

Maria's offers taqueria-style family dining

Mexican restaurant open at new location

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Owning a taqueria-style restaurant was once just a “pipe dream” for Bill and Maria Evans, but since Nov. 10 the dream became a reality.

The couple moved their Mexican restaurant, Maria's, from Prairie City to their new location in Canyon City at 295 S. Canyon City Blvd., opening exactly two years after their original restaurant.

“Taqueria-style” means orders are taken at the counter, and at Maria's, the food options are displayed on a digital menu board.

“It's more efficient, and service is quicker,” Bill said.

The family restaurant sports bright colors with an ocean-view mural on one of the walls.

“Everybody is having fun and enjoying themselves,” Bill said. “It's a family restaurant with a festive atmosphere. Everyone seems to like the brightness of it.”



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Bill and Maria Evans, owners of Maria's Restaurant in Canyon City, offer a menu of fresh Mexican food at their taqueria-style eatery. They moved to their new location from Prairie City, opening last November.

The building was previously the location of the Golden Dragon restaurant, operated by Steve and Janet Pang who retired last summer.

Bill said business has been good with repeat customers, and added the residents of Canyon City have been hospitable.

“We feel very welcomed,” he said.

They hope to open a margarita lounge, at the back of

the restaurant, by '62 Days celebration in June.

“That's our goal,” Bill said. “It would be a nice place to sit and enjoy cocktails, and could also be a place for business.”

Bill and Maria said their customers' favorites have remained the same: chili rellenos, fajitas, tacos, enchiladas and burritos.

They also offer Taco Tuesday with chicken, pork and beef tacos at a sale price.

Chef Maria uses the authentic recipes she learned from her mother. Her favorite Mexican meal is fajitas, she said.

She said she's enjoying the new location for several reasons, including its closeness to home — she and Bill and their son Gabriel live in the Canyon City area — and the brightness of the restaurant.

“I feel good in this new setting,” she said.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter
Maria's Restaurant, located at 295 S. Canyon City Blvd. in Canyon City, is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

She said she never thought of herself as a great cook — it was just regular cooking to her — until her husband pointed out how delicious her meals taste.

“I'm so happy to see the

new customers,” she said.

Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

For more information, call the restaurant at 541-575-0777.

TOWN

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John Day River, the gorge is named for the Native American pictographs which adorn the steep canyon walls.

History buffs can step back even further in time with a trip to the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument just north of the Picture Gorge area on State Route 19. The monument also offers several hiking trails and interpretive spots.

City Park, located along the banks of the John Day River in town, offers a spacious gathering and play place with tennis courts, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, restrooms and a playground, including a slide mounted right onto the hillside.

City Recorder Ruthie Moore said the town takes great pride in its park. She said a couple from Colorado traveling through town last summer told her the restrooms were the best ones in the United States.

A new asset to the park, Moore noted, is a drinking fountain made from a hydrant. She said they have been planting new trees each year.

A longtime resident, Moore loves “the lifestyle that living in this tiny town provides me — along with the fact that it is such a cute little town.”

She has lived in Dayville for almost 40 years, moving there from Mt. Vernon when she and her husband Chuck married. She has been the Dayville city recorder for almost 21 years.

“I love that we are a community family and people care about one another,” Moore said.

She said she feels blessed she was able to raise her children there, adding, “It means the world to me that my grandchildren love Dayville so much.”

Moore loves her job too and “working each day for the betterment of this wonderful community.”

“I especially enjoy being the town cheerleader — telling others how special Dayville is,” Moore said.

Mayor Robert Waltenburg has had a long history of service to the Dayville community. He started on the city council in 1997 and was mayor from 2005-2010. After a break, he became mayor again last year in a term that ends on Dec. 31.

City councilors are Dana Brooks, Merle Metcalf, Ilah Bennett, Peter Bogardus and Skip Inscore.

Enrollment at Dayville School is 50 students in grades K-12, plus preschool.

One of the most stately buildings in town, the Dayville Community Hall, was



Contributed photo
A team of Dayville residents work to keep things running smoothly in town. Back row, from left, councilor Skip Inscore and Mayor Robert Waltenburg. Front row, from left, councilors Peter Bogardus, Merle Metcalf and Ilah Bennett, city recorder Ruthie Moore and councilor Dana Brooks.



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler
South Fork Road, which heads south out of Dayville, offers some of the most spectacular scenery in Grant County.

built in 1920-21. A renovation committee is striving to renovate the historic building, with nearly every town fundraiser in the past years working toward that goal.

Other groups striving to

keep things moving and improving in the town include the Dayville Events Committee; Celebrate Dayville, a nonprofit that formed during the town's centennial; and the Community 4-H Club.

Their efforts produce several events throughout the year such as an Easter egg hunt, the spring and fall community potlucks, Fourth of July Celebration and fireworks display, scarecrow contest, Christmas tree lighting ceremony and Adopt-a-Christmas tree and two 5Ks — the Bunny Hop and the Dayville Dash.

Incorporated in 1913, Dayville was a stop on The Dalles Military Road, a wagon road that provided access for miners and freight to the gold fields in Canyon City. The route ran from The Dalles to Canyon City from 1868-1870.

City Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month.

For more information, call Dayville City Hall at 541-987-2188, or visit Friends of Dayville on Facebook.



The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler
The “D” marks the spot for the town of Dayville.

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