



Mark Esper/Silverton Standard & the Miner

Shangri-La Soaking Pools in Smedley's Ice Cream Parlor are Silverton's newest amenities. A grand opening is set for Thursday, June 4, from 5-7 p.m.

## Silverton's own Shangri-La soothing locals and guests

Vacationers and locals wanting to soak in soothing hot water will no longer have to trek to hot springs in Ouray, Pagosa Springs or Trimble Hot Springs.

Shangri La Soaking Pools, located in Smedley's Ice Cream Parlor at 1314 Greene St. adjacent to the Pickle Barrel Restaurant, is open for business.

"We had the space available and we love to soak ourselves," said co-owner Sharon Zimmerman.

"We had this crazy space that was doing nothing. It popped into my head that maybe we can do this," said her husband Paul Zimmerman.

So after extensive renovations

and a lot of concrete, three large pools were installed, each with a different temperature – 99 degrees, 101 or 103.

Combined, the 3-foot-deep pools have a capacity of 25 or 30 people.

The entire facility is custom-built with a unique, twinkling starlit ceiling.

"We did our own tiling and Paul did the ceiling," Sharon Zimmerman said.

The water is heated by a high-efficiency propane boiler and filtered. The facility is certified as a commercial operation.

Hours are currently set at 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Prices are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children.

Sharon described the pools as "family friendly."

The pools will be closed on Mondays. But they are available for booking for private parties.

"Silverton is lacking in amenities," Sharon said. "We wanted to add something that people currently have to leave town for. We want them to be wowed."

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, from 5-7 p.m., with soaking at half price. But it's also an opportunity to just check out the unique spa.

"We want to just let people come and walk through," Sharon said.