



THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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We extend our sympathies to the families of our dear friends George Nettels and Marilyn Noble. We also just received news that Nancy Miller, a dear friend of the Colonial Fox, passed away. They all will be missed by their families and by our community.

Four-State Band Competition! All day on May 5 at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, high school students nominated by their teachers will experience a day of learning and performance alongside other high school musicians who are among the finest in the Four State area. Activities include rehearsals with world-class conductors, sectionals with Pitt State faculty, and sessions with a guest composer. The event culminates in a free performance by the Four State Festival bands along with the Pittsburg State University Wind Ensemble at 7 p.m. in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.



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 brothers, Carl and Robert Boller of Kansas City. They are credited with the design of nearly 100 classic theatres. The Jayhawk Theatre auditorium design, born from these visionary men, was such a success that the Boller Brothers used it as a model for future theatres. Topeka's citizens flocked to the Jayhawk for silent (and later sound) movies, touring vaudeville entertainers, as well as local and national entertainers. Early performers included Bob Hope, George Burns, Gypsy Rose Lee and Marilyn Maye.



The theatre closed in 1976, but the dream would not die. In 1993, supporters of the theatre formed a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation called the Historic Jayhawk Theatre, Inc. The Jayhawk Theatre and adjacent Crosby Department Store was purchased 1994. Shortly thereafter, it was deeded to the non-profit as a gift.

The Colonial Fox Theatre's grand entry finally came into its own in 2016. What started with the discovery of an intricate decorative pattern beneath decade's worth of paint layers, progressed into a full-blown forensic investigation. The many color layers and style changes made establishing the historic design of the Colonial Fox grand entry a challenge. It wasn't until the Foundation secured a grant from the Bess Spiva Timmons Family Foundation that we were able to hire EverGreene Architectural Arts, of New York, to recreate the color and design of the theatre's original interior. EverGreene artists Mary Yeager and Brian Fick have decades of professional experience as color archivists and restoration painters. This experience guided their interpretation of the grand entry's color pattern. They recreated the floral stencil that once adorned the foyer walls and after a week of painstaking exactness, the Grand Entry was restored to its original splendor.



Four States Farm Show starts May 20th at the Robert W Plaster Center. Since 1975 this annual event has been the premier agricultural event in the region, bringing together more than agribusinesses and producers. After decades of being held at various locations, growth and weather concerns dictated a change. The Four State Farm Show is now held on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Both indoor booths and outdoor exhibitors will be on display for the 20,000+ attendees. An added bonus of being on campus is that spectator and exhibitor parking will have hard surface lots. Free admission. Free parking.

Wish to support the Colonial Fox Theatre? We now accept donations using Venmo! Scan the QR code on this page to donate.



Did you know? Kansas is the leading producer of wheat in the United States. Referred to as "The Wheat Capital of the World," Sumner County produced 9 million bushels in 2009.

QUESTIONS?

Please call us at (620) 235-0622 or e-mail us at info@colonialfox.org
Our website – www.colonialfox.org • Our address – P.O. Box 33 / Pittsburg, KS 66762

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.