



The Mill Camp Saloon on Q Street in Springfield will close permanently Saturday due to deterioration of the building. *Scott Barnett/Emerald*

Mill Camp Saloon closes doors

Shutdown is forced by building disrepair, but it may reopen elsewhere

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

The historic Mill Camp Saloon in Springfield will close forever on Saturday, many years after it played host to such rock legends as David Crosby and Steven Stills.

The longstanding nightclub is closing its doors because of deterioration of the building and is making an effort to provide its customers with better service, said owner-operator Jeff Gaulton.

The business has been without a lease for the past three years, but the owners of the Mill Camp have taken responsibility as if they were long-term tenants, Gaulton said. The building needs repairs, and because the business does not have a lease, the owners cannot afford make the changes, he said.

"We're stuck between a rock and a hard place," Gaulton said.

"We're willing to do the upgrade but not without a lease."

But just because the building is closing does not mean the spirit is gone.

Gaulton said the Mill Camp's board of directors has targeted a site in Eugene, but he would not reveal the location because nothing has been finalized yet.

"We want to be responsible to the neighborhood we move into," he said. Gaulton said he did not want the business to create any undue hardships to the community because of parking.

"We don't want to be a negative impact wherever we go," he said.

The nightclub will not have a negative impact on employees either. Gaulton said every current employee has expressed an interest to work at the Mill Camp again after they reopen.

"This was not a decision made in a hasty motion," he said. "We have done all we can to help our employees."

In addition to helping their

own, the shareholders of the Mill Camp have elected to donate all unused food items and extra kitchenware to Food for Lane County.

Deb McGeorge, food solicitor for the charity organization, said she was grateful.

"We seem to be the lucky recipient of other people's disasters," she said. "More and more people are educated to the fact that they can donate food instead of throwing it away."

McGeorge said she is sad to see the Mill Camp close because it has been there for so long, but she appreciates the donations.

"Pots and pans are critical for us," she said.

Not only is Food For Lane County building a new kitchen, they are also make donations to similar organizations in the area.

Felicity Ayles can be reached via e-mail at fizzer@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

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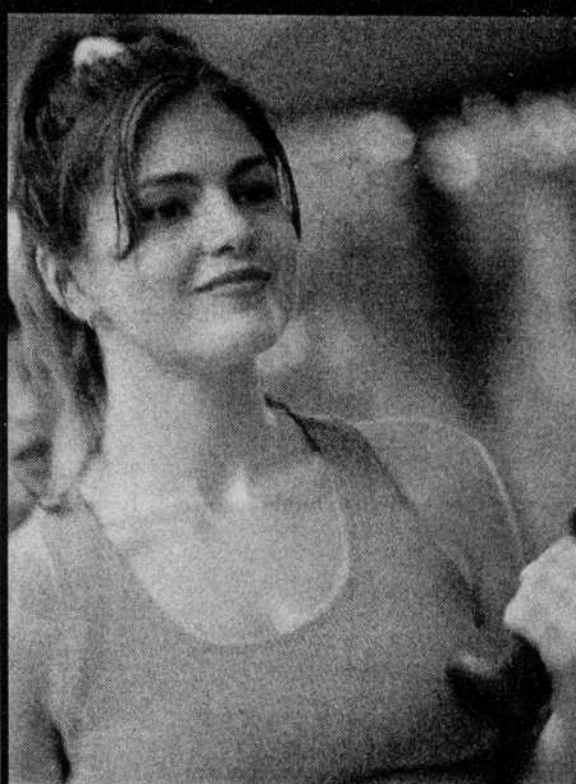
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