



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

The tables at La Laguna Sports Bar are still covered in bubble wrap as the restaurant waits for the day it switches from take-out only to a sit-down sports bar.

La Laguna brings fusion of flavors to Hermiston

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

A cuisine trend that started in Mexico and moved to California has now made its way to Hermiston.

La Laguna Sports Bar, which opened in April on Main Street in Hermiston, offers a Mexican-Japanese fusion dish the restaurant's owners have christened "Sin-Ushi," short for Sinaloa Sushi.

All of the rolls on the menu are similar to traditional Japanese sushi, but with a Mexican-inspired twist using flavors from familiar Mexican dishes, such as jalapeños or guacamole. The rolls feature cooked shrimp, chicken or beef.

While the restaurant does have a \$2 Taco Tuesday each week, co-owner Jaime Ruelas said most of what people will find on the menu is more unique, including the seafood dishes known as mariscos, such as the spicy shrimp and lime juice dish aguachile.

"If you go down to Mexico to Sinaloa or Mazatlan and ask for aguachile, this is exactly what you would get," he said. "All that's missing is the beach."

The location at 285 E. Main St. was gutted and renovated, and the inside now features rows of tables



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

La Laguna Sports Bar offers Mexican-Japanese fusion sushi like this Laguna roll.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

The new La Laguna Sports Bar offers sushi with a Mexican twist.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Several kinds of aguachile are on the menu at the new La Laguna Sports Bar.

with 12 large flat-screen televisions lining the walls. While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the sports bar to be take-out only for now, Ruelas said eventually people will be able to come and eat while watching six different sports games.

"I know the pandemic is not the time to do this, but the thing is, everything was ready. The cooks were ready. I couldn't tell them no," he said.

For now, people can order take-out until 7 p.m., but Ruelas said eventually the sports bar will be open late and will be closed to minors after 10 p.m.

The name and logo of the restaurant was inspired by Ruelas' father's hometown, Laguna de Alcazahue, in Mexico. The town was near a crocodile ranch where crocodiles were raised for their skin. At some point, Ruelas said, the operation went out of business and the owners abandoned the animals there. When they began to overrun the town,

the state stepped in and created a wildlife refuge where the crocodiles could safely live.

Ruelas said he is excited to bring a trend to Hermiston before it comes to some

bigger cities in the Pacific Northwest.

"Usually the Tri-Cities gets all the new stuff, and Hermiston follows, but this time Hermiston gets something new," he said.

Nada Sewidan joins Hermiston Herald as summer intern

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

she said.

After starting the internship on June 1, she said she has already learned a lot about



Sewidan

The Hermiston Herald and East Oregonian will have an extra pair of hands helping out in the newsroom this summer with intern Nada Sewidan.

Sewidan comes to the Hermiston newsroom through the Charles Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism, which pairs student journalists from universities in Oregon with local newspapers.

She graduated this spring from Portland State University with a master's of fine arts degree in creative writing and nonfiction, and hopes to launch a career in journalism.

"I find the work that journalists do really important, as an avenue to discuss community issues, for community engagement and truth," she said.

Sewidan grew up in Alexandria, Egypt, before moving to California, and then to Portland for her studies at PSU.

"From my experience in Egypt, not everyone has freedom of the press, and so that's something I value,"

how newsrooms operate outside of a student newspaper setting. She said students tend to have easier access to sources for their stories, through professors and other university staff, so it will be a challenge learning to develop sources while reporting in a wider community.

Sewidan described herself as a shy person, but said she feels that is a strength as a reporter, because being soft spoken can help build trust with people.

"It's important that people trust me as a reporter, that I'm here to do what's best for the community," she said.

Sewidan wrote her first story for the Hermiston Herald about storm damage throughout the region, and will report on miscellaneous topics in Umatilla and Morrow counties throughout the summer.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY, KYNLEE!

You are a fun, curious, sweet, kind and beautiful 10 year old! You make life happier, brighter, sweeter and a whole lot more fun! Love how you do it!

You are always in our thoughts...

love, Grandpa and Grandma Powell

IN BRIEF

Lifeways plans open house for Aspen Springs

Lifeways is holding an open house and tours for its new Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital, located at 1212 W. Linda Avenue.

The celebration will be held June 24. The day will start at 9 a.m. with guided tours of the hospital, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Tours will continue through 3 p.m.

The 16-bed hospital for acute psychiatric care for adults will begin accepting patients after the grand opening.

"Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital is located near the Good Shepherd

Health Care campus, allowing Lifeways to provide care for those experiencing severe and persistent mental health challenges no matter their entry point into the health care system," a news release stated. "Patients will receive high-quality, individualized care in a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide a safe place for psychiatric stabilization and recovery."

The patients will be provided 24-hour supervision and services, such as medication management, therapy, skills training, therapeutic activities, and support in community reintegration.

For questions, call 541-289-2340.

American Printing
Since 1985

WE DO INVITES FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

Call or stop by today

541.567.8073
53 W Beebe Ave
Hermiston, OR

PRE-ARRANGE FUNERAL PLANS

We will carefully guide you through the many decisions that must be made during this challenging time.

BURNS MORTUARY of Hermiston & Hermiston Crematory

Serving Families with Care and Compassion for Over 70 Years.

685 W. Hermiston Ave.
Hermiston, Oregon
(541) 567-6474

www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

ELEVATE YOUR DINING EXPERIENCE

PLATEAU FINE DINING

Dining room and patio now open!
Enjoy scenic views of the beautiful Blue Mountains

MONDAY THRU SUNDAY 5PM-CLOSE

WILDHORSE RESORT - SECOND FLOOR NEXT TO THE CINEPLEX

FOR RESERVATIONS 541.966.1610