

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

Arch Rock Fish plans Aug. 22 party

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The team behind Arch Rock Fish say they will open this month, and on August 22 they plan to throw a "Neighborhood Joint Block Party" with live entertainment, offerings from local restaurants and micro-breweries, as well as kid-friendly activities like face-painting, magicians and karaoke.

The new eatery is located at 608 Anacapa St.

Arch Rock Fish, named for the familiar rock at Anacapa Island, is the brainchild of HJL Restaurant Advisors Group, which includes veteran restaurateur Jeremiah Higgins, chef personality Scott Leibfried and former Galaxy soccer player-turned-coach Cobi Jones.

Mike Anderson is also a partner and serves as beverage director.

Jaime Kostechko is general manager and Nathan Simandle is sous chef.

"We're thrilled to open our flagship neighborhood joint with Arch Rock Fish, bringing to life a restaurant concept and business strategy that we've carefully planned out with the intention of providing the best dining experience suited to the beautiful setting of Santa Barbara," Mr. Higgins, onetime CEO of Enterprise Fish Company said in a statement.

"We've assembled a great partnership and management team that I'm proud to be a part of -- a team committed to making Arch Rock Fish an attractive venue for locals and visitors to the area."

The menu will feature baked Kusshi oysters with creamed spinach, bacon and tomato hollandaise; ale steamed mussels with garlic, shallots, grain mustard crème fraiche and croutons; grilled salmon burger topped with mustard aioli, arugula and pickled onions; and grilled wild bass with salsa fresco, green olives and cilantro.

Mr. Leibfried, who oversees the menu creation, ingredients and kitchen operations, said, "The Arch Rock Fish menu takes the best of regional and international seafood dishes and gives them a local beach vibe to make them all new and original."

Mr. Leibfried has been working with local vendors, he added, to get what he needs "to create our best recipes."

Arch Rock Fish will partner with the Santa Barbara Police Activities League on a variety of events designed "to engage the community and benefit SBPAL."

Later this year, Mr. Jones will host soccer clinics and appearances with proceeds benefitting SBPAL.

Sundays at Arch Rock Fish will feature all day happy hour and family-style dinner. There's also a private dining room.

Go to the Arch Rock Fish website for more.