



# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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**Theater Spotlight!** This former movie theater was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. It was renovated and is now used as a community theater by the Great Bend Community Theater, featuring musical concerts, dance, lectures and seminars. Known as the Crest Theater, it opened on November 9, 1950, and was operated by Commonwealth Amusement Corp. Seating capacity was 985 including orchestra and balcony levels. The Kansan Theatre stood at this same location before the construction of the Crest Theater.



**Memories of the Colonial – A Blast from the Past:** The March 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 edition of the Pittsburg Morning Sun ran a sweet story that deserves to be revisited. It highlighted several PHS Class of 1949 graduates, two of whom are now deceased, who routinely met every Tuesday for lunch. “We’d meet in different places, and sometimes we’d go to Joplin to shop,” said Jakalene Chancey. Two members of the class, Jakalene Chancey and Kathleen Hood

[deceased] worked at the Orange Bowl, which was then located in the Colonial Fox Theatre. “People would come over to the Orange Bowl to get their popcorn,” said Kathleen Hood. “Just about all of us worked at one time or another at the Colonial Fox, Cozy, or Midland Theatre” said Marian Strahan [deceased]. Joanne Coulter also had vivid memories of her work at the Colonial Fox. “They used to have promotions for the movies at the theatre, and to promote a Tarzan movie they brought in a live alligator. This was not a baby, but a full-grown alligator. It was in a cage behind the box office and had its mouth roped shut but it just kept looking at me.” Ladies we thank you for your memories.

**Pittsburg Middle School has a new Principal!** PCMS's current assistant principal, Laura Earl, was selected by the USD 250 Board of Education recently to be the school's new principal. Ms Earl is a Pittsburg State University graduate. She began working at PCMS as the assistant principal in 2010, a position she held for over ten years. In addition to her teaching experience, Earl also served as the Title I coordinator at USD 248 in Girard for eight years. Earl replaces PCMS Principal Terry Smith, who is retiring at the end of the school year. Smith was PCMS principal starting in 2014. Before coming to Pittsburg, he was the principal at the Middle School in Parsons for 20 years. Earl will assume her new duties effective July 2021. The search for a new assistant principal will begin immediately. Congratulations to Principal Laura Earl! Pittsburg Middle School students are in good hands.



**Brrr! We send out a special thank you to area utility workers and first responders.** A strong community depends upon strong and dedicated people. Sub-zero temperatures, snow and sleet created challenges for many. School was canceled and most people stayed home and cranked up the heat to stay warm. We thank the utility workers and first responders for their hard work during these challenging days. We also want to spotlight Lincoln Center & the Progressive Lateral Aid Network (PLAN) for hosting a warming center for people who were without power or running water. We are Pittsburg strong!



**We extend our deepest sympathies to the families on the recent passing of our dear friends** Doug Barber, Chuck Haile and Mike Lewark. They will be missed by the entire community.

**Did you know?** Pittsburg sprang up in the fall of 1876 on a railroad line being built through the neighborhood. It was named after Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and maps of the time give the town's name as "New Pittsburgh". The city was incorporated in 1879. The "New" was dropped upon incorporation of the City as a third class city on June 21, 1880, with M. M. Snow as its first Mayor. In 1892 Pittsburgh was advanced to a city of the second class, in 1894 the "h" was dropped, and in 1905 the city of Pittsburg attained the rank of first class.

#### **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.