

“Who else would you like to have representing USBC’s best interest?”

— **USBC President Jim Sturm**, on whether his new job with Reno’s “Tri-Properties” presents a conflict of interest with his USBC position. Story: page 86.

1,222 Number of turkeys donated to feed hungry people in the San Francisco Bay Area through Turkey Bowl XI at Serra Bowl in Daly City, Calif. Story: page 30.

INDUSTRY UPDATES AND INSIGHT

Business

Tidbits

FORMER HQ IS SOLD

It's official: Walmart has purchased the former headquarters of the United States Bowling Congress in Greendale, Wis. A confidentiality agreement prohibits revealing the purchase price. The building has been vacant since USBC moved its operations to the International Bowling Campus in Arlington, Texas.

CATALOG IS COMING

The Billiard & Bowling Institute of America, after toying with the idea for a decade, has announced it will publish a cooperative industry catalog in 2012. Featuring products for the 2012-13 season, the catalogs are scheduled to ship on July 1. Luby Publishing Inc. has been contracted to manage the project.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Capt. Mark Kelly, commander of Space Shuttle *Endeavour's* final mission and husband of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, will deliver the keynote speech at Bowl Expo 2012 on June 27 in Reno, Nev.



NEW LIFE FOR A CENTER THAT CLOSED IN 1976

When you own a 4-lane bowling center, you're not only a proprietor, you're also a deskman, a janitor, a snack counter stocker and a pinchaser. Meet Glenn Hendrix, a man who was so impacted by the time he spent at a bowling center in Ardmore, Okla., that he replicated the facility, on a smaller scale, next door to his rural home. Ken-Cliff Lanes lives on thanks to Hendrix, and you can read about how and why he brought the center back to life in the “What’s Right With Bowling” feature on page 90.

WHAT'S ~~WRONG~~ RIGHT WITH BOWLING

The Magic Is Back in Ardmore

BY BOB JOHNSON

IF YOU GREW UP bowling at an AMF-equipped center during the late 1960s or early '70s, you must visit Ken-Cliff Lanes. You simply must.

Not the 16-lane Ken-Cliff Lanes that opened in a converted furniture store in Ardmore, Okla., in 1958, and that owners Jim and Jackie Meeks closed down in 1976.

We're talking about the 4-lane replica of Ken-Cliff Lanes that Glenn Hendrix has built alongside a rural road outside Ardmore, adjacent to his home. While the building is new, the bowling equipment inside is vintage AMF, right down to the scorer tables with built-in ashtrays — which, at the “new” Ken-Cliff Lanes, are just for show.

Hendrix was semi-retired when he decided to bring Ken-Cliff back to life. He'd made a good living as a bookkeeper, but says the best year of his life was when he worked alongside the Meekses during the last part of 1975 until the center closed the following July.

“It was known as the fun place in town,” he recalls. “I just got hooked on bowling. But not just the game — it was the atmosphere of the place. It was magic. I'd watch the pins being set on their spots and was just fascinated by the whole thing; I had to get back there (behind the pinsetters)

to see how they worked. And Jackie was a good salesperson; I was in a league before I knew what had happened.”

Before long, he also was working at the center. “It took

center. “I had a wonderful time,” he recalls. “I loved the customers, but something was different. It was missing that magic.”

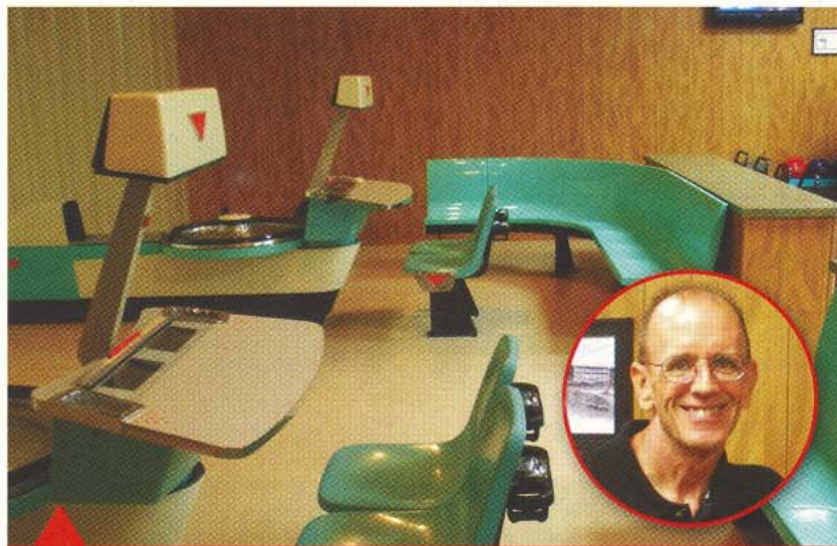
Bringing Ken-Cliff back to

the project. Nothing Hendrix ended up buying was in anywhere close to mint condition. So the next step was restoration. One project involved transporting the gutters to the local ColorMatch store “to make sure they were painted the right shade of green.”

The new Ken-Cliff Lanes opened last Feb. 11, and

played host to last season's Carter County USBC Tournament over two weekends. The center welcomes leagues, tournaments, group outings and parties, and sometimes Hendrix cooks up a pot of chili to complement the well-stocked, self-serve concession area.

He says his only regret is that one of his former



Finding the right vintage AMF settees — including the ashtrays on the scorer tables — was one key to bringing Ken-Cliff Lanes back to life for Glenn Hendrix.

two people to run the place, and I was hired to work the desk. But we all had to learn about the whole operation, including how to make minor repairs to the pinsetters.”

Five years after Ken-Cliff closed, Hendrix picked up a few shifts at a nearby

life, he says, was an attempt to “bring back that magic.” Which meant that during the planning and installation process, no detail was too small.

Tracking down the proper-era AMF equipment, procured from a closed center in Colorado, was the key to

bosses, Jackie Meeks, didn't get to see the place. She passed away five years ago.

“But Jim Meeks has come by a few times,” Hendrix says, “and he seemed very touched by the whole thing.”

The bowling magic is back in Ardmore.