

Pho Quan Vietnamese restaurant opens

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

It took longer than expected, but Pho Quan Vietnamese Cuisine has opened in Hermiston.

Owner Mike Dang said the Vietnamese restaurant had a “very busy and successful” opening weekend the last weekend in August.

“The community support so far has been overwhelming and we appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts,” he wrote in a message to the *Hermiston Herald*.

The large response highlighted a few things that needed to be adjusted in the kitchen, he said, so they briefly closed on Sept. 2-3 to restock and reassess.

Dang said the restaurant plans to serve their basic “bread and butter” dishes, such as Pho year-round, but will also continue to adjust the menu by introducing new Vietnamese dishes



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Pho Quan Vietnamese Cuisine is now open in Hermiston on South Highway 395.

monthly. He said they take pride in making everything fresh in-house.

“Our culture is family- and friend-oriented and we love sharing food and meals with each other so we wanted to bring that vibe here,” he said. “Our restaurant is a place for everyone to share a meal and bond. We all eat; food is universal.”

Right now the restaurant

has limited dine-in seating due to pandemic restrictions, he said, and reservations are encouraged. They also offer takeout. The restaurant is family-owned, and the family also owns restaurants in Kirkland and Federal Way, Washington.

The restaurant is at 920 S.E. Fourth St. in Hermiston. For more information, call 541-701-0676.

Hermiston Avenue businesses get a facelift

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

Travelers along the 100 block of Hermiston Avenue in Hermiston may have noticed that some of the stores have a much different look.

The Ochoa family, owners of the building that houses Adamari’s Boutique, Ochoa’s Jewelers, Boost Mobile and more used time while shut down during the pandemic to do extensive remodeling inside and outside the building, shifting from a red painted facade to a more modern, black with grey stone look.

“Everyone has been telling us they hope other businesses in town do that,” said Zaida Gutierrez.

Gutierrez, who works in the boutique, said the Ochoas also added new floors inside, expanded and remodeled the jewelry store



Staff photo by Jade McDowell
Businesses along West Hermiston Avenue got a recent facade upgrade.

and made other upgrades. They recently celebrated the changes with a small private gathering, and all of the businesses along the block are fully open.

“We did a very small ribbon cutting, just with family and a photographer,” she said.

The building is at 176 W. Hermiston Ave. Ochoa’s Jewelers is a family-owned business established in 2006, and offers custom jewelry, engagement rings and more. Adamari’s Boutique offers wedding gowns, quinceañera dresses and other formal wear.

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Thanks to a generous grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Good Shepherd was able to update our community safety trailer! This trailer will be used for future traffic-related safety events on a wide variety of topics such as car seat safety, distracted driving, helmet use and pedestrian safety. Stay tuned for future events and keep an eye out for Good Shepherd's new safety trailer!

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Small businesses are cutting costs during the pandemic with energy incentives

New LED lighting at La Tapatia 2 makes shopping easier for customers while store owners save thousands in energy costs each year.

Projects meant to bring down utility bills are doing much more for small businesses in Oregon – some are making properties safer and more convenient for customers.

Juan Alavarez owns La Tapatia 2, a Mexican grocery and meat market in Gresham. He recently installed new energy-efficient LED lighting to replace the outdated lighting outside his store with help from Energy Trust of Oregon. Although he was looking for energy savings, the upgrade brought some additional, unexpected benefits to his business. Alvarez says his building is now safer and there’s less vandalism.

“The new lighting is brighter and not easily breakable. Security is better. Customers and neighbors say it looks amazing.”

— Juan Alavarez, owner of La Tapatia 2

Inside the store, Alavarez also replaced all of the overhead fluorescent lighting with LEDs, which has helped lighten up darker corners. That makes it easier for customers to see what’s on each store shelf. “The first day after installation, customers commented that they could see our products better,” said Alvarez.

The upgrades inside and out are saving La Tapatia 2 an estimated \$2,600 each year in energy costs. But the store only had to pay about 20% of the \$34,000 project cost to purchase and install the new lighting, thanks to incentives offered by Energy Trust. Energy Trust is a nonprofit created by the State of Oregon to connect more people to sustainable, affordable energy and clean, renewable power.

Energy Trust provides cash incentives to individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities and others for equipment and projects that help use less energy.

Since 2002, Energy Trust has provided incentives to thousands of Gresham families, businesses, schools, farms and ranches for energy upgrades, helping Gresham utility customers save more than \$40 million on utility bills from participation in Energy Trust.

Visit energytrust.org/this-is-oregon to see more of how Energy Trust is helping small businesses around the state.