

Word on the Street: Club Imperio to open in Granite Park in Fresno

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Pino Borrelli, former general manager of Rome Nightclub, stands amid the renovation of the former club as he prepares to open Club Imperio on Friday in the same Granite Park location. Photographed on Friday, May 9, 2014 in Fresno, Calif.

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A nightclub building in Granite Park is being resurrected again as Club Imperio.

Pino Borrelli, who managed the venue when it was Club Rome, is trying a second time to provide Fresno with an entertainment center dedicated to music and dancing.

Club Imperio, which means "empire" in Italian, is expected to open on Friday.

It will bring "a new magnitude of nightlife" to Fresno, Borrelli said.

The 15,000-square-foot building at Cedar and Ashlan avenues started out as the home of Cabo Wabo in 2008. The restaurant and bar only lasted four months.

Then the building reopened and closed under a variety of names including Club Rome, The Edge,

Skye and Club Eva.

Why go at it again?

"It's an amazing location and an amazing building," Borrelli said. "It's a gold mine."

Borrelli renovated the club and installed new lights, booths and chandeliers to fit an Italian theme.

Hours are 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The rest of the week will be reserved for concerts and special events.

An eye on growth

A new 40,000-square-foot building under construction at Clovis Community Medical Center will become home next year to Eye-Q Vision Care's third office in the central San Joaquin Valley.

Eye-Q CEO Julie Cleeland said the new center is needed because patient volume has outgrown the Fresno office, located north of Herndon Avenue between Cedar and Millbrook avenues.

Eye-Q will occupy about 15,000 square feet in the new office — most of the first floor in the two-story building. Eye-Q, which includes 14 doctors and has more than 230 employees, also has an office in Selma.

Three of Eye-Q's doctors — Samuel Hinton, M.D., Anthony Baudonnet, OD and Derick Holt, M.D. — will relocate their practices to the Clovis site when it opens in January 2015. Cleeland said the office will have space for two additional doctors for future growth.

Locally grown

A family farm in Madera deals in pomegranates and another unusual item grown in the Valley: butterflies.

Home Grown Cellars of Madera, is opening its Butterfly Sanctuary, a 3,000-square-foot enclosure with hundreds of monarchs, painted ladies, morning cloaks and red admirals.

The butterfly sanctuary will be open Fridays 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Home Grown Cellars, owned by Alex and Jackie Lehman, specializes in pomegranate products, including pomegranate honey, pomegranate soap, pomegranate oil, jellies and more.

The products are sold at their Country Store, open on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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