

Watsonville restaurant will reopen

By JAMIE MARKS

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WATSONVILLE — The Mansion House restaurant is undergoing a face-lift in preparation for its reopening in early September under the new ownership of Ron and Lejane Anderson.

The Andersons are longtime Watsonville restaurateurs, who've owned Lejane's Restaurant on East Lake Avenue for many years. They opened a second restaurant on 41st Avenue in Capitola last year.

The Mansion House restaurant closed June 1, just a few days after another downtown restaurant, La Manzana, locked its doors.

Mansion House Restaurant owner Raul Nunez of Los Angeles pulled out, reportedly because of financial problems in his other businesses. He

had taken over the restaurant after its first owners, Hoffman Associates, filed for bankruptcy, again reportedly because of failed financial dealings elsewhere.

The building, which includes offices and the restaurant, is owned by Mike and Monte Lewis. They will continue to own the restaurant and lease the space to the Andersons.

The new restaurant will go by the name Lejane's Mansion House. It will cater to families, offering diners in the moderate-price range, said Ron Anderson.

Although it will open with a license to sell only beer and wine, the owners hope to add a full-service liquor bar by the end of the year. In preparation for the opening, the Andersons are renovating the bar, moving the seating to the Main Street side of the restaurant. They

are also doing some other remodeling.

Anderson said he's optimistic about the restaurant's future and added solid management will be the key to its success.