



PRESS CLIPS

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Board of Directors
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Gaucha Grill to offer Argentinian cuisine in downtown Long Beach

By Karen Robes Meeks. Staff Writer
Posted: 06/16/2010 01:24:07 AM PDT

LONG BEACH - This fall, Long Beach resident Adrian Amosa is bringing Argentinian fare to downtown.

Gaucha Grill will open for lunch and dinner starting in September at 200 Pine Ave., next door to the new Octopus Restaurant at Broadway and Pine, Amosa said Tuesday.

The restaurant, known for its asado skirt steaks and chicken chimichurri, will take over the 2,500-square-foot space formerly occupied by Aladdin Grill & Cafe, which closed in April. The site can accommodate 60 people inside and at least 40 people on the patio.

Amosa, who also owns the Gaucha Grill in Brentwood, said he had always been looking at Long Beach as a second location, especially for what he calls a "new era" for the franchise.

"I think Long Beach is key in our new plan," said Amosa, who moved to Long Beach from Argentina in 2002. "We are actually relaunching Gaucha Grill. We are putting more energy in the kind of food (that has) more traditional flavors, we're working on a lot of combinations with wine and everything will be a little more modern as well."

"I know that the downtown is going through the same kind of renovation and redevelopment that we are doing with the Gaucha Grill brand. I think we are going through the same path and I fell in love with that."

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An Excerpt from: Wednesday's Letters to the Editor

Posted: 06/15/2010 07:52:30 PM PDT

Attractive murals

Community accolades are really deserving to those who recently installed the attractive art work to the front windows of the vacant Newberry Building in the 400 block of Pine Avenue. With the new Kress organic market about to open on the corner of 5th Street, that area is really looking more respectable for the other small stores there and the loft/apartment residents.

A big thanks should also go to the many local artists, students and community volunteers who painted the variety of murals all around the old Press-Telegram building over the weekend (Local News, June 13).

With the support of the new WELUVLB volunteer group and Councilman Robert Garcia, as well as the financial backing of the Molina family, LB Arts Council, DLBA, and Lyons Art Supply, this blighted area is really beginning to turn around.

Don Darnauer

Long Beach

Eviction service in East Village turns up marijuana cache

By Tracy Manzer, Staff Writer

Posted: 06/17/2010 03:44:51 PM PDT

LONG BEACH – Sheriff's deputies called to carry out an eviction in the East Village area made a surprising discovery Wednesday.

Long Beach police officers were called to assist the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after deputies were sent to a residence in the 800 block of East Fourth Street at about 11:30 a.m. and found a large amount of marijuana, said Lisa Massacani, a Long Beach Police Department spokeswoman.

Responding LBPD officers also found a gun, Massacani said.

Arrested was Roy Lance Young, 45, of Long Beach.

He is scheduled to be arraigned Friday at the Long Beach Superior Court and was being held in the Long Beach City Jail in lieu of \$30,521, according to his booking information.

The investigation into the drug find is ongoing, Massacani said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Narcotics Detail at 562-570-7221.

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Jehovah's Witnesses convention begins Saturday in Long Beach

By Pamela Hale-Burns, Staff Writer
Posted: 06/17/2010 05:24:49 PM PDT

LONG BEACH - Does God care about your well-being?

That's just one of the questions that will be discussed during the Jehovah's Witnesses' 2010 "Remain Close to Jehovah," District Conventions beginning at 9:20 a.m. today and running through Sunday; the events continue for 14 weekends.

Strengthening one's spirituality will be the main focus of the convention, said Curtis Williams, spokesman for the Jehovah's Witnesses' Convention.

"When you look at what is happening today, people are plagued with problems, people see examples of disasters and it doesn't really seem like there's any real benefits of serving God," Williams said. "This convention is design to show that, despite what is taking place today, one can remain close to God and the benefits are outstanding."

Attendees will also learn how to remain close to God, said Williams.

"There are a lot of conflicting ideas about God that have led to confusion for many, but we as Jehovah's Witnesses believe that, as the Bible says in Act 17:27, in fact, he is not far off from any of us," Williams said. "The convention will focus on ways to strengthen one's attachment to God despite challenges and threats to one's spiritually."

With all the crime, violence and immorality in the world, people question God's interest in their well-being, said Williams.

"The convention is going to answer the question, how does God endeavor to draw close to you. In fact, that he is endeavoring to draw close to you. Many people don't know that," he said.

People will hear how being close to God will help them deal with everyday problems, said Williams.

"Faced with these types of problems many people are at a loss - at their wit's end," he said. "We have quite a few in that situation, but they are smiling, not that they have money, but they are continuing to go to work and stay active in their spiritual activities."

For the more than 7 million Witnesses in more than 100,000 congregations, there are 357 conventions in 90 cities throughout the United States.

"We will have upwards of 100,000 people at the convention," Williams said. "Hotels are benefitting and area businesses are thriving, so it's also a major economic benefit."

According to Bob Maguglin, The Long Beach Convention Bureau's director of public relations, attendance for the Witnesses' 14 events reported in March 2009 was 168,000 people with a revenue of \$71.9 million in Long Beach. A total of 33,950 Total rooms were rented in Long Beach.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information go to www.watchtower.org or www.iw-media.org.

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IF YOU WANT TO GO

Jehovah's Witnesses' Convention Schedule at the Long Beach Convention Center. Each day begins at 9:20 a.m.

Jun. 18-20 English only

Jun. 25-27 Spanish only

July 2-4 English only

July 16-18 Spanish only

July 30-Aug. 1 Spanish only

Aug. 6-8 English only

Aug. 13-15 and English and Persian

Aug. 20-22 Spanish only

Aug. 27-29 Spanish only

Sept. 3-5 Spanish only

Sept. 10-12 Spanish only

For more information 562-499-7674 or go to www.watchtower.org or www.iw-media.org.

Tour historic Long Beach

Posted: 06/17/2010 05:50:35 PM PDT

Long Beach. Long Beach Heritage will have a walking tour from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, starting in front of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural at the north end of the Promenade.

The walking tour program is designed to foster preservation advocacy and education throughout Long Beach. Parking is free until noon at the parking structure at Third Street and Promenade. The distance covered is about one mile to 1 1/2 miles.

Reservations are requested. The \$10 fee can be paid through PayPal at www.lbheritage.org or by phone. Call 562-493-7019 for other payment options.

Vintage car show 'Hot August Nights' coming to Long Beach

By Kristopher Hanson, Staff Writer

Posted: 06/17/2010 03:02:11 PM PDT



The Hot August Nights show in Reno, Nev., August 2009. (Nicole Maddox, Hot August Nights)

(right) The Hot August Nights show in Reno, Nev., August 2009. (Nicole Maddox, Hot August Nights)

LONG BEACH - America's largest celebration of classic cars and vintage rock n' roll is coming to Long Beach in 2011, bringing thousands of show cars, musicians, exhibitors and a potential multi-million boost to area merchants.

The 24-year-old event, Hot August Nights, has been drawing an average 800,000 people to Reno, Nevada, in recent years.

It expands to Long Beach for its 25th anniversary Aug. 3-6 next year, a week earlier than Reno's annual gala and with a few different themes that take advantage of the city's ocean waterfront.

Organizers expect it to far outdraw the city's largest existing event, the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, which attracts about 175,000 people each April and generates about \$40 million for local hoteliers, restaurants, merchants and vendors.

"It's bringing it home to Southern California, where the car culture is exceptionally huge," said Bruce Walter, CEO of Hot August Nights. "Having the Pacific, the proximity of all the events downtown, Shoreline Drive and the marina parks. It represents an entirely new dynamic for this event. We expect to draw more people over those four days than we do in Reno, but with a different twist."

The festival includes a popular custom car auction drawing collectors from across the globe. The auction includes 1,000 vehicles priced at between \$50,000 and \$250,000 each.

Walter said about 90 percent of the vehicles are typically sold.

Because local municipalities collect sales taxes at the origin of sale, the auction alone could generate tax revenues of between \$7 million and \$15 million, depending ultimately on car prices.

The city is also expected to benefit from more than 10,000 car owners and buyers, exhibitors, musicians, vendors and family members who stay in town during the festival.

The Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, which inked the deal in recent weeks, believes the city's roughly 5,000 hotel rooms will sell out well in advance.

Events will include the auction, nightly classic car "cruises" along Shoreline Drive and Pine Avenue, craft fairs, a vintage prom night celebration and kids' displays.

CVB President Steve Goodling said Hot August Nights will "blanket our downtown with ... entertainment from the convention center and the Marina Green across Queensway Bay to the Queen Mary."

The festival is essentially a massive nostalgia-fest celebrating the music and culture of the 1950s and early to mid-1960s.

Past headliners include the Beach Boys, Herman's Hermits, Little Richard, the Righteous Brothers, The Temptations and a score of other surf music and doo-wop performers.

Walter expects the event to surpass Reno in attendance because of the region's huge demography - Los Angeles and Orange counties are home to nearly 15 million people - and the Southland's deeply rooted car culture.

All events will be free, and the city is coordinating with Long Beach Transit and area hotels and merchants to accommodate parking and traffic.

Six thousand cars will be registered in coming months for the event, with applications from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Asia and New Zealand.

The deal signed with the Long Beach CVB includes use of the Long Beach Arena and Convention Center and significant waterfront property downtown and along Shoreline Drive.

With a lease to host the event here through at least 2016, Walter said his organization is opening an office with staff on East Ocean Boulevard.

To learn more, visit www.hotaugustnights.net or www.visitlongbeach.com.

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