Former rocket man Hansen leaving Redstone Room

By Sean Leary,

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A fter a little more than three months on the job, Devin Hansen is leaving his position as talent buyer for the Redstone Room at Davenport's River Music Experience.

Hansen took the position after the March 1 closure of his former business, Rock Island's Rocket Theater. Booking bands and handling the logistics of concerts, he shepherded the club through its grand opening April 1 but the heavy nighttime schedule proved too much for him, he said.

"Basically I want out of the nightclub business," Hansen said. "I've been in it for five years now, and I've missed out on a lot of family stuff. My daughter's nearing school age, and I want to be there for her.

"The position (at the Redstone) is a young, single person's position. I need to be able to make enough money and have better hours in order to support a family of four.

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"I am glad to be a part of the team that got the Redstone started. I know it will be successful after my departure based on the good staff they have there."

Hansen is currently seeking full-time employment outside of the club scene but will still be actively involved in the local arts through two part-time gigs. He is joining the staff of the Rock Island Argus, Dispatch and Leader newspapers as an entertainment correspondent, and he is launching an out-of-town booking site for local bands, www.crossroadsbooking.com.

Crossroads will handle 13 area acts and, using Hansen's network of contacts in the Midwest, will book regional tours for local musicians.

"I'll only handle out-of-town bookings; the bands will do all their local bookings and have all rights in that regard," Hansen said. "I've got 10 bands signed on already, and I'm looking for the final three. Interested bands can e-mail me at devin@crossroadsbooking.com."