



# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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## **New PHS Theatre Director, Caitie Almond, in action.**

When Caitie Almond accepted the position of theatre director for Pittsburg High School, she was well aware of the PHS theatre department's outstanding reputation. When asked what it was like to step into such giant shoes as Greg Shaw's she said, "My students have been very welcoming. They have all been through a lot with the loss of Shaw and the pandemic, but they are resilient. I have tried to keep the legacy of Shaw alive by encouraging the students to continue traditions that he started. I also have a great and supportive team of performing arts faculty here at PHS who have helped smooth the transition."

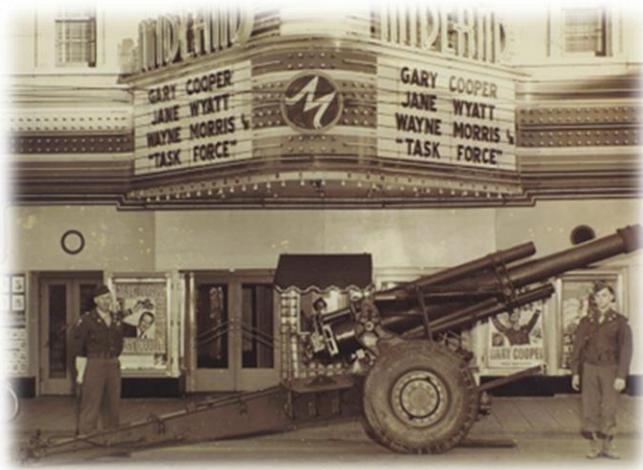
Having been born and raised in Parsons, Caitie earned a Masters of Communication in Theatre Performance and Production from Pittsburg State University. She worked as theatre director for Coffeerville Community College before accepting a position in Salt Lake City, to indulge in her love for camping, hiking and snowboarding. She says, however, "My one true love is theatre." Why Pittsburg? "There's no place like home," smiles the Kansas native. "I am most looking forward to *Macbeth* and *Little Women*, both coming up this school year. I am also excited to start an improv troupe at PHS, which we are getting off the ground this school year. I'm really excited to create beautiful, inspiring art for the community of Pittsburg."

## **Peyton Manning speaks at Pittsburg State University!**

Two-time Super Bowl champion Peyton Manning became the latest guest speaker at The "H. Lee Scott Speaker Series: An Examination of American Life" at Pittsburg State University on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Manning spoke to a sold-out crowd of students and faculty about his experiences in life and the obstacles he had to overcome to be a top tier football player. Manning also spoke about his involvement in helping children. Peyton and Ashley Manning started the PeyBack Foundation in 1999, with the goal to provide leadership and growth opportunities for disadvantaged youth, according to the foundation website, [peytonmanning.com](http://peytonmanning.com).



**Fourth Annual 1920 Circle Year End Appeal!** Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual 1920 Circle end-of-year appeal will be starting in October and extending to the end of the year. Two anonymous donors have provided a challenge grant of \$45,000 to inspire our end-of-year *1920 Circle Annual Fund* drive.



**Does this Marquee look familiar? It should!**

The first home of the Fox marquee (that we know of) was the Midland Theatre. The Midland was constructed in 1908, however Midland was not the Theatre's original name. It began as the Wonderland, then the Vaudome, the Electric, and finally the Klock in 1916. We don't know where the marquee originated, but it didn't land on North Broadway until 1926 when a major remodel transformed the Klock into the Midland Theatre. The Midland closed in 1958 and was torn down in 1973. Fortunately, the marquee was moved to the Colonial Fox Theatre in 1959.

**We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of our dear friends** Marvin Strobel, Beverly Wilkinson and Elizabeth Parke. They will be sorely missed by their families and by our community.

**Theatre Spotlight!** The Northrup Theater, Syracuse, Kansas, was built in 1930 by local businessman Frank F. Northrup. At the time of its construction, the theater was outfitted with the most up-to-date entertainment technology and was able to screen both silent films and 'talkies,' which included sound. The building reflects the Spanish Revival style, and it retains much of its original architectural character, despite renovations that took place in 1948. It was nominated as part of the "Historic Theaters and Opera Houses of Kansas" multiple property nomination for its local significance in the areas of recreation and architecture.



**Did you know?** The first helicopter to receive a patent, co-invented by William J. Purvis and Charles A. Wilson, was built in Goodland, Kansas, in 1909.

**QUESTIONS?**

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The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.