

## 15 MINUTES

### 'Hottest show in town'

When glass artist Andy Libeck and his wife, Mylee Franciscisco, moved to Chico from Bellingham, Wash., eight years ago, Bryon Sutherland was the first to welcome them. He drove up from his Gridley glass studio with a six-pack, walked in to Libeck's studio and gave him a hug. The two have been friends—and co-creators—ever since. When the Camp Fire forced Sutherland (pictured, at left) out of his Gridley rental, the two decided it was time to join forces. So, they opened G-Town Hot Shop as a community space. They're perhaps most excited about the Hot Glass Royale dinners they host, complete with catered dinner and live glass shows. This Saturday (March 16), they're holding a "Break It or Buy It" auction starting at noon, where unclaimed items get smashed, and they often do live demos on Friday evenings, when neighbor Eckert Malting & Brewing's tasting room also is open. Franciscisco, who also blows glass, runs a dance studio adjoining the space. The shop is at 2280 Ivy St., Ste. 120 (take Park Avenue to Meyers Street, which turns into Ivy), and the showroom is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays. Call 899-9533 or go to [gtownhotshop.com](http://gtownhotshop.com) for more info.

**Any pieces you're working on now that stand out?**

**Libeck:** Right now we're working on this frozen waterfall chandelier.



PHOTO BY MEREDITH J. COOPER

lier. It's phosphorescent, so when all the lights are out it glows in the dark.

**Sutherland:** And I'm starting to monument heirlooms and relics from the fire. So, I've been scavenging in the scrap yards and looking for cool things from the Camp Fire to monument it.

**What got you into glass?**

**Sutherland:** At Chico State, I took the glass program and got a glass sculpture degree. I was addicted since the first semester. There are no words—I just thought, this is the only way to live, is to blow glass.

**Libeck:** My core being is an adventurer, thrill-seeker. I'm always seeking that present moment. My friends had a shop and they needed somebody. I fell into it. But once I touched the glass, I knew it fulfilled that ...

**Sutherland:** Adrenaline rush.

**Libeck:** Yeah. It forces you into the present moment, the glass—there's nowhere else you can be.

**What do you hope for this place?**

**Libeck:** It's gratitude town. It's this place where, first and fore-

most, we're happy to be alive. Then it's also a space where you can leave everything you're worried about out there [pointing to door] because it doesn't belong in here; you have to be present in the moment.

**Sutherland:** It's therapy.

**Libeck:** One of our students ... said she's stopped her therapy sessions with a counselor because this is her therapy. That really brought a lot of joy to us.

**Tell me about your workshops.**

**Sutherland:** We teach classes every weekend. And we have private classes, where people can rent us, almost any day of the week.

**Libeck:** People come in with their ideas and we literally help them build it. This one woman is a ferret freak. She came in and said, "I just want to learn to sculpt ferrets."

**Sutherland:** And we've never sculpted ferrets before.

**Libeck:** We spent like four hours straight sculpting ferrets. And they're beautiful—they're amazing.

—MEREDITH J. COOPER

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## THE GOODS

### Apps that deliver



by  
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Every day, it seems, I'm learning about a new food delivery app or a new restaurant offering delivery in Chico. It's almost enough to make me want to plop down on the couch, cuddle up with Oliver, my Boston terrier, and binge on another foreign Netflix show (have you seen *Secret City* yet?) and let someone bring me a smorgasbord.

Five years ago, aside from restaurants that delivered their own food, there was **Entree Express**, and that was it. Then there was **Grubhub**. These days, there's also **Door Dash**, **FoodJits** and **Uber Eats**.

It's kind of exciting, actually, to be able to get some of my favorite foods brought to me. Sometimes I don't have time to take a full lunch break, and while I love my options downtown, being able to expand my sphere is pretty cool. Some of my faves I didn't realize deliver: **Inday's Filipino Restaurant** (FoodJits and Uber Eats), **The Lab Bar & Grill** (FoodJits), **La Flor de Michoacan** (Uber Eats), **Lovely Layers Bakery** (Uber Eats), **OM Foods** (Uber Eats) and **Tacos Tonaya #2** (FoodJits).

The new kid on the block, for me at least, is **JoyRun**, which has some fun, different options including **Burgers and Brew** and **Taj Fine Indian Cuisine**. Beyond places listed, though, JoyRun lets any user "start a run" and take orders for others while they're there. So, I tried it out. A young woman named **Camila** was running to **Gordo Burrito** around lunchtime and picked me up a shrimp taco and chicken quesadilla for an extra \$3.70. Not bad!

**SOUP AND CUPCAKES** Speaking of Lovely Layers, I found myself in the Meyers Street area recently around lunchtime and was reminded that I had yet to try their soups. It was Friday, so naturally clam chowder was on the menu. The dining area is super cute, and the soup was delicious. (I may also have ordered a cupcake to go—Bailey's and coffee—yum.)

**NEW DIGS** My boyfriend, Chuck, actually had a Friday night off last week, so we decided to make it a date night and check out the newly refurbished **Sierra Nevada Taproom and Restaurant**. Wow! It's been quite a while since I've been there, but the change is drastic. Everything is brighter and the seating is communal, which reminds me of being at the Hofbrau Haus in Munich, but more modern. We opted to sit outside, because inside was packed, with a line wrapped along the wall, and the back patio is super nice, with heaters set up all over. We chatted with our tablemates, ordered some food and beers and had a nice time.

**FIRE AND ICE** After dinner, we decided to check out the free demo at **G-Town Hot Shop** (see 15 Minutes, this page). What fun! Next door, the tasting room was open at **Eckert Malting & Brewing**. We ordered a few beers—did you know Eckert is one of only two breweries in the country brewing gluten-free **Resilience IPA**?—and returned to the show. What a great way to end the night.

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