

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

It's confirmed.

The movie, "Heaven is for Real," is slated for an opening day showing at the Imperial Theatre on Wednesday, April 16.

In fact, the movie, based on the best-selling book, will have a five-day run here opening week, April 16-20, and will tentatively be held over the following weekend, April 25-27.

City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland said she had received several requests and questions whether Imperial, where the story of Colton Burpo's experience in heaven is based, could get the movie the same day it opened nationwide.

Leyland contacted the city's booking agent awhile ago, she said, and was told Imperial had a good shot at getting the moving opening week.

Details of scheduling it here followed and she learned the past week that the movie will open here April 16.

The movie's trailer was released in November and has resulted in a lot of buzz.

Starring seasoned actor Greg Kinnear as Todd Burpo and newcomer Connor Corum as young Colton, the movie centers on a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son's extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world.

It was also announced last week that the new Rascal Flatts song titled "Compass" will be featured in the film.

Travis Wheeler benefit

The city theatre board recently voted to donate half of all concessions to the Travis Wheeler family during the weekend showing April 18-20 of "Heaven is for Real" at the Imperial Theatre.

People will also have the opportunity to make free will donations if they choose that weekend, Leyland said.

Travis' father, Bruce Wheeler, is a former projectionist at the Imperial Theatre.

Travis is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). He underwent a bone marrow transplant in January and continues to recover in Denver.