., Corona del Mar This Corona del Mar

institution themed like an English pub is offering its family-style prime rib feast and roast turkey meals. Accompaniments include creamed corn, stuffing and Yorkshire pudding batter. • Price: Starts at \$209 for

the prime rib feasts, \$165 for the roasted turkey meals • Serves: four to 15 • Deadline: Thanksgiving

to-go meals must be placed by Tuesday • To order: Call (949) 760-0331

FORK & KNIFE

401 E. 17th St., Suite A-2, Costa Mesa

Chef Jonathan Blackford's new restaurant, which opened this fall in the midst of the pandemic, is presenting an "everything but the turkey"-themed meal. This means diners can get their own turkey while Blackford does the rest. He's offering a variety of Thanksgiving sides, seasonal soup, salads, charcuterie plates, cheese plates and desserts. The full menu is available at forkandknifecm.com.

 Price: Varies Serves: Varies

• Deadline: Orders were due Nov. 20. Pickups are scheduled for Wednesday and Thanksgiving Day until 2 p.m. All food will be cold (except baked goods) but

presented with heating instructions. • To order: Call (949) 877-0330 or email kristib@ forkandknifecm.com.

GEORGIA'S RESTAURANT

Anaheim Packing District, 440 S. Anaheim Blvd., No. 209A, Anaheim

Nana Gretchen and Nika Shoemaker-Machado are offering their Southern cooking with Thanksgiving feasts and soulful sides. Entree options include fried chicken, St. Louis-style barbecue ribs and jambalaya. Sides include coleslaw,

whole peach cobblers, lemon cakes, pound cakes and sweet potato pies.

For a complete menu, visit georgias-restaurant .com.

- Price: Varies
- Serves: Varies
- Deadline: Preorders

were available until Nov. 21. Pickups Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• To order: Call (714) 906-1900.

HENDRIX RESTAURANT & BAR

32431 Golden Lantern, Laguna Niguel

The takeout option by chef Rainer Schwarz features the following: wholeroasted turkey, Yukon smashed potatoes, applefennel stuffing, green beans, heirloom carrots, cranberry sauce and turkey gravy. Accompanying the meal are parker house rolls with Vermont butter and sea salt. Dessert is pumpkin or apple pie. They are also offering a Thanksgiving Day meal from 1 to 8 p.m. with patio dining at the restaurant.

• Price: \$175

• Serves: six to eight • Deadline: Orders must be placed by Tuesday for curbside pickup on Thanksgiving Day between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

• To order: Call (949) 248-1912.

OLD BREA CHOP HOUSE

180 S. Brea Blvd., Brea This restaurant, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary this month, is offering a four-person takehome feast. Options include their roasted freerange turkey, roasted pear salad, garlic rolls, seven sides and homemade pumpkin pie with cinnamon cream. They're also offering New Zealand rack of lamb, filet mignon, Chilean sea bass and Creekstone prime rib.

For a full list of offerings, visit the restaurant's website.

• Price: \$159

be offered only on that day from noon to 8 p.m., while supplies last.

• To order: Call (714) 592-3122 or visit oldbrea chophouse.com.

SUSHI ROKU

Fashion Island, 327 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach

This restaurant is offering its Hot Family Pack or Sushi Family Pack, stocked with fish from around the world. The fare combines traditional Japanese cuisine with California touches.

• Price: \$109

- Serves: four
- Deadline: None given

• To order: Call (949) 706-3622 or visit sushiroku .com

THE WINERY RESTAURANT **& WINE BAR**

3131 W. Coast Hwy., Newport Beach 2647 Park Ave., Tustin.

Both locations are offering a turkey dinner for takeout and dine-in. The takeout features the following from chef Yvon Goetz: a roasted free-range Diestel turkey with sliced white and dark meat; apple-sundried cherry dressing, cranberryorange relish and pinot noir sage gravy; a fall organic baby greens salad and choice of sides that include a mashed potato casserole, butternut squash potato gratin, roasted brussels sprouts, bacon and sundried tomato, green beans almondine, maple syruproasted garnet yams and honey thyme-glazed carrots. Desserts include a pumpkin cheesecake with caramelized pecan-vanilla bean chantilly.

- Price: \$350
- Serves: six

• Deadline: Orders must be placed by 3 p.m. Monday. Pickup Wednesday between 1:30 and 8 p.m.

• To order: Call Tustin at (714) 258-7600 or Newport Beach at (949) 999-6622.

BRADLEY ZINT is a contributor to TimesOC.

CALLS

Continued from page R1

quash based on new information we were provided," District Atty. Todd Spitzer said Wednesday in a statement.

"As a county supervisor I was deeply concerned about the allegations confidential conversations between defendants and their defense attorneys were being illegally recorded by GTL, and I continue to be incredibly troubled by these continued allegations.

"I have now joined with the defense in issuing subpoenas to GTL and the Sheriff's Department to find out if calls were in fact illegally recorded. If it turns out that GTL was once again recording attorney client privileged communications there will serious consequences. As prosecutors, we continue to fulfill our obligations to ensure fair and just criminal prosecutions and ensure that no one's rights are being violated."



Gary Coronado | Los Angeles Times

SEVERAL EMPLOYEES of the contractor that oversees the Orange County Jail phone system appear in court in 2018. Pictured, the Orange County Jail Complex in Santa Ana.

Sanders is known for discovering that the district attorney's office and sheriff's department were illegally using jailhouse informants to obtain confessions in 2016.

In the motion, Sanders said the information is critically important to a motion to withdraw Franks' guilty plea of car theft.

Sanders was given the information on the most recent recorded calls by a special master months after Franks pled guilty. The special master was appointed by a judge in 2018 to review the calls.

Though the special master provided just six calls, Sanders said in the motion that there are "likely more than a thousand others."

"If an attorney's phone number had been uploaded to the Do Not Record List why would any calls to that number have been recorded - and, alternatively, if a number had never been uploaded to the Do Not Record List, then why were not all of the calls to that number recorded?" the motion says.

"In other words, there should have been zero recorded calls to the Westminster Branch of the OCPD between April 2019 (when the upload allegedly occurred) and December 2019 (which is when the last recorded call was provided by the Special Master).

"If the number was never uploaded, however, every one of the 1,000+ calls during the time period should have been recorded. Under either scenario it is illogical that six calls would have been recorded."

The motion contends that GTL hasn't been truthful or transparent for years. GTL spokesman Randy Brown declined to comment.

Sanders wrote in the motion that the company knew or believed in 2015 that confidential inmate calls were being recorded in Orange County.

The company was already aware by early 2015 that it had recorded inmate calls in the two Florida counties, the motion says.

"In July 2018, the contractor who provides phone service to inmates in the OCSD jails, Global Tel Link Corp. (GTL), revealed that due to human error by a GTL employee, 1,079 inmate telephone calls to numbers that should have been designated as 'do not record' were erroneously recorded by the contractor," said Orange County Sheriff's spokeswoman Carrie Braun in an email.

"As a result of this discovery, OCSD staff directed GTL to correct the issue. Prior to July 2018, OCSD had received no notice from GTL that this was an issue. OCSD relies on many third-party vendors to provide vital services to our de-

partment. It is expected that vendors comply with the contracts they agree to, and that they meet the requirements of those contracts.

"The department has not been notified that there have been additional attorney/client calls recorded. If it is determined that attorney/client calls have been recorded, we have policy to address it."

Braun said that the county is in the request for proposal process for updating the inmate phone system. The final decision on that will go before the county Board of Supervisors next year.

A 2019 Grand Jury report found that the Sheriff's Department's inadequate oversight led to the recording of the inmate-attorney calls. The Grand Jury also found no evidence of improper use of the recorded calls.

Sanders criticized that report at the time.

benjamin.brazil@latimes.com Twitter: @ benbrazil

SCULPTURE

Continued from page R1

a face, so I just named it 'Godot,' " Price said. "It was better to have it in this beautiful space to be looked at in a safe way than in storage. And it's on loan for a year or so."

Price's second sculpture, "Happenstance," was in-stalled last week and completed the garden.

"It's a play on the word happenstance and the fact that something happened – my approach to what the pursuit of abstractions are to me," Price said.

Unlike most of his metal pieces, "Happenstance" is made out of steel. He bought the material for the 12-foot sculpture about nine years ago from a genetics company that contracted a group to create a 30-foot-tall DNA helix.

The helix was going in the wrong direction so they scrapped the steel to start over.

got their mistakes, "I which were not mistakes for me," Price said.

He compares his metal bending process to improv theater. He takes risks and problem-solves as he goes. The works are lying down

when he creates them, and he knows whether or not they work when he lifts the sculptures with a crane.

He said it's exhilarating when a sculpture works, and a sense of discovery is what has kept him interested in sculpture for 41 years.

Price started bending metal in 1979 when he was teaching ceramics at Chapman University.

Disappointed with the smaller scale limits of ceramics, he made the art department's parking lot his own experimental studio, and the vice president at the time helped him bend the metal for his first piece, "Twisted Flex," which is still housed at the university.

Price's sculptures can also be found in the permanent collections at the Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, Orange County Museum of Art, the Dayton Art Institute and the Smithsonian as IF YOU GO

What: Muckenthaler **Cultural Center's Sculpture** Garden

Where: 1201 West Malvern Avenue, Fullerton Cost: Free

Information: themuck.org

"I got into the PepsiCo Sculpture Garden when I was 33 in the 1980s, and I thought I was golden," Price said. "I thought I was God's gift to artmaking. And then I didn't sell a piece for a year. So the art world has a way of giving you humility."

Today, he works out of his main studio Logan Creative in Santa Ana. He's completed a few works this year and is taking a break to recover from a shoulder surgery.

"It's hard to be a onearmed sculptor," Price joked.

Other pieces in the center's garden include "The



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

PAPUA NEW GUINEA story poles make up one of eight installations at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center sculpture garden in Fullerton. These poles are more than 300 years old.

Wave" by Dan Miller, untitled pieces by Jimmy Centeno, a mural by Sofia Enriquez, a mosaic by Katherine England and 10- to 15-

feet story poles from Papua New Guinea on loan from the Bowers Museum.

The center will be cycling most of the pieces in and out of the garden on a regular basis.

vera.castaneda@latimes.com Twitter: @vera_fyd



well as corporate collections.





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