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Business Beat: Restaurants, banks and awards, oh my



Restaurateur Kerstin Kansteiner stands in front of a future eatery near Fourth Street on Cherry Avenue. (Photo by Jo Murray, Grunion/SCNG)



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LONG BEACH —

New digs

The Streamline Moderne style building at 366 Cherry Avenue, at Fourth Street, that served as a child care center since 1951, will soon be transformed by restaurateur Kerstin Kansteiner, into an eatery.

With support from the property owners. Scott and Leslie Ross, Kansteiner's vision is to combine Portfolio Coffeehouse and Berlin into a café serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Construction is planned to start this summer.

Space Beach

Virgin Orbit announced its next launch, Straight Up, a name inspired by Paula Abdul's 1980s hit song of the same name. The rocket recently left the Long Beach rocket factory and arrived at the Mojave Air and Space Port in preparation for the company's first night mission.

"Virgin Orbit has been rising 'straight up' since we began commercial launch operations 18 months ago," Virgin Orbit CEO Dan Hart said in a press release.

Audit team lauded

Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud and her audit team of Hannah Gardener and Stephanie Harper received an award where the judges named the office's performance audit of the library system as the best of 2021. This is the eighth Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) Knighton Award that City Auditor Laura Doud's Office has received.

"This performance audit highlights the value of an independent review that identified areas for improvement for the library to better understand the social, cultural, educational and economic needs of each diverse community it serves and use that understanding to define the library's strategic goals and services," Doud said in a press release.

Port grants

The Port of Long Beach Community Grants Program has been recognized for its sustainability efforts.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), acknowledged the \$65 million-plus initiative's work to mitigate the port's impact on local neighborhoods.

The grant program was established to help those most vulnerable to port-related impacts. To date, \$31.5 million has been committed.

"One of the ways we stand out from competing ports is a commitment to reducing the impacts of port operations in innovative ways," Long Beach Harbor Commission President Steven Neal said in a statement. The annual SCAG award was in the Equity category. According to the port's press release, SCAG honors projects advancing equity and facilitating the growth of healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities that are traditionally marginalized, vulnerable and/or underrepresented. Learn more at www.polb.com/grants.

Lakewood branch

Farmers & Merchants Bank (F&M), has officially opened its new Lakewood branch office at the intersection of Del Amo and Lakewood boulevards. F&M has had a Lakewood office presence since 1996.

F&M purchased the 6-story former Chase Bank office building at 4909

"F&M is extremely deliberate in implementing our real estate strategies and selling assets at an opportune time," W. Henry Walker, President of F&M Bank said in a statement.

University banking

Southland Credit Union has opened a branch on campus at California State University, Long Beach.

Initially the Credit Union sponsored the women's basketball team, next they entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement with the Athletic Department.

Currently they sponsor various events and programs throughout the university. This is Southland's eighth branch location, and it is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cheeseburgers

In honor of National Hamburger Day on Saturday, May 28, Dog Haus Biergarten Long Beach is selling seven of their most popular burgers for \$5. The restaurant is at 210 E. Third St.

The burgers include signature Haus Burgers – Holy Aioli, Cheeseburger, Ringer, The Hangover, Little Mule and the Impossible Burger. For details: longbeach.doghaus.com.

Fix brunch

The Bungalow Kitchen at 2nd& PCH has converted its brunch to an all-new prix-fixe menu.

Available beginning at 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, the two-course brunch menu is priced at \$39 per person that includes a choice of one starter and one entree. For details, visit www.bungalowkitchen.com,

Rum drinks

The Bamboo Club, at 3522 E. Anaheim St. has added three all-new menus that each focus on the distinct rum flavors of the Caribbean, Hawaii and Latin America. The 12 new daiquiris join The Bamboo Club's cocktail list that introduces customers to rum distillers from around the world

Mendocino Farms, located in the ghost kitchen on 1388 Daisy Ave., has added three limited-time entrées — Backyard BBQ Chicken Salad, Summer Heirloom BLT and Summer Street Corn with Chicken Sandwich — on May 10. The items will be available for delivery and take-out.

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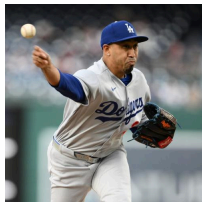
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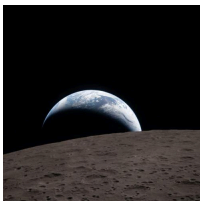
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