



# MLK Day

See Pages 22 & 31 for local events from MLK Day!

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# THE NEWS LEADER



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## Shave and a haircut ... and a whole lot more

By STEVE STEINER

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Smoke appears to be coming off the head of the person in the barber chair, but it isn't smoke. It's the vapors from the hot towels wrapped around the head of the client. In a short while the towels will be removed and Maria Bonano will be shaving the client.

Barbers trust hot towels because these make facial hair easier to shave. Wrapping the customer's face in a hot towel creates a healthy shaving environment for the skin. From opening the pores to softening hair, hot towels allow straight razors to glide over skin for a close, comfortable, blemish-free shave.

Bonano is one of (currently) two tonsorial artists at The Tonsorium Mens Grooming Lounge by Juliet that opened this past Dec. 1, 2021 at 630 Eighth St. The other tonsorial artist is owner Juliet Gonzalez.

However, you don't need to call them tonsorial artists. Being called barbers is fine with each of them. It's also preferable being called barbers rather than hair stylists.

### TONSORIAL ARTIST:

*In early times barbers were known as tonsorial artists. The barber pole of red, white, and blue was used to let people know that the individual could not only cut hair and shave beards, but also could perform tooth extraction, bloodletting and even some surgery.*

But why call it a tonsorium if it is a barber shop for men (although women can also patronize the place)?

### TONSORIUM:

*From the Latin noun tonsor meaning "clipper" and the verb tondere meaning "to shear," a tonsorium is a location where a skilled barber, or tonsorial artist, offers services.*

It's more than a barber shop," said Ed Gonzalez, husband and partner to Juliet, and the more loquacious of the two; Juliet is quiet and soft-spoken, and often reticent to speak. Soon to retire from his career in the military, the couple came upon the concept of a tonsorium during a time when they were stationed in Germany and were impressed. "We brought the concept from Germany."

Unlike a standard barber shop, a tonsorium offers other features unrelated to hair cuts and shaves. The Tonsorium also offers beer and wine, as well as a cigar humidor and smoking area located in the rear of the building in an outdoor patio environment. While there is a complete setup for manicures and pedicures, Juliet is currently seeking a professional to fulfill that position.

The couple pointed out the beer and wine bar, as well as the cigar "bar."

"Everything we are doing is local," he said. "The wine comes from Lakeridge Winery, the beer from Sun creek, and we purchase the cigars from Ol' Times." There are 22 brands of cigars available.



ALL PHOTOS BY STEVE STEINER/NEWS LEADER  
Maria Bonano applies hot towels to a client's face. The heat and the moisture open pores and soften the skin prior to shaving.



Juliet Gonzalez opened The Tonsorium Mens Grooming Lounge by Juliet on Dec. 1, 2021.



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