

# Rumors to show 'It all starts here'

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The owners of Rumors Bar & Grill are preparing to bring their slogan — “It all starts here” — to life on Saturday with a grand opening party scheduled from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at 125 N. Green St.

The festivities will include a street party from 6-11 p.m., during which, Green Street will be closed between Main and Market streets.

Live entertainment will be provided outside from 6-9 p.m. with the band Tuf Luk performing on Green Street to kick off the party. Food in the street will be provided from 6-9 p.m. and a beer garden will be available from 6-11 p.m.

“Burgers and brats will be served outside all evening,” said co-owner Jason Roche.

From 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., Stomping Ground will play inside on the new stage. In addition, prize giveaways, drink specials, pool tables and darts will be offered during the evening.

Patrons must be 21 with a photo ID to enter the bar area.

Roche and his partners Scott Ferretti and Brian Pedro want to share with the community the results of all their hard labor over the past month, working to prepare Rumors for the grand opening party Saturday.

“We opened Friday the 13th but we want to have a big grand opening to invite the public to come in and see what we’ve done,” Roche said.

The three men bought the building earlier this year and assumed ownership officially Aug. 1 with big plans for the whole building — but their first order of business was a major renovation of the former Showdown Saloon on the first floor, which they promptly renamed Rumors Bar and Grill.

Roche said the three agreed it seemed like an appropriate name for a bar.

“We sort of wanted to play around with the idea of how rumors get started in bars and have fun with it,” Ferretti said.

That same idea led to the slogan “It all starts here”, he said.

“You know how people say ‘This is what I heard’ and then it’s ‘Where did you hear that?’ and so on.”

In September, the trio closed the bar for a planned three weeks, which turned into four, to do the renovation.

“We did 90 percent of the work ourselves,” Roche said.

That work includes all-new flooring, a new ceiling and a completely new bar.

“We tore out the old bar and built a new one,” Roche said.

They also installed new tables and chairs, a new dance floor, a new electrical system, a new heating and cooling unit and more. They’ve installed a kitchen which will open for food serving in a week or two, Roche said.

Once the work was done, the bar was re-opened to the public on Friday the 13th.

“We really didn’t advertise much at all for last Friday, we



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Rumors co-owner **SCOTT FERRETTI** works on renovations to the business at 125 N. Green St.

just opened the doors and people started coming in,” Roche said.

Curiosity has continued to draw many more people in all this week, said Vickie Butler, day-shift bartender.

“We had seven people in here at 7 this morning,” she said Wednesday.

“We get a lot of people in at 7 (a.m.) who are factory workers just getting off-shift,” she said.

The doors are open from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m., Butler said.

Belinda Williams was hired as manager, after serving in that same capacity at the local Eagles for the past two years.

Roche works at Nucor and partners Ferretti and Pedro are co-owners of the local Brickstone Builders. Roche and Ferretti are also both members of ABATE who’ve known each other 10 years.

The three owners now plan to turn their attention to the 14,000-square-foot building’s upper three floors.

“There’s a lot of history in the building,” Roche said.

It opened as the Monon Hotel in 1927 and operated until its closing in 1977.

“It’s going to take a lot of work but once you look past all the cobwebs, it’s gorgeous,” he said.

The next step is the second floor, which they hope to open as part of the bar and grill within a year. The owners also hope to have a balcony like the old hotel.

Plans for the third and fourth floors are not definite yet but ideas the owners have considered include restored hotel rooms, condos or office space.

Roche dismissed the notion of taking much of a rest break before plunging ahead with work on the second floor.

“We might take a day or two off but otherwise, we’re going to start on it pretty much immediately,” he said.