



Downtown restaurant closes for summer, possibly for good



JAMES S. WOOD, ARIZONA DAILY STAR, FILE 2009

Maynards Kitchen & Bottle Shop is closed for the summer as owners Richard and Shana Oseran explore their options for the restaurant and market they have run since 2008.

CATHALENA E. BURCH
Arizona Daily Star

Downtown Tucson may have lost one of its few upscale restaurants after Maynards Kitchen & Bottle Shop in the Historic Depot on North Toole Avenue closed for the summer.

Owners Richard and Shana Oseran, who also own Hotel Congress across the street at 311 E. Congress St., said they closed the business on May 31 and will evaluate their options before deciding if they will reopen in the fall.

“We’ve taken a financial bath over there,” Richard Oseran said Monday as news of the closure and speculation of the restaurant’s future started making its way around social media. “We’re not 100% that we won’t reopen, but we’re certainly considering that.”

Oseran said the couple has “dumped several million dollars into that business” since opening in 2008 and have been “writing checks out of my savings” to keep the business afloat post-pandemic.

“I’m talking big numbers,” he said. “There was no way that we could operate through the summer with the losses we were sustaining.”

Oseran said they notified Maynards’ employees, mostly made up of about 15 part-timers, last month that the restaurant would close on May 31 for the summer months and offered several workers positions at Hotel Congress.

The Oserans were the second ones to operate a restaurant in the Historic Depot at 400 N. Toole Ave., owned by the City of Tucson Department of Transportation. Central Bistro was there from 2006-08 and when it closed, the Oserans saw an opportunity to build up that east end of downtown, where Congress and Toole meet the underpass for North Fourth Avenue.

Richard Oseran said he spent tens of thousands of dollars renovating the space



CATHALENA E. BURCH, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Last summer, Maynards Kitchen & Bottle Shop closed for a couple of weeks during the summer. This year, it’s closed all summer and the chances of it reopening in the fall are uncertain.

including creating the market area.

When it opened, Maynards was downtown’s only true upscale restaurant, with a chef-driven menu from founding chef Addam L. Buzzalini that included slow-braised beef short ribs, housemade gnocchi tossed with sweet figs, stone-baked pizza and grilled apple bruschetta.

The menu under Chef Roderick LeDesma, who has helmed the kitchen for about a year, includes a pan-roasted duck breast dressed with a chiltepin and Mexican sugar glaze, wild caught black cod with coconut creamed corn and potatoes and LeDesma’s decadent take on avocado toast, the “Foie-Voacado Toast” appetizer made with foie gras ganache and avocado mousse.

If the restaurant reopens in the fall, LeDesma will continue as executive chef, Shana Oseran said. LeDesma could not be reached Monday for comment.

The Oserans, however, say they haven’t

decided what they will do with Maynards come fall.

“We’re still looking at all our options and all our alternatives and trying to figure it out,” said Richard Oseran, who admitted that at 80 years old, “continuing to operate in this manner is a little too much for me.”

Oseran said he has spoken with some local chefs about coming in as chef-operators to run the restaurant “and we’ve made certain offers to people that could come in and continue to operate the business.”

Oseran said his lease with the city expires at the end of November.

City officials on Monday said they were unaware that Maynards had closed for the summer.

Contact reporter Cathalena E. Burch at cburch@tucson.com. On Bluesky @Starburch

Pentagon sends Marines

JASON DEAREN AND TIM SULLIVAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Pentagon deployed about 700 Marines to Los Angeles on Monday to help National Guard members respond to immigration protests, officials said, as California prepared to sue President Donald Trump over his use of the Guard troops and demonstrators took to the city’s streets for a fourth day.

The Marines were deployed from their base at Twentynine Palms in the Southern California desert to protect federal property and personnel, including federal immigration agents, U.S. Northern Command said in a statement.

The Marines and National Guard troops are not expected to perform law enforcement duties, which are prohibited under the Posse Comitatus Act. Trump has not invoked the Insurrection Act to allow them to do law enforcement. It is not clear if he intends to.

Los Angeles Police Chief Jim McDonnell said in a statement Monday afternoon he was confident in the police department’s ability to handle large-scale demonstrations and that the Marines’ arrival without coordinating with the police department presented a “significant logistical and operational challenge” for them.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the planned lawsuit over the use of National Guard troops by telling reporters that Trump had “trampled” the state’s sovereignty.

“We don’t take lightly to the president abusing his authority and unlawfully mobilizing California National Guard troops” Bonta said. He planned to seek a court order declaring Trump’s use of the Guard unlawful and asking for a restraining order to halt the deployment.

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NIH scientists publish declaration criticizing cuts

CALVIN WOODWARD AND NATHAN ELLGREN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. “Dissent,” he said, “is the very essence of science.”

That commitment is being put to the test.

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, challenging “policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe.”

It says: “We dissent.”

In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, 92 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter — and their careers on the line. Another 250 of their colleagues across the agency endorsed the declaration without using their names.

The four-page letter, addressed to Bhattacharya, also went to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH.

The White House defended its approach to federal research.

“In recent years, Americans have lost confidence in our increasingly politicized healthcare and research apparatus that has been obsessed with DEI and COVID, which the majority of Americans moved on from years ago,” spokesman Kush Desai said. “The Trump administration is focused on restoring the Gold Standard of Science — not ideological activism — as the guiding

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Gov. Hobbs turns tables, proposed law

She wants to bar ‘foreign adversaries’ from buying land in Arizona

HOWARD FISCHER
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — On the defensive after her veto last week, Gov. Katie Hobbs is now proposing her own version of a law to decide who can’t buy land in Arizona.

The Democratic governor is asking the Republican-controlled Legislature to ban any “foreign adversary nation” or “foreign adversary agent” from owning, purchasing or otherwise having a “substantial interest in real property in the state.” The only exception would be if it is determined, under federal law, that the transaction “does not pose a



Hobbs

national security risk.”

In some ways, what Hobbs is proposing is similar to a bill originally written by Senate Majority Leader Janae Shamp. The plan by the Surprise Republican applied to certain “foreign principals,” though it had exceptions for everything from residential property to land located at least 50 miles from any military installation.

But by the time that bill reached Hobbs, it had been diluted by Scottsdale Republican Rep. Alexander Kolodin to apply only to the Chinese Communist Party. Hobbs, in rejecting that version last week, called it “ineffective at counter-espionage” and said it “does not protect our military assets.”

In writing her own plan, Hobbs is now going on the offensive against what has become a national news story, as Republicans claimed she was putting U.S. security at risk with the veto.

Shamp called Hobbs a “total disgrace” and accused her of being “an obstructionist against safeguarding our citizens from threats.” Shamp specifically mentioned that Luke Air Force Base, where pilots are trained, is in her district.

Fox News gave Kari Lake, whom Hobbs defeated in 2022, a chance to call the her “disingenuous.”

And Republican Senate President Warren Petersen promised to seek an override of the veto later this month.

There aren’t the necessary two-thirds votes in each chamber to do that, and an

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