



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Eli Perez has opened Crazy Jake's in the former Fitness Zone building at 527 Broadway Street in Imperial. The store features secondhand items, including those on consignment, and Mexican imports such as bowls, hats, statues and blankets.

Perez operated a similar store in the Loveland, Colo. area, but closed it due to the poor economy. The Loveland resident opened Crazy Jake's the first part of June.

He chose Imperial as the site for his new store because of the proximity of relatives in the area.

He said he opened Crazy Jake's "by accident." He would bring items to family members, and others saw what he was bringing. Word spread, and he was in business.

For sale in the store is "whatever comes up," he explained, including furniture, clothing, CDs and videos, dishes, Mexican candy, fresh vegetables, toys, televisions and more.

Some of the items are on consignment, while Perez purchases others for the store. There's no set program, he said.

"I don't price things high. They're affordable and reasonable. Everyone's looking for a deal," he explained, adding that the poor economy also dictates his prices.

Working at Crazy Jake's are Perez' family, including parents, wife and children.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.