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Marta Pierce, left, paints trim while right, Chad Yaden sets a table top at the Little Lorraine. Both worked Wednesday evening, preparing for Friday's reveal of renovations done since the theater was closed in August.

Renovations to make Little Lorraine whole new experience

Closed for renovations since August, the Little Lorraine will reopen Friday evening with a new ambience, new view and even new aromas.

Theater-goers to Friday's screening of Toy Story 4 will have an entirely new experience at the Little Lorraine that starts in the lobby and continues throughout the theater.

The lobby's earth tones enhance the large black "Little Lorraine" on the north wall. Behind the concessions, a large "LL" centered on a piece of Marta Pierce's multi-colored artwork makes the area pop.

The biggest change is in the theater area itself. Patrons will enjoy a crisper picture, thanks to true 4K and "full

immersive 7.2.2 surround sound," said Alex Houmes, Lorraine Foundation board member. Part of the Lorraine Theatre will live on in the Little Lorraine as some of the Lorraine's equipment, including one of its 1,000 watt subwoofers, is part of the new system.

Movie-goers will appreciate clearer movies and improved sound, but they won't notice that until the film starts.

What they'll immediately notice is the change in seating. Two rows of seats remain at floor level, but the rest have been placed on risers, each 10" higher than the pre-

See LITTLE on other side

Happy Birthday, Jenny
 Love, Mom



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Little continued from other side

vious row. The new arrangement - which lost none of the theater's 48 seats - will allow theater-goers a clear view of movie screen and the Little Lorraine stage, where more live entertainment will be offered, Houmes said.

Another addition is that of a table on the back of each row of seats to accommodate Pizza and a Picture.

For some time now, the Little Lorraine has offered Pizza and a Picture at its Friday night shows. For \$10, movie-goers received admission to the theater and a personal Pizza King pizza.

The Friday ritual might better be named Meal and a Movie because the list of available Pizza King items will now also include its Tex, stromboli and sub sandwiches, Houmes said.

Renovations to the theater cost more than \$15,000, funded by Little Lorraine operation, such as movies and private parties. Much of the work was done by volunteers.

Obituaries

TROXEL - Francis A. Troxel, 81, of Hoopeston, died at 1:13 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, at Carle Foundation Hospital Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Houmes said the foundation has operated the Little Lorraine for almost seven years and has not done much besides painting the front and normal maintenance. "We're also a couple years away from being able to offer movies again at the Lorraine, so we're doubling down on live events at the Lorraine and movies at the Little Lorraine in the meantime.

"The Little Lorraine has an intimate, private viewing experience that our customers do enjoy, so we're taking that to the next level, Houmes added. "(It) was a store converted into a place to show movies. The renovations we've done have turned it into a true theater that offers an experience we're proud of."

The Little Lorraine, at 214 E. Main, was created in 1998, when Greg Boardman, then-owner of the Lorraine, purchased The Paper House and turned it into the Lorraine Screen 2.

Toy Story 4 will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday and Satur-

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 62. Tonight, clear. Low 44. Tomorrow, mostly sunny then chance of showers. High 66, low 45. Sunday sunny/showers. High 69, low 54.

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