



THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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Theatre & Multimedia Students Collaborated to Make the First Online Production!

The Southeast Kansas Symphony at Pittsburg State University opened its season with a virtual, recorded concert Oct. 20 and was streamed by the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts at PSU. The performance, "A Concert of Hope," was directed by Raul Munguia. The playlist included music from movies, musicals, and classical works, and will feature a

special performance by alumni of the PSU Music Department living in Japan, Colombia, Paraguay, and many states in the U.S. "All musicians recorded their parts from their dorm rooms, practice rooms, and homes, to deliver a one-of-a-kind virtual experience for the audience," Munguia said.



Theatre Spotlight! In 1925, Topeka businessman E.H. Crosby had a dream to build Topeka's first deluxe motion picture palace. On August 16, 1926, that dream became reality with the grand opening of the Jayhawk Theatre. Williamson worked with the famed Boller Brothers, Carl and Robert, of Kansas City. They are credited with the design of nearly 100 classic theatres. The resulting Jayhawk Theatre auditorium design born from these visionary men was such a success the Boller Brothers used it as a model for future theatres. Topeka's citizens flocked to the Jayhawk for movies, first silent then sound, and the touring vaudeville entertainers, as well as numerous local and national performers. Early performers included Bob Hope, George Burns, Gypsy Rose Lee and Marilyn Maye. In 1976, the theatre closed, but the dream would not die. In August, 1993, supporters of the theatre, including the Reverend Richard Taylor, formed a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation called the Historic Jayhawk Theatre, Inc. In 1994, Jim Parrish purchased the Crosby Department Store property including the theater. Shortly thereafter, Jim and Nancy Parrish deeded the theater as a gift to the nonprofit.



1920 CIRCLE Drive, year-end appeal, is underway. With \$45,000 in challenge grant money in play, we have high hopes that you will help us match these dollars and bring them to the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation. The drive goes through December. If you can help, we would be most grateful. See the attached 1920 CIRCLE DONOR Marquee. We are grateful to all of those who already made a gift to this year's drive. We hope you can join them!

Children's literacy in Pittsburg is expanding. United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas announced it would be expanding its Little Blue Bookshelf project in Pittsburg. The new little blue book shelf is sponsored by Farmers Insurance Chris Forsythe Agency and will be installed at the YMCA. The Little Blue Bookshelf is stocked with gently-used or new books appropriate for children from birth to 3rd grade. Chris Forsythe said, "I really like the idea of fostering an interest in reading and learning by providing the opportunity for young children in our community to have their own books." He continued. "As both a business member and a member of the YMCA Board, I am very proud to partner with United Way for such a great cause." You may donate books to the Little Blue Bookshelf project at 117 West 4th Street in Pittsburg Kansas or in Joplin at 3510 E 3rd St.



Pitt State Football is back in action! The Gorrilas return to the field for their 2020 football season October 31st at Carnie Smith Stadium verses the University of Nebraska Kearney. This has been a tough year for collage athletics. COVID-19 delayed the start of Pitt's 2020 season. According to MIAA Commissioner Mike Racy, "the football games the league misses out on in the first three weeks may be made up, depending on potential postseason schedule changes for the NCAA." We all look forward to these make-up games.



Did you know? Our first newspaper was *The Pittsburg Exponent*. This publication was begun by L. C. Hitchcock in June 1879. After running about one year it was sold to the Flint Brothers of Girard, who began the publication of a paper called *The Pittsburg Smelter*.

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.