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The Bulletin

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GREENEVILLE

Peruvian restaurant is a family business

Take-out only location opens on Central Avenue

Matt Grahn
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

This new restaurant might have a funny name, but the staff is passionate about the food.

Chubby Llama, a Peruvian take-out restaurant located at 201 Central Ave. in Greenville, opened on Aug. 20, cashier Jessica Pedroza said.

The restaurant is owned by Pedroza's father, Bladimir Pedroza. Inspired by his mother's restaurant back in Peru, Bladimir Pedroza opened Pollos a la Brasa CJ in New London back in 2008. He noticed a lot of the CJ customers were from the Norwich area, so he wanted "to share more of the love," Jessica Pedroza said.

"He wanted to make it more accessible to the customers out here," she said.

In the first couple weeks, things have gone well for The Chubby Llama for customers and sales, Jessica Pedroza said.

Chubby Llama, which is an homage to Jessica Pedroza's brother's nickname, is a take-out only spot because it's less work than operating a full-service restaurant. That said, Bladimir Pedroza is still working between both restaurants, Jessica Pedroza said.

The menu

Pollos a la Brasa CJ and Chubby Llama have similar menus. For anyone who hasn't had Peruvian food before, Jessica Pedroza recommends the Lomo Saltado, which has sautéed beef, onion, fries and served with rice on the side, she said.

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Alex Bromberek, manager and head chef at Chubby Llama, cooking in the kitchen. MATT GRAHN/NORWICH BULLETIN

House GOP releases Epstein 'birthday book'

Chair calls out committee Dems for releasing Trump note

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A House committee released a slew of documents about disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, including a "birthday book" with messages purported to be from President Donald Trump, former President Bill Clinton and Harvard law professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz, among others.

Democrats on the committee had released the Trump note that he and the White House have denied the president wrote or signed. Another page in the full book the House Oversight and Reform Committee released features a picture of Epstein with another man and a woman whose face is blacked out holding an oversized check for \$22,500 signed "DJTRUMP."

"Jeffrey showing early talents with money + women sells 'fully depreciated' [name redacted] to Donald Trump for \$22,500," the page states.

The committee chair, Rep. James Comer, R-Kentucky, subpoenaed the book and other records from Epstein's estate as part of an official review of his criminal investigation.

On Sept. 8, Comer accused committee Democrats of "cherry-picking" documents such as the Trump note they released on social media earlier in the day.

"Oversight Committee Republicans

See **EPSTEIN**, Page 2A

Danielson flower and gift shop hosting fun events

Beth McDermott
Reporter assisted by AI

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is hosting several events in September. The locally owned flower and gift shop in Danielson aims to bring the community together through art and sustainability, according to a community announcement.

The first event, Macramé for Plants, is scheduled for 9-10:30 a.m. Sept. 13. Participants will learn how to craft a

macramé plant hanger, which can add color and texture to indoor plants.

On Sept. 20, the shop will host a free story hour with local author Julia Kneeland from 9-10 a.m. Children can enjoy a reading featuring the latest adventure of Jig, a lovable pup.

Herbal Teas 101 with Gigi's Essentials is set for 6-7 p.m. Sept. 26. Attendees will learn about blending and steeping herbal teas and will take home a custom tea blend and tea accessories.

The final event, Needle Felted Jack-

O'-Lanterns, will take place 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 27. Artist Susan Scott Kenney will teach the art of needle felting, allowing participants to create their own wool Jack-o'-Lanterns.

Mountain Laurel Floral Designs is located at 98 Main St. in Danielson. The shop specializes in fresh, seasonal blooms grown in southeastern New England. Owners Gabby and Pam started the business with a focus on sustainable flower farming. They create floral arrangements that reflect the changing

seasons and host workshops to foster creativity and community connection.

For more information and to register for events, visit mountainlaurelfloralct.com.

This story was created by reporter Beth McDermott, bmcdermottl@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

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