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**Tuesday, May 22, 2007**

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## Wisconsin man buys theaters, Boardman reflects on run

The Lorraine Theatres have a new owner.

Kevin Alvarez, of Burlington, Wis., purchased the theaters last week from Greg Boardman, who has owned the Lorraine for nearly two decades.

The theaters were brought to Alvarez' attention by a film buyer who works with Alvarez at his four-screen theater in Burlington. The buyer saw the theaters listed on e-bay.

"I just fell in love with it," Alvarez said. "It's a beautiful theater. It's a hidden treasure, I think."

Alvarez purchased the Plaza Theater in Burlington nearly five years ago. The theater had been closed for 15 months, which caused a hardship for Alvarez and his family. "We went to the theater almost every weekend," he said.

That venture was a trial by fire for the former Department of Corrections employee, as he learned to schedule films, staff the theater and order concessions.

With those lessons behind him, Alvarez said he is ready to take on the challenges of running the Lorraines. One of those is deciding whether to create a new website to allow patrons to order tickets on-line. Control of the theaters' former website remained with Boardman to be used at the Art Theatre in Champaign.



**Kevin Alvarez of Burlington, Wis., stands next to the classic projector in the lobby of the Lorraine Theater. Alvarez purchased it and the Lorraine II last week.**

The first movie to open under Alvarez' ownership will be a sneak preview showing of "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" at 8 p.m. Thursday. He plans to follow that with other family-oriented fare. "At least 80 percent (of movies shown) will be PG-13 or below," he said.

The focus on family films comes, in part, because of his own family. He and his wife, Janell, have four children, Joel, 15, Toni, 13, Bryce, 10 and Shawn, 9.

As Alvarez gears up for a new adventure, former

**See THEATERS on other side**

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★

Police News

★

Joshua D. Pierce, 18, of 122½ E. 14th St., Danville, was arrested Friday, charged with illegal dumping at the city slab. The alleged infraction occurred May 11.  
Pierce was released on a notice to appear.  
Michael A. Burke, 22, of 1225 E. Williams, Danville, was arrested Sunday, charged with domestic battery and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence.

Burke’s arrested stemmed from a complaint from a 19-year-old woman who alleged he reached into a vehicle and pulled her by the wrist. The incident occurred at McFerren Park.  
He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.  
Gregory S. Martin, 23, of 1108 Pomona Dr., Champaign, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:23 a.m. Sun-

★

Bowling Scores

★

Thursday Night Men’s City League  
4/12/07

	Won	Lost
1. Ross Electric	140	70
2. Wilson Race Cars	132	78
3. ConAgra Foods	125	85
4. Big Dogs	123	87
5. Tax Service Plus	106	104
6. Cappellano	103	107
7. Henson	97	113
8. Silgan Containers	83	127
9. Pla-Mor Lanes	79	131
10. U-Need Construction	62	148

High Team Handicap Game: Con Agra Foods 890, Cappellano 881, Ross Electric 869; High Team Handicap Series: Wilson Race Cars 2489, Ross Electric 2475, Big Dogs 2462; High Individual Scratch Game: Joseph Young 256, Steve Bruens Jr 255, Ron Linder 244; High Individual Scratch Series: Henry Longfellow 663, Bob Bruens 662, Ron Linder 658.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies League  
4/12/07

	Won	Lost
1. Pla-Mor	60.5	29.5
2. H&R Block	45	45
3. Unger’s	44.5	45.5

4. Carolyn’s 44 46  
5. Knuth’s 43 47  
6. Tooth Fairies 33 57  
High Team Handicap Game: Tooth Fairies 897, Pla-Mor 852, Knuth’s 835; High Team Handicap Series: Knuth’s 2382, Pla-Mor 2382, Tooth Fairies 2366; High Individual Scratch Game: Pam Bell 189, Darlene Musk 178, Florence Lober 176; High Individual Scratch Series: Florence Lober 484, Sandra Mullen 469, Tammy Bertram 459.

Classifieds

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RUMMAGE SALES

330 W. Maple, Hoopeston, Fri. & Sat., 7:30-? Lots of misc., linens, bedding, good used clothing, some small furniture pieces. Open House Sale. Tools, appliances, household items, etc. 410 Harrison St., Rossville. 8 a.m. Fri. & Sat., 5/25, 5/26.

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Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 85. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 60. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 87, low 64.  
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Theaters continued on other side

owner Greg Boardman, said he plans to concentrate on a couple of new ventures in California. But he has good memories of his time owning the Lorraine.  
“Sandy, and I have owned the Lorraine Theatre for almost 20 years,” he said. “We are very proud of taking it from a position of merely being a small-town theatre that few attended, to one, because of its presentation, known for 100 miles around in all directions.  
“I am also proud of the many big promotions (Twister, ID4, Apollo 13, Pearl Harbor) we have done over the years, which resulted in television coverage on many occasions. The Lorraine Theatre brings thousands of people from out of town, into town each year. It is a huge asset to the community and I believe will remain so.”  
The Lorraine was built in 1922 and remodeled in 1937, when restrooms and air conditioning were also added.  
Boardman purchased the theater in 1987 and began working on the interior and exterior, have the roof re-

placed, brickwork done, seats reupholstered, new carpeting, restoring the marquee and “chase lights.” He also installed new poster display cases and decorative street lights, new tile flooring in the center section and he redid seating for more leg room but still maintained seating for 501 patrons.  
In 1992, after more than two years of research, Boardman remodeled the entire booth and auditorium equipment, bringing it up to Hollywood standards for presentations. A computerized ticketing system was also installed.  
In 1998, Boardman opened the Lorraine II, turning a former storefront into an 80-seat theater.