

One last benefit for Fox

BY SCOTT SIMS
THE MORNING SUN

A final benefit concert will be held this weekend to help raise money for the Colonial Fox Theater.

Lem Sheppard and Frank Wyatt will be performing on March 24, at Parrot Bey, in Pittsburg, to try and help raise the approximately \$17,000 needed to pay the back taxes and keep the Colonial Fox Theater from being auctioned off on April 11.

From its beginnings in early 2007 the Colonial Fox Foundation has seen this project as something that would be good for the community and have worked to raise the money to purchase the building.

"We are focusing on major donors right now," said Heather L. Horton, chair of PR & Promotions for the Colonial Fox Foundation. "We have done as many fundraisers as we can and we have received a lot of donations."

This is the last fundraising event the Colonial Fox Foundation has planned before the April 11 auction.

The Colonial Fox Foundation has been working to save the 87-year-old theater, which closed in the early- to mid-1980s.

The group hopes to purchase the building, renovate it and begin showing independent and classic movies as well as possibly putting a cafe and making it a venue for live music and for theatrical performances that might be to small for Pittsburg's Memorial Auditorium.

"All types of performing arts," Horton said. "We are not going to limit anything."

The organization had held several benefit concerts, a birthday party for the Fox Theater at the Meadowbrook Mall and had other events to raise money.

So far the Colonial Fox Foundation has raised over \$4,000 and Horton said the response from the public as been very positive.

"In the past month we have had a good response," Horton said. "People have posted some good responses to our website."

The website for the Colonial Fox

Theater is www.myspace.com/colonialfox.

By Saturday, Horton said the Colonial Fox Foundation will have a business plan, distributors, contractors all in place and are in contract negotiations with the owner to purchase the theater.

"We just need financial support from the community," she said.

The event at Parrot Bey, in Pittsburg begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24. Tickets are \$10 each or \$15 for couples and can be purchased at Parrot Bey, Brick Town, Pittsburg Art Supply, The Wishing Tree, Salon 9 and the Decorum.

"It will be a laid back atmosphere," Horton said of the event on Saturday. "It will be a different kind of setting than our last few benefit concerts."

For more information about the event of the Colonial Fox Foundation call (620) 249-8982 or (620) 875-6543.

Scott Sims can be reached at scott.sims@morningsun.net or by calling (620) 231-2600, ext. 137.