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Convention Center's Otis leaves for Anaheim; Wambaa locks Tacoma post

Posted by **C.R. Roberts** @ 07:21:05 am

Adios, Otis.

That's Otis Huemmer, former culinary director magnifique for Aramark at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center. His last day was Wednesday, having taken the position as executive chef at at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center. (It was always interesting to watch people eat the cheese bread. Is it cheese? Is it bread? It was Otis.)

But welcome Mr. Wambaa.

That's Allan Wambaa, newly hired by Aramark (which holds the catering contract at GTCTC) to take the food and beverage reins. According to Brad Nelson, Aramark lead at the center, the final choice came down to Wambaa and Peter Weikel, former chef at the former Stadium bistro. In an Iron Chef-ish head-to-head cookoff, one contestant prepared a lamb Wellington, the other a tenderloin with red wine reduction. The tenderloin took the day, but both were outstanding, Nelson says.

Wambaa hails from Kenya, speaks seven languages and served, at the beginning of the decade, as chef de cuisine for the family of HRH Prince Fabad bin Kahlid al Saud in downtown Saudi Arabia. More recently he worked as executive chef for Washington Hospitality in Seattle, and before that as executive chef at Bell Harbor Conference Center & World Trade Center in Seattle.

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