Status Update: BlueJay electric bike retailer opening first US shop in Newport Beach

The $3,000 e-bikes have been pitched by movie stars including Drew Barrymore, Gwyneth Paltrow and Melissa McCarthy.
Bluejay, an e-bike maker touted by celebrities, is opening its first retail store Friday, Oct. 14 in Newport Beach.

The electric bikes range in price from $3,295 to $3,995.

Jen Cohen Bogan, founder of Bluejay Bikes, is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Business School. Her bikes have been pitched by movie stars including Drew Barrymore, Gwyneth Paltrow and Melissa McCarthy. Paltrow included the $3,000 e-bikes in her 2019 Goop holiday gift guide.

Address: 149 Riverside Ave.

The Filipino grocery store Island Pacific Seafood Market opens officially on Friday in Lake Forest, a first for the chain in Orange County. Shoppers can expect a wide selection of seafood, meat and produce that leans into Filipino and Asian cuisine. A food court also will offer hot food. (Courtesy of Island Pacific Seafood Market)

Filipino market Island Pacific Seafood opens in Lake Forest

The Filipino grocery store Island Pacific Seafood Market has debuted in Lake Forest, a first for the chain in Orange County.

The store had its soft opening Sept. 9 and a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Friday, Oct. 7.
Shoppers can expect a wide selection of seafood, meat and produce that leans into Filipino and Asian cuisine. Think long beans, bok choy, Thai chilies, spices and sauces.

Yelp reviews were mostly positive a month into the store's opening. “Everything in stock and neatly organized,” wrote a Riverside shopper.

The bakery San Honore sits to the right of the store entrance and features “lots of fresh bread, chicken empanadas, egg pie and taho drink,” the Yelp reviewer Winny noted. “All were quite tasty.”

Empanadas were $2.25 each and Taho drink was $5.95. A half-dozen of cheese rolls cost $9, she wrote.

Others were impressed by the variety of hot food served at the in-house eatery Philhouse. “The skewers are the biggest. Largest meat, best quality too. Plus the sauce is GREAT!” wrote Ken from Aliso Viejo.

“We absolutely love this place … and it’s because of the wonderful people AND some absolutely amazing FOOD,” he wrote.

Artwork by Long Beach-based muralist Bodeck Luna and Filipino cultural artist Kristian Kabuay graces the walls.

The Walnut-based supermarket chain has 18 stores in California and Nevada. The supermarket was founded by Nino Jeff Lim in March 2000 with Panorama City as its first location. Other Southern California locations are in Cerritos and Long Beach.

The Lake Forest store, under development for six months at 23811 El Toro Road, has created 85 jobs so far, according to a company representative.

Island Pacific marks the second significant foray by a Filipino market into the county. Back in 2014, Seafood City debuted in Irvine.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Phone: 949-317-0863

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**Tax postponement program accepting applications**
Qualifying homeowners can apply for California’s Property Tax Postponement program, which allows homeowners who are seniors – or who are blind or have a disability – to defer payment of property taxes on their primary residence.

Funding for PTP is limited, according to State Controller Betty T. Yee, and applications will be processed as they are received. The final filing deadline for the tax year is Feb. 10, 2023.

In the 2021-22 tax year, California homeowners were able to postpone nearly $4.5 million in residential property taxes, Yee’s office reports. This year, the household income limit increases to $49,017. Household income for the upcoming PTP cycle will be based on the 2021 calendar year.

Participants must reapply each year. A lien will be placed on the property, or a security agreement filed with the Department of Housing and Community Development for a manufactured home, until the account is paid in full.

Applications and additional program details can be found online or by calling 1-800-952-5661.

Drs. Josh Randall (urology), Leon Baginski (gynecology) and Scott Capobianco (gynecology) have been honored as Surgeons of Excellence. Dr. Samer Kanaan (thoracic/lung) is a Master Surgeon of Excellence. (Courtesy of Providence Mission Hospital)
Providence Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo has earned accreditation from the Surgical Review Corporation as a robotic surgery center of excellence.

Four of its doctors were honored, too, including urologist Josh Randall, OB/GYNs Leon Baginski and Scott Capobianco and Samer Kanaan, a thoracic and lung surgeon.

The accreditation means the hospital and its robotics team have passed certain standards for delivering perioperative and long-term, follow-up care.

**On the move**

Rusty Bills, an executive of 15 years with Irvine-based Wienerschnitzel, has been promoted to chief operating officer of Galardi Group Inc. He will work with president and CEO J.R. Galardi to advance technology for the hotdog chain, Tastee Freez and Hamburger Stand.

Amy Arambulo and Erin DeRycke have been promoted to vice president roles at the nonprofit 2-1-1 Orange County. As vice president of community impact, Arambulo oversees community initiatives, including the 2-1-1 line, which supports programs for veterans, aging and disability, youth and family homelessness. DeRycke is now vice president of data analytics where she has worked on technical assistance, data analytics and training.

**Milestones**

Alzheimer’s Orange County honored caregivers at the 2022 Visionary Women Caregivers Awards. The honored caregivers are Linda Hickman (Family Caregiver), Lupe Coronado (Professional Caregiver/Direct Service honoree), Sara Booth of Comfort Keepers and Linda Armas of Clear Choice Senior Services (Administrative Professional honorees), and AlzOC team members honorees Bea Espinoza and Norma Castellano.

Providence Mission Hospital emergency room physician James Keany has been awarded the COVID-19 Pandemic Civilian Service Medal for exemplary service to the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic. He was deployed by the National Disaster Medical System to help more than 700 passengers who
Sandra Morgan, director of the Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, has received the Wilberforce Award by Atlas Free. The award is named after William Wilberforce, a British parliamentarian who led the charge to abolish slavery across the British Empire. The award goes to people who have moved a major institution, government, business or large groups of people to significant action to fight slavery. At Vanguard, Morgan works on research, education and advocacy related to the exploitation of women and children.

The 11th Annual Getzlaf Golf Shootout, held Sept. 9-10 at Monarch Beach Golf Links, raised more than $750,000 to support CureDuchenne. Seen here are Ryan Getzlaf, The Miller family and winning Getzlaf Golf Shootout winners David Guest, Taylor Wood, Ben Briscoe and Joe Cooper. (Courtesy of CureDuchenne)

**Getzlaf shootout raises $750,000 for CureDuchenne**

The 11th Annual Getzlaf Golf Shootout, held Sept. 9-10 at Monarch Beach Golf Links, raised more than $750,000 to support CureDuchenne. The fundraiser was hosted by retired Anaheim Ducks captain Ryan Getzlaf and his wife, Paige, along with the nonprofit Newport Beach-based CureDuchenne. The nonprofit focuses on finding and funding a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.
“We are eternally grateful to the Getzlafs, our generous community, donors and athletes who support the Getzlaf Golf Shootout,” said said Debra Miller, founder and CEO of CureDuchenne. “Every dollar raised and invested into cutting-edge research moves us closer to a cure. Now more than ever, hope for a cure is on the horizon.”

Her son Hawken Miller, 25, is living with Duchenne MD.

Appointments

Huntington Beach resident Anthony C. Williams has been appointed to the California Fish and Game Commission. He has been director of Public Policy for Amazon since 2020, and was Legislative Affairs secretary in the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom from 2019 to 2020. Williams also was director of National Strategy and Engagement at Boeing Co. from 2014 to 2019. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100 per diem. Williams is a Democrat.

Status Update is compiled from press releases by contributing writer Karen Levin and edited by Business Editor Samantha Gowen. Submit items and high-resolution photos to sgowen@scng.com. Allow at least one week for publication. Items are edited for length and clarity.

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Samantha Gowen is the business editor for the Southern California News Group. Gowen joined The Orange County Register in October 2000, arriving from South Florida just days before the presidential election imploded.