

# Phillippson returns to reopened Mustang Lanes

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**Caption**  
**(Jamee A. Pierson/Daily News)**

By Jamee A. Pierson Daily News Staff Writer

A familiar face is back at Mustang Lanes in Monroe. After a six and a half year retirement, Joe Phillipson took over as owner again at the bowling alley he ran for almost 30 years.

“I’d always wanted to be an independent business man and bowling was one of the things I was interested in. The opportunity came along when I was much younger and I was working a factory job at the time. I bought this and a year after I bought this, I bought one in Colfax,” Phillipson said.

Phillipson first bought the bowling alley in 1978 and took possession again Aug. 5 of this year. With a lot of work ahead of him, he was not sure what he was going to do with the building.

“I didn’t know when I first got it whether I was going to open it as a bowling center again,” Phillipson said. “I’ve spent most of the last two months getting back into what I consider presentable condition.”

There were several large projects Phillipson had to take on to get it back to that condition.

“First thing we had to do with fix the roof, it was leaking badly. Once we got that project under control then we could start the clean up process because there was a lot of water damage. We had to completely resurface the bowling lanes, that was another big project,” Phillipson said. Because of the damage to the roof, a large amount of ceiling tiles had to be replaced as well as general clean up of the whole facility.

Phillipson opened the doors to league play starting Sept. 15. The lanes have three adult bowling leagues and are looking to add a fourth. The men’s league meets Monday nights, a mixed league on Tuesday nights and the women’s league meets Thursday nights.

“We’re still looking for more women for Thursday night. We have five teams, we need to get at least one more,” Phillipson said.

He is also looking to start another mixed league on Sunday. The youth league, which will start in the beginning of November, spans ages 6 to 17, as long as the child can efficiently throw the ball down the lane.

Oct. 4 was his first night open to the public; starting Nov. 7, every Friday will feature cosmic bowling, with the lights off and lanes and bowling balls glowing.

Phillipson said the bowling alley is still available for reservation for birthday parties and other events.

The snack bar is open with chips, drinks and a simplified selection of offerings. The bar is also still available serving beer and sometimes wine.

When deciding on what to do with the building when it was returned to him earlier this year, pride is a big reason why Phillipson decided to return the lanes to the bowling alley, he said. Proud is now what he feels about his new Mustang Lanes.

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