

owned a bar in the 1950s.

When the Dirty Duck closed, "I went through a mourning period, of course," Kennedy says, "not only for me and the bar, but for my family. It was a hard thing. I miss it. I miss my friends a lot, but life goes on."

Kennedy says during the bar's last 15 years, the PDC "hung a dark cloud over our heads," always with the threat of throwing her out. She says she wishes she could have stayed the past two years until the building was demolished.

"We were just little guys in the big pic-

ture," she says.

Kennedy plans to open a new bar, this time with her husband and son. "It's going to be another family affair," she says. "My son is the next generation."

"I'll be back. My family isn't easy to get rid of."

Blain Grover at Fortis Construction says demolition should be completed by Wednesday, August 10.

—AARON SPENCER

Weird Bar to close one year after transition from E-Room

Weird Bar—formerly Portland's only lesbian bar, the E-Room—will close in late August after existing in its current form for just under a year, according to owner Kim Davis.

Davis remodeled and rebranded the Southeast Portland bar last October, after initially announcing its closure, in an attempt to keep the business afloat in difficult economic conditions.

"We were trying to dig ourselves out of a hole we let get too deep," Davis says. "We were going to try anything before we gave up."

But Weird Bar is far from the only business shutting its doors. Davis says that when she called her dishwasher supplier about picking up her leased equipment, the supplier said she was one of seven pickups on their route.

While Davis cannot deny the role the financial climate played in her decision to sell the business, she says a year filled with personal and family challenges made it nearly impossible for the business to survive.

"I didn't get a good crack at it, because of what was going on in our personal lives," Davis says. Her girlfriend's terminally ill sister moved in, and passed on, in the last year. To top it all off, Davis was having health issues of her own.

"I had a stroke on April 17. I was taken to the hospital by ambulance while in Pendleton,"

Davis says. It was perhaps the seventh stroke she'd had in recent years, though she can't remember exactly, adding, "I need to reduce stress to get rid of the strokes."

So when a broker approached her with a reasonable offer on the bar, and a backup offer, Davis decided to take the out. The sale has not yet been finalized, so she cannot say for sure who the new owners will be or what they will do to the building. She acknowledges, however, that the new owners will be under no obligation to leave the place standing.

The last show in the back bar (formerly The Tomb, and one of the venue's three bars) will be Kings for a Cause, a fundraiser for the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC), on August 12, after which it will close. The other two bars

should remain open through closing weekend, tentatively scheduled for August 20.

Davis says she's sad to see it all go, calling the E-Room "the biggest thing I've ever done," but is looking forward to more time for herself and her girlfriend of 16 years.

"It's been a threesome—me, her and the bar," Davis says. "We're gonna start our life together now."

For a full schedule of Weird Bar's remaining events, visit weirdbar.com.

—ERIN ROOK



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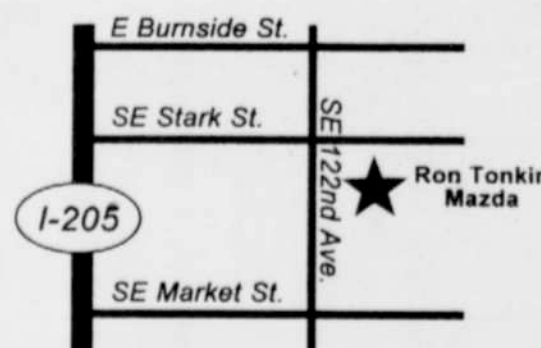
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