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SECTION 6

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Food

ANITA L. ABAMBULA
Confessions of a Foodie

Making is comfort. The act of measuring flour, sugar, cocoa is my form of meditation. I take joy in watching the pills of white sugar in the air with out-of-control swishes of dry ingredients, then slowly falling down into the counter top, coating everything in a fine powder. The magic made as the stainless steel measuring cups fall together on a big stainless steel countertop as those flour and sugar fall to the seat, followed by the clink, clink, clink as they set down the counter top when they are no longer needed — a familiar tone I've heard since my youth. ■ A direct consequence of my diabetes, my love of baking paired with my diet. Like my many, many, many, like I suppose it did for many girls of my generation. I remember the joy of ripping open those tiny foil packets, mixing my batter.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID

Baking these double chocolate doughnuts cuts back on calories for a guilt-free treat

ALL YOU NEED
IS A LITTLE
LOVE...



Baked Double Chocolate Doughnuts

& CHOCOLATE

FOOD STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANITA L. ABAMBULA. ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cork & Knife, a wine and cheese bar, is to open this month in Escondido.

THE DISH News from San Diego's restaurant industry

RESTAURANT OPENINGS PLANNED FOR ESCONDIDO, BARRIO LOGAN

BY PAM KRAGEN

An Italian family restaurant and separate wine bar and market will open later this month in the former Marie Callender's restaurant building in Escondido.

DiCicco's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria chain opened its first location in Fresno in 1956. The 10,000-square-foot restaurant building at 515 W. 13th Ave. will be DiCicco's first Southern California location. The menu will feature Italian-American comfort foods, pastas, pizza, calzones, sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts.

The bar portion of Marie Callender's has been divided off for a second business, Cork & Knife, a wine shop selling nearly 100 varieties of wine. An onsite tasting room will offer wines by the glass served with artisan meats, cheeses and tapas plates.

Because new purple tier restrictions forced the closure of restaurants' dining rooms, both businesses have delayed their openings slightly, but the goal is to be open before December.

The Escondido restaurants are a project of Grand Restaurant Group, which has partnered with Sandy DiCicco to bring her family's popular Central California chain to San Diego County. Grand Restaurant Group owns Bellamy's Restaurant in Escondido, Giaola Italian Kitchen in Carlsbad and Nick & G's Italian restaurant in Rancho Santa Fe, where a second location of Cork & Knife is planned.

Visit diciccocom.

the new sister businesses is that they will collaborate with Thorn in a zero waste-ethos business model.

ReBru Spirits is a new micro-distillery overseen by master distiller Neil Lotz on the Thorn property. It converts overstocked and out-of-code beer from Thorn and other local breweries into small batches of vodka and gin spirits.

Also now open is Sideyard BBQ by HottMess, an all-outdoor restaurant serving Texas-style smoked barbecue and cocktails made with ReBru spirits. Still to come will be a HottMess Woodfired Pizza, which will serve wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizza with a dough made from spent grain from Thorn Brewing.

For details, visit sd-hottmess.com and rebruspirits.com.

'Cooking Guy' publishes leftovers cookbook

Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien of San Diego has released a new cookbook just in time for Thanksgiving that answers the age-old question of how to repurpose leftover turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and more.

Known for his funny and not-too-complicated comfort food recipes on TV and YouTube, Zien's third cookbook is "Sam the Cooking Guy: Recipes With Intentional Leftovers." Zien offers his recipes for 18 main-course and side dishes, and then offers follow-up recipes for four or more ways to turn those dishes into very different meals.

For example, his meat-



COURTESY PHOTO

Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien of San Diego has a new cookbook with recipes for leftovers.

many more. There's also a section featuring several dishes created with the ubiquitous Thanksgiving leftovers, such as stuffing balls, hoisin turkey lettuce cups and a pumpkin bourbon shake.

Published by The Countryman Press, the full-color 253-page cookbook can be purchased at Barnes & Noble bookstores, on Amazon and other online stores, including Zien's own website at thecookingguy.com.

Recent restaurant closures

Several more restaurants announced closures recently related to the challenges of surviving the pandemic.

- Cohn Restaurant Group has closed two restaurant properties in Hillcrest, Tacos Libertad and BO-beau Kitchen and Caché restaurant/speak-easy. The side-by-side businesses opened in 2017. Tacos Libertad was a nonprofit restaurant that donated \$100,000 to charity before it shut down.

Distillery, BBQ join Thorn Brewing in Barrio Logan

On Nov. 19, the owners of Thorn Brewing Co. opened two more businesses at the brewery's home location at 1735 National Ave. in Barrio Logan. The concept behind

ball recipe is repurposed into a pho bowl, a French bread pizza topping, a banh mi sandwich and a Greek salad ingredient. There are also spinoff recipes for his roast chicken, sesame chili salmon, chili, pizza, beer bread, Kahlua pork and



CAMILA BADARO PHOTOGRAPHY

A selection of dishes from Sideyard BBQ by HottMess in Barrio Logan.

• Royale San Diego, a retro burger and cocktails diner in Ocean Beach, announced its closure on Facebook on Nov. 9. Jordan and Mariah Brownwood opened the restaurant in spring 2018, serving produce items grown on their family's own organic farm in Valley Center.

• Amarin Thai Restaurant in Hillcrest closed its doors on Nov. 15 after 22 years in business. Owner Suree Suksudecha wrote on Facebook that he'd been waiting for circumstances to change with the pandemic, but he couldn't hold out any longer. But Suksudecha said his other restaurant, Siam Nara Thai Cuisine by Suree in Mira Mesa, remains open for takeout and delivery.

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San Diego Union Tribune features Cork & Knife

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