

The Daily Item

WEEKEND EDITION

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Flood closes Lynn cafe

By **David Liscio**

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LYNN - An espresso coffee machine apparently malfunctioned inside the Gulu Gulu Café late Sunday, flooding the newly opened establishment and forcing the owners to close until repairs are made.

Interestingly enough, the interior flooding occurred as a nor'easter raged outside.

Proprietor Steve Feldmann of Lynn said the café, at 56 Central Square, could reopen as soon as Wednesday, presuming work crews are able to replace the floor over the Memorial Day weekend.

According to Feldmann, what caused the flooding has not been precisely determined, although it was directly linked to the espresso machine.

"It was either an installation problem or an issue with one of the machine parts," he said. "In any case, we're closed, but we hope to be open again by the middle of next week."

Feldmann and his wife, Marie, left the café shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday after the close of business. They received a call at 7 a.m. Monday, informing them the place was heavily flooded.

"We think one of the lines blew after we left Sunday night," he said. "The hardest part is that it's like starting from scratch. I felt like we were on a roll, so it was tough getting stopped like that. And now I've got to a crew in there to tear up the floor and the sub-floor."

Feldmann said the business is insured, adding, "Hey, nobody's dead. We'll get a new floor."

Notes on the café door and posted on the business Web site, www.gulu-gulu.com explain to customers what happened.

The café was among several Central Square businesses to formally open earlier this month during a city-sponsored neighborhood revival celebration.

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