

COMMUNITY

Springfield to open new teen center

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Springfield will welcome a new teen center June 25, thanks to the efforts of Rick Stepina and Artie Mae Harlow.

Nearly three months ago, Stepina, owner of Stepina's Famous Chicago Style Pizza, was wondering what Springfield had to offer his 17-year-old son and friends during the summer months. After realizing the limited summer activities for Springfield teen-agers, Stepina decided it was time that the city create a center especially for teens.

For the past 10 years, Stepina said, Springfield teens have not had a place of their own to dance or just hang out. During the past decade, the teen crime rate has increased significantly, he said. A teen center could help decrease the crime rate by providing teens with somewhere to go and something to do.

"I want this to be a better place," Harlow said.

Stepina discussed the idea of opening a teen center with Harlow, a Springfield real estate broker, and before long the two had developed a workable plan for a summer recreation and dance club.

"It's a real grass-roots type of project," Stepina said. "It's a lot easier when you're doing it on your own."

The 5,400-square foot vacant building next to the Springfield Mall was chosen by Stepina and Harlow as the future site and is now being leased for the teen center. The two also worked to organize the operational structure for the new teen center, designing special programs and dances for teens.

"The number of jobs available to teens is shrinking," Harlow said. "We want to give them something."

After doing their homework, Stepina and Harlow presented their proposal to Willamalane Park and Recreation District. Willamalane has now taken over the project and plans to open the center's doors by the end of June.

"We have had a real great public response," Stepina said. "All we want to do is to see it get going."

During the past three weeks, Willamalane has hired a coordinator for the center, organized financing from the business community and has arranged to provide the center with insurance. The city of Springfield has donated \$7,500 for the project, and the teen center has received matching funds from various businesses.

Members of the community are also chipping in to help pay the \$30,000 needed to get the project off its feet. Harlow said the center's first donation was \$10 from an 82-year-old great-grandmother and is just as valuable as any other contribution it has received. Local teens are also organizing a play, *The Star Spangled Girl*, that will help fund the dance club.

The new center, which will be named by teens in a contest, will operate on a trial basis from June until September. If it is successful, Stepina said the center may operate year-round.

The center will be run by teen-agers for teen-agers, he said. An adult and teen board will be responsible for organizing programs for the center and Lane Community College business majors will manage the center with assistance by local banks.

Teens will be able to work at the club, taking care of concessions, gate receipts and maintenance of the building. Security will be provided by Springfield police cadets. Local teens are also currently organizing a play.

Friday and Saturday nights Springfield teens and their guests will be able to dance to some of the area's hottest bands and disc jockeys. Music choice will be left up to the teens and will vary from week to week. For the club's opening night, disc jockeys from the Eugene pop station 104.7 FM will be hosting.

During the weeknights, the club will offer special career nights. An improvisational night is also being planned for teens to participate in short plays, free-form skits, stand-up comedy and dance and music recitals. Drama teachers from Springfield high schools will assist and instruct teens.

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for
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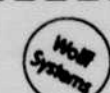
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available on request.

The Department of Leisure Studies and Services has purposefully scheduled classes to compliment the majority of the University of Oregon's Summer Session classes. Campus wide, more than 90 percent of classes are offered Monday through Thursday (or Friday). Each of the workshops start at 12:00 noon on Friday until 4:50 p.m.; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. While the academic assignments vary, generally a paper or project report is assigned and due within two weeks of the completion of the workshop. The Environmental Awareness workshops give students a rare opportunity to truly understand the many facets of our region. Students will be close to the things they study: see, smell, hear and touch in order to gain a wide perspective and a magical appreciation for Oregon. Attendance and satisfactory completion of the assignment are mandatory to receive a passing grade. Following are one to two credit workshops currently offered in Leisure Studies and Services during Summer Session:

- Environmental Awareness**
- Deschutes Headwaters..... June 10-13
 - River Recreation..... June 16-20
 - Deserts..... June 25-27
 - Volcanic Cascades..... July 9-11
 - Crater Lake..... July 16-18
 - Tidepools..... July 23-25
 - Rivers..... July 30-August 1
 - Dunes & Beaches..... August 6-8
 - Lakes..... August 13-15
 - Environmental Projects..... August 18-22
 - Wilderness..... August 27-29
- Substance Abuse Prevention Program**
- DART..... June 30-July 2

- Research Adolescent..... July 28-30
- Substance Abuse
- Adult Child of Alcoholics..... July 12-14
- Alcohol College Student..... August 4-5
- Drugs & Sports..... July 8-9
- AAHE/BEST..... July 19-21
- OR Institute of Addiction Studies..... July 26-30
- Conference at Lewis & Clark College
- Tobacco Prevention..... Conference, July 14-16
- Hazard
- Compulsive Behavior..... Conference, July 21-23
- Organization & Operation..... June 28-30
- Peer Helper
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome..... June 21-23
- Drug Abuse..... June 23-25
- Prevention Education
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- Recreation and Tourism**
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 - Event Management..... June 18-20
 - Consumer Behavior..... June 25-27
 - International Tourism..... July 2-4
 - Computer Information..... July 9-11
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 - Festival Management..... July 16-18
 - Delivering quality Leisure Services..... July 23-25
 - Canadian Tourism..... July 30-August 1
 - Oregon Tourism: Issues..... August 6-8
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 - Sustainable Tourism..... August 13-15 and 20-22
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