



Burke gets new eateries

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VALDESE — A Mexican restaurant is coming to Valdese.

And Bojangles' in Hildebran recently opened.

Habaneros Mexican Restaurant officials will open at 825 Main St. in the old Mister Roberts in Valdese.

According to Tim Roberts, the owner of the building, Habaneros will lease the building. Mister Roberts closed in October, with Roberts citing the downturn in the economy and the closing of several surrounding manufacturing companies.

The economic downturn has affected Habaneros a little but not enough to keep it from growing, said Ramon Nunez, who will manage the new restaurant.

"If you don't take a chance nowadays you don't find out what the outcome will be," Nunez said.

Nunez said the two existing Habaneros in Morganton have a lot of customers from the Valdese area and they would ask when they would bring one to the town.

Nunez said there isn't a definite opening date set but he is shooting for mid-February or March 1.

Nunez said the owners of

Habaneros, of which one is his uncle, wanted to spread out and move into Valdese for a while but couldn't find an appropriate place. When someone told them about the building that held Mister Roberts, they jumped at the chance.

The restaurant in Valdese will be non-smoking and, for now, the hours are expected to be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, said Nunez.

While Nunez isn't sure how many people the eatery will employ, he expects it to be about eight.

The restaurant serves authentic Mexican food, Nunez said, including everything from burritos to seafood and vegetarian platters.

Hildebran also has a new eatery. After months of anticipation, Bojangles' recently opened in a new 3,500-square-foot building on Center Street.

"Given Hildebran residents' strong affinity for Bojangles', we want to offer a dining experience that is equally as memorable for the food as it is for the environment in which they are spending their meal time," said Kevin Archer, owner of Charlotte-based K-BO, Inc., which owns 17 Bojangles' in the greater Charlotte area.

"We are always trying to exceed our customers' expectations."

The eatery offers breakfast, lunch and dinner items from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

"We are extremely proud to spark a new love affair between Hildebran residents and Bojangles' with a location that is closer to them than ever before," said Archer. "The bond our residents have with the brand will certainly grow stronger with the new restaurant given that diners will experience the same food, fun and service in a closer, updated space with huge capacity."