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WEEK OF JANUARY 7-13, 2016

DISCOVER

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FREE

HOT SPOTS

BEST PLACES TO
WARM UP WITH
A HOT CHOCOLATE
OR CHAI LATTE.
PAGES 14-15

The comedy hit of season starts Jan. 30. **Details on page 3**



The Scoop: 7 bites of restaurant news



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JANUARY 7, 2016

Chew on January's top restaurant news including the openings of Madison, Taco Stand downtown, Plant Power Fast Food and more.

OPEN: Madison

University Heights just keeps getting better. Next door to Park & Rec, Madison has taken over the former Lei Lounge space. Upscale dining and cocktails rule this scene, which hasn't quite existed in this 'hood... until now. The restaurant is a collaboration with Chef Mario Cassineri of BiCE San Diego, Jeffrey Fink of M-Theory Music and managing partner of FLUXX and ARCHISECTS, the design firm behind FLUXX's rotating themes. Guests can enjoy Mediterranean-influenced dishes with classic SoCal ingredients.

4622 Park Blvd., University Heights.

OPEN: Taco Stand — downtown

The Taco Stand in La Jolla has been serving up burritos, quesadillas and tacos since 2013. Now, owner Julian Hakim has opened a second location downtown. The Tijuana-inspired taqueria features 1,500 square feet of festive south-of-the-border food, including the chorizo and egg or shrimp burritos, salsas made from scratch, Mexican flavored popsicles, imported beer and freshly prepared Rosarito-style churros, plus a fridge stocked with Mexican Coca-Colas.

645 B St., downtown.
letstaco.com

NEWS: Plant Power Fast Food

A new vegan fast food concept is opening this month in Ocean Beach with an entirely plant-based menu featuring burgers, shakes, fries, tacos, wraps, smoothies, salads and fresh juices. Like a Sonic-style drive-up, customers cruise through and wait for a staff member to bring out their vegan dishes. The chain also plans on opening a second location in Encinitas this spring.

2204 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach.
plantpowerfastfood.com

OPEN: Tajima Ramen

It's lucky number four for Tajima Ramen. The ramen restaurant has just opened a fourth location in East Village, serving chef Sam Morikizo-



COURTESY PHOTO

Tajima Ramen just opened a fourth location in East Village, serving chef Sam Morikizo's Tajima menu of specialty ramen.

no's signature Tajima menu of specialty ramen and modern Japanese cuisine. The bar will feature 10 taps of local San Diego craft brews and specialty Japanese beer, sake, wine, bottled beer and a variety of Batch Craft soda. Tajima East Village joins Tajima Hillcrest, Tajima Izakaya in Kearny Mesa, and the group's original Tajima location on Convoy Street.

901 E St., East Village.
tajimasandiego.com

OPEN: KINDRED

Even more vegan options have arrived in San Diego, but this time with a side of psych metal. KINDRED offers a "hard-core" approach to vegan dining, led by the

Francisco's Smuggler's Cove, who plans to mix up exotic cocktails and rum-flavored drinks. Tiki artist and designer Bosko Hrnjak and Paul Basile are completing the design of False Idol, turning Craft & Commerce into a dual concept, much in the same way that Neighborhood eatery contains the hidden Noble Experiment speak-easy.

675 W. Beech St., Little Italy

NEWS: Moto Deli

Moto Deli is opening this month in Encinitas, adding a bit of biking culture to the sandwich shop mix. Moto Deli's kitchen is helmed by Chef Alex Carballo of Stone Brewing Co. and URBN Brewing, crafting up 'wiches with lots of stuffing, like the hand-carved smoked turkey breast with Swiss, bacon avocado and arugula, or the San Diego yellow tail "Conserva" with jalapeños, tomato, avocado, cabbage, pickled carrots. Moto Deli will also dish out soups and salads and of course, craft beer.

810 N Coast Highway 101.
motodeli.com

power team of Kory Stetina, Arsalun Tafazoli and Paul Basile. Expect cocktails alongside veggie-loaded dishes and bar snacks in the former Alchemy location of South Park. The intricate, cathedral design of the space is hauntingly stunning, a great visual while you're scarfing down the beet risotto or tempeh on rye sandwich.

1503 30th St., South Park.
barkindred.com

NEWS: False Idol

A secret tiki bar is coming soon within the remodel of Craft & Commerce, slated to open in spring of 2016. The project is led by Martin Cate, a tiki bar enthusiast and owner of San

Talk of the town

MICHELLE DEDERKO

