



Carla and Miguel Garcia run Casa Burrito Tequila Grill in Monmouth. The Mexican restaurant opened in September. EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

CASA BURRITO

New restaurant offers fresh Mexican cuisine, authentic taco stand

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Miguel Garcia always dreamt of owning his own restaurant. "Since I started in the restaurant working, I was always looking for one little place to start," he said. He and his wife, Carla, 20, opened Casa Burrito Tequila Grill in Monmouth in September. The restaurant serves a variety of combination plates and dishes inside. The establishment also offers a full bar, from margaritas to beer. Outside sits a taco cart where people hungry for a more authentic taste of Mexico may indulge in street tacos, burritos, tortas and sopas. On Saturdays and Sundays, fresh tortillas and

Make it a meal

What: Casa Burrito Tequila Grill.
Where: 564 Powell St. E., Monmouth.
When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The taco cart has the same hours.
Of note: A taco stand offers a variety of delicious options including a choice from five homemade sauces.

menudo is on the menu. The restaurant offers daily lunch deals. It is modeled after the Tequila Grill in McMinnville, where Garcia started in the restaurant business. "The one in McMinnville is two or three times bigger than this one," he said. "The taco stand makes more money than the restaurant. I hope that is the case with us, too." It's too soon to tell if that

will be the case, but with a location right on Highway 99W, Casa Burrito — and its taco stand — gets a lot of traffic from those passing through Monmouth, Garcia said. Garcia, 26, started his career at the age of 15 washing dishes. From there, he learned everything he could about the business, from busboy, server, cook to manage-

"I can make something for me, not just working for other people," Garcia said. "I always had in my mind to be more. You always had to be learning. If the machine is not working, you have to fix it to keep it working. That's what makes you ready when the opportunity is there." Garcia said he doesn't have a favorite item on the menu — it really just depends on what you're in the mood for, he added. The combination plates offer something for everyone, Garcia said. "We even have shrimp cocktail," he said. After 11 years moving up the ladder, Garcia said his favorite job in the restaurant is what he started doing: washing dishes. "You don't have any responsibility, just washing dishes, that's it," he said.

Dallas' new website to go live on Friday

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer



DALLAS — If you visit the city of Dallas' website on Friday, you will be greeted with a different looking site. And city officials hope, a more user friendly experience. "We've been working on it a long time actually, so we are pretty excited to get rid of the old look and walk into the 21st century," Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said. "The old one isn't bad, but the new one just looks great. It feels like a much better experience, easier access to information." The "old" website has been around since 2008 or 2009, Foggin said. With recent work completed on a new marketing strategy, the city felt it was time to upgrade its online presence, too. "It is our face that we put out to the world," Foggin said. "What we know about statistics on the website is that people from Turkey and people from Russia, and China look at our website." He said whether some of those people are looking for Dallas, Texas, he doesn't know, but it's still important to make a good impression. More critical still is to look up-to-date and provide access to information to businesses looking to locate in Dallas or prospective residents. "As we look at economic development, it's one of those pieces that I hope sends the message that people want to be here. That it is professional, inviting and looks great," Foggin said.

Another key issue with the soon-to-be bygone website will be solved come Friday: poor navigation. Foggin said not all information will be available after one click, but people will be able to find what they are looking for much easier. Preliminary work on the new site started in May and Foggin admitted he was "being a little bit picky" in terms of design elements he wanted to see. "We looked at a number of websites that we liked aspects of and then asked the website design company to take the best of those things and incorporate them," he said. Foggin said he's pleased the city will finally be able to reveal the finished product. "We are really excited about the new look," he said. "The fresh, new look goes really well with our marketing and our branding that we've recently done." Visit the new website at www.ci.dallas.or.us/. In other business, the Dallas City Council: • Reviewed an ordinance amending the city's development code and another that would amend the city's wild animal code to make it illegal to feed deer. The council is scheduled to vote on both ordinances at its Jan. 19 meeting.

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