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(S.D.) - Owner of SD hookah lounge says he's had enough

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/21/2012 07:20 AM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - The owner of a hookah lounge in Rapid City says he's sick of the controversy surrounding his business and is closing his doors.

Trevor Schmidt of Classified Hookah said he will probably take his business to Sioux Falls.

Hookah lounges are for people who use water pipes to smoke tobacco. The practice originated in India and the Middle East and has become popular in college towns and larger cities.

Schmidt's lounge in Rapid City's historic Buell Building has raised the ire of other tenants, who complained that loud music and the smell of hookah smoke was driving away customers.

Says Schmidt, "We're just looking to end the drama and relocate."

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