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FOOD

Long Beach taking a week to salute the taco

Local restaurants, trucks and more will offer specials

By Richard Guzman RIGUZMAN@SCNG.COM

Long Beach is going to be a taco lover's paradise this month, thanks to the debut of Taco Week.

The citywide event takes place from Sunday through April 27, when dozens of restaurants, taquerias, food trucks, pop-ups and other taco makers offer deals and even create special dishes to mark the eight-day event.

"Everybody loves tacos, and we have a lot of restaurants here in Long Beach that make great tacos," said Leysla Rubino, co-organizer of the event.

Taco Week will feature \$5, \$10 and \$15 tacos or combos covering numerous styles, from birria to carnitas to pork belly as well as barbecue brisket, plant-based renditions made with jackfruit or mushrooms and even lobster tacos.

"It's going to be all kinds of tacos and some of the restaurants are even creating special tacos for the week." she said.

This isn't the first time tacos have taken over Long Beach. In November, 10 local taco makers competed in a downtown fest dubbed the Taco Death Match.

For Taco Week, people will have to go to the various participating restaurants to place their orders. The restaurants so far



Long Beach Taco Week will promote restaurants that sell tacos from Sunday through April 27. **COURTESY OF LONG BEACH TACO WEEK**

include modern taco chain Kalaveras, which is known for its clubby vibe as well as its chicharron and mushroom tacos. Also on the list is Taco Shore Long Beach, whose menu includes fish, tongue and potato tacos. For Tijuana-style birria tacos, where you dip them into broth, people will want to try Teddy's Red Tacos, while vegans will want to head to The Grain Cafe for vegetarian offerings.

One of Rubino's top recommendations is The Lobster Guys.

"I'm really excited about the lobster tacos because they are really unique and people don't always hear about lobster tacos," she said.

And since tacos are a point of pride for these restaurants, the week will include a competition. People can vote online for their favorites to narrow it down to the top three spots before a food critic makes the final selection of the best taco in town.

For more information go to tacoweeklb.com.