

El Dairy King opens doors

Written by Chris Lee

The name will change a little as well as the menu, but the doors of Dairy King in Holyoke are open again.

Now known as El Dairy King, Lizde Adriana Hernandez and family are busy learning the tricks of the restaurant trade. The doors opened Saturday, Aug. 21 and it has been a big learning experience ever since.

Hernandez said it has always been her mother's dream to open a restaurant. That dream has now become a reality as the family came together to open El Dairy King.

Before opening, Hernandez had a new floor, walls, sinks, toilets, air conditioning unit and an exhaust fan installed. New paint also covers the walls.

Denver Broncos fans will appreciate the bright orange walls with blue trim. Hernandez said updating tables and chairs is also on the to-do list.

The menu still promotes hamburgers, fries and ice cream but now includes a little Mexican touch as well. The special Friday, Aug. 27 of smothered burritos sold really well, according to Hernandez.

"It depends on what she (her mother) feels like cooking that day," Hernandez said referring to the daily specials.

Hernandez said she hopes the green chile isn't too hot for some people.

Suggestions are one thing El Dairy King is looking for from the public. They are willing to listen to anything people have to say about the food, menu and even service.

With little to no experience in the restaurant business, Hernandez said things have been a little slow at first. The biggest hurdle has been getting the correct orders out and the time in which an

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order is processed.

A sign at the cash register warns visitors of the staff learning about the new venture. The wait may take a little time, and the staff hopes visitors have some patience at first.

Hernandez also noted learning how much of certain things need to be ordered is a work in progress. She said they almost ran out of hamburgers one Friday.

El Dairy King offers walk-up and dine-in service. People may also call ahead to place an order. Hernandez said delivery may be a possibility in the future, but for the time being, they will stick to what works.

The restaurant will be closed on Mondays. Hernandez hopes to set the hours of operation from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sundays.

For questions, comments or to place an order, call El Dairy King at 854-3313.