

Business News

New spa owners feel pretty good

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NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A new spa, offering non-invasive medical treatments in addition to more traditional spa services, is about to open on East Canon Perdido Street, close to the heart of downtown Santa Barbara.

Spa Medicus, with two physicians overseeing procedures and several nurses on staff, will open on Nov. 10, said spa director Pat Altavilla.

She said along with facials and massages, clients can take advantage of such treatments as botox, collagen, hair removal, tattoo removal, various skin rejuvenation techniques and vein therapy.

Dr. Gregory Keller is the medical director, overseeing all cosmetic procedures, with Dr. Duncan Turner as assistant medical director. The spa will employ another 10 staff including registered nurses, physician assistants and nurse practitioners along with massage therapists and estheticians.

Spa Medicus, jointly owned by Ms. Altavilla, Dr. Keller and Dennis Condon, will occupy a two-story, 3,000 square-foot building on Canon Perdido, just off State Street and between the Bank of America parking lot and Madame Rosinka's.

Ms. Altavilla said the building was previously used as a chiropractor's office for about 18 years while at other times it was the site of a jewelry shop and the upstairs area was a residence. The new spa will make use of an enclosed rear courtyard with an ornamental pond.

The building had to be completely gutted and then remodeled, said Jason Grubb, general manager for Santa Barbara-based Echternacht Construction Corp., the main contractors.

Work started July 1 and included new plumbing and electrical, new heating, lighting, ventilation, air conditioning and cabinets. New interior walls have created seven spa treatment rooms. The floors are a mix of tile and carpets, while the building has been re-painted inside and out.

Other features include specially painted faux granite-limestone columns, made from plaster-covered foam plastic, and faux wall painting, all intended to create what Ms. Altavilla describes as a "Romanesque" look.

This painting is the work of Ojai-based Miguelangelo and Co. while the project architect is Bill Wolf of Montecito-based Pacific Architects, Inc. Ms. Altavilla said the project was costing around \$450,000.