

NW NEWS

IN BRIEF

Egyptian Club Closes After 15 Years

The Egyptian Club (aka the E Room), Portland's only and longest-running lesbian club, will close sometime between October 2 and November 4, according to owner Kim Davis.

Davis, 46, made the announcement August 1 on her "Eroom Boss" Facebook profile. She blamed the economy and a shrinking demographic for the club's pending closure, but noted it had always been a challenge to stay afloat.

"We've been in business almost 15 years and it's always been a struggle to keep it open," Davis said, adding that the club would celebrate its 15th anniversary November 4. "It's like treading water constantly. It's like that with any business, but when you segment you isolate a lot of people who would have come otherwise."

Though the club is not without its fans, Davis said even her own loyal patrons want something different.

"My customers do exactly what I would do—they want to go to the new thing," Davis said, referencing the recent upshot of new queer nights. "People like variety, I like variety."

While Davis said she would have liked to do more renovations to keep things fresh, the resources just weren't available.

"We don't have the kind of money that straight bars do, or that gay man bars do, to fix things up," Davis explained, listing off expen-

vis said the decision to close the club has been difficult, and that it has kept her up at night.

"I don't want to do this, I really don't," Davis said. "[Running the club is] the biggest thing I've ever done in my life and the coolest. I've been real lucky to just be who I am. A lot of customers have to go to work and be someone else, and then come here to be themselves."

Looking back, Davis said she's proud of the club and the city that supported it for so long. The E Room was voted Best Lesbian Bar in the country in 2009 by GayCities.com and is, by Davis' belief, the largest lesbian club in the country, if not the world.

"I just want community to know I have enjoyed being there," Davis said.

For details on the E Room's remaining events, visit eroompdx.com.

—Erin Rook

Q Patrol Marches Ahead With Additional Trainings

A month after its June 12 soft launch, Q Patrol is moving forward with its official launch and first in-depth training August 10.

After analyzing the test model and soliciting input from the community, Q Patrol reached out to groups in other cities, ultimately choosing to partner with San Francisco's Castro Community on Patrol to create a Portland-specific model, according to a release.

At the official launch, current Q Patrol members will share their experiences and answer questions. The new class of Q Patrol grads will hit the streets Friday, August 13 at 11 p.m. and will expand the patrol to Friday and Saturday nights every weekend to follow.

"Above all else, Q Patrol PDX emphasizes safety for both its walkers and the community-at-large. Response thus far has been terrific, and Q Patrol PDX is thrilled at the prospect of an

ongoing, sustainable model in which everyone can participate," Q Patrol organizers said in the release.

Q Patrol is partnering with like-minded community organizations to offer additional trainings such as We Make the Path's De-Escalation Training on August 9 and Three Hours of Power Self Defense with One With Heart on August 26.

To get involved, email qpatrolpdx@gmail.com or visit pdxqcenter.org.

—Erin Rook

Trans-focused L.A. Doc Comes to Columbia Gorge Int'l Film Festival

Trans/Formed, a documentary completed in 2007 by filmmaker, producer and director Cleo Valente, will make only its second appearance since a sold-out world premiere at Los Ange-

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"Mom" has been working the door at the Egyptian Club for over a decade.

sive improvements made to the space that no one ever sees—\$30,000 for a new roof, \$40,000 for a new air handling system.

"Most of the women I've met have trouble keeping one woman happy," Davis pointed out. "Imagine my job."

Davis said she intends to honor the club's commitment to events booked through October 2—such as the dance for the Butch Voices Conference that weekend—but would like to find a way to hold on through the anniversary.

Once the E Room closes its doors, where will all the lesbians go? "Wherever they've been going," Davis speculated. "Only maybe more often."

As for Davis, she daydreams of traveling the country in an RV. In the nearly 15 years she's owned the club, she has never gone a vacation farther away than a day's travel, and in the last year, not farther than a three-and-a-half hour drive.

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