

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

President Out @ Carnegie Museums

John Wetenhall is stepping down as president of the **Carnegie Museums**.

CARNEGIE | MUSEUMS
| OF PITTSBURGH

The Carnegie Museums are composed of four distinctive institutions: the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Carnegie Science Center and the Andy Warhol Museum.

In a press release, the Carnegie says the art historian is stepping down “following the completion of a five-year strategic plan that aligns and supports the needs” of the quartet of museums. Wetenhall assumed the post in March 2011 succeeding David M. Hillenbrand. He will remain with the institution until the end of 2012 after which he plans to become a full-time museum consultant.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette’s Marylynne Pitz reports that Wetenhall received an unfavorable assessment of his work by a consulting firm. This came close on the heels of two other resignations: technology expert John

Fogg and Natural History director Sam Taylor. “The exit or announced departures of three key members of senior management have rattled the foundation of a 117-year-old institution that is second only to the **Smithsonian** in the breadth of its collections,” Pitz wrote. She also described his local debut at the home of a Carnegie supporter as “a tad awkward” and that his constant travel made it difficult to lead the staff. To read her full article, including the posted reader responses, visit <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/carnegie-museums-leader-leaving-at-years-end-657866/>

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Film Factory to screen winner’s short movie. **Page 10**

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Stotz Leaves Hearst

Phil Stotz is stepping down as senior vice president of Hearst Television, a subsidiary of **Hearst Corporation** and the owner of Pittsburgh’s WTAE-TV, ending a 40 year career --- most of it at Hearst.

HEARST corporation

“Phil has had an outstanding 25-year career with Hearst Television,” company president David J. Barrett said in a press release, “and he’s been a key senior executive through our period of significant expansion from a seven-

station television group to our current 29-station group covering 18” of U.S. households.”

Locally, WTAE’s new news director tells the *Valley News Dispatch’s* Rex Rutkoski that he wants to “find ways to make newscasts and storytelling stronger.” Justin Antoniotti joins the station after a five-year stint leading a TV news division in Greenville, South Carolina. The station has also hired Kelly Brennan as a general assignment reporter.

RAD's 2013 Budget

A preliminary 2013 budget report has been presented to the board of the **Allegheny Regional Asset District** (RAD).

Created in 1993, RAD is a special purpose unit of local government that uses proceeds from the county's 1% sales tax to support regional assets.

The proposal foresees an \$88.5 million budget for 2013 and recommends 95 separate grants for 85 organizations. This includes more than \$900,000 to help libraries to upgrade their countywide network. Libraries, parks and trails are RAD's biggest grant categories.

Among the notable planned grants: the **Carnegie Museums** are to receive over \$3 million;

The **National Aviary** more than \$2 million; the **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium** nearly \$4 million and **Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens** approximately \$2.5 million.

Only 0.7% is being allocated to RAD's administrative expenses.

You can download the entire proposed budget by clicking <http://www.radworkshere.org/docs/webfinancialreportoct12.pdf>

The Pittsburgh A&E Book

www.pittsburghaebook.com

PSO Tour

Raves are following the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) on their current European tour.

The tour began on October 25 in Barcelona where the PSO performed German composer Gustav Mahler's (1860-1911) famous "Resurrection Symphony".

"The audience was great," the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Mark Kanny quotes principal second violinist Jennifer Ross. "I get a sense that they love us and really show it unabashedly."

Fans interested in following the PSO, which wraps up its tour on November 10, can log on to http://pso.culturaldistrict.org/pso_home/web/european-tour

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GPAC Annual Meeting

The **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) has announced details for its upcoming annual meeting as well as a new seminar.



GPAC's annual meeting will take place at the **August Wilson Center for African-American Culture** where part of the day will be on preparing for next year's AFTA conference.

Founded in 1996, **The Americans for the Arts** (AFTA) is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to

participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. An estimated 1,000 art leaders will be in Pittsburgh for their convention next June. The keynote speaker at GPAC's meeting will be Robert L. Lynch, the president of AFTA.

GPAC will be announcing their plans for the coming twelve months.

In other news, GPAC staff members will be at the Andy Warhol Museum on November 8 for an information session on grant applications. Applications are also being accepted through November 12 for Artist Opportunity Grants. For more information on each, call (412) 391-2060.

New President @ PG

Joseph Pepe has been named the president of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (PG), the region's leading daily paper, the PG's Erich Schwartzel reports.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

James A. Richards and his **Pittsburgh A&E Group**, the publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*, have a contractual relationship with the *Post-Gazette*.

Pepe, a thirty-year media veteran, formally started on October 22. In the article, he describes himself as "bullish" on the newspaper industry. On October 31, the PG reported that the paper continues to lead all others in the region with a weekday circulation just above 174,000, a Saturday circulation of about 160,000 and a Sunday cir-

ulation of nearly 300,000. The paper ranks 29th nationwide.

In an article by Thomas Olson published October 31, top competitor *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reported a 5.8% increase on the weekday paper and 4.2% for Sunday over 2011. However, that is still far behind the PG: The daily edition (not counting all its regional variations) is about 106,000 and Sunday about 211,000. The Saturday paper fell 7%.

Both papers are reflecting a recent trend: after years of losing readers to new media competitors, newspapers across the country are either holding their own or even gaining. Nationally, weekday paper circulation dropped a mere

QED Gets Two Major Grants

WQED Multimedia has announced the awarding of major grants from **PNC Foundation** and the **Heinz Endowments**.



One of the Heinz grants will support

the continuation of a multimedia initiative to increase awareness of the portrayal and perception of African American men and boys.

Grants from both Heinz and PNC Foundation will be used to finance a national documentary on the life and work of Pittsburgh native and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson (1945-2005).

In other news, WQED has elected four new members to its board: **UPMC's** W. Thomas McGough Jr.; **Robert Morris University's** Dr. Darlene Motley; **Carnegie Mellon University's** Dr. Mildred S. Myers and James Singer from the law firm **Fox Rothschild**.

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0.2% while Sunday circulation increased 0.6%.

Some major newspapers are seeing major increases: the *New York Times* saw a 40% increase (driven by online subscriptions but also including print). However, *USA Today* is down 3.9%.

CBS' Moonves Re-Ups

Leslie Moonves has signed a new five-year contact to continue as president of **CBS Corporation**.



In Pittsburgh, CBS owns two television and four radio stations most notably KDKA. Moonves joined CBS in 1995 and has held the top job since 2005. He is married to television personality Julie Chen, host of CBS' "The Talk." His salary remains unchanged but will continue to qualify for performance bonuses.

In other news, the company has bought a radio station in New York City that it will convert to an all-sports format; and the company's television stations (including KDKA-TV) have com-

mitted to airing actress/singer Queen Latifah's new talk show.

The company has also reached a new carriage deal with **DirectTV** to continue running CBS cable networks and local television stations. According to MediaPost.com's Wayne Friedman, CBS' goal is to gradually increase carriage fees over the years. "Some believe CBS could reap some \$1 billion a year in retrans and carriage fees by 2016."

The
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WIFM Seminar

The local chapter of **Women in Film & Media** (WIFM) is hosting a panel discussion on November 8 at the University of Pittsburgh .



Also known as Women in Film & Television, WIFM is a global network of over 10,000 women and men working in all areas of screen-based media. It was founded in 1973.

KDKA's Carol Lee Espy will moderate a panel that includes costumer Diane Collins, **Production Masters'** Jose Muniain, producer Diane Donati and free-lance professional Alexandra Pursglove.

For more information, log on to <http://wifmpit.org>

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Justin Zeno

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November 15, 16, 17, 18, 2012**

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Food items and goods will also be collected.

Grey Box Theatre, Butler Street, Lawrenceville

Tickets & Info: 412 576 0898
www.QMproductionsinc.com

Produced in association with Samuel French Musicals

City Of Asylum Builds Pro Staff

New personnel have been added to the developing staff of professionals at **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh** (COA/P).

Founded in 2004, COA/P is a grass-roots organization that provides sanctuary to endangered literary writers in exile and facilitates the creative practice of writers in a community setting and cross-cultural exchange, while transforming a



cluster of dilapidated buildings into an anchor for neighborhood economic and cultural revitalization.

OT's Vocal Contest

Young performers hoping to become professional singers will be showcased by the **Opera Theater of Pittsburgh** in the organization's annual voice competition.

Founded in 1978, the nonprofit Opera Theater (OT) specializes in staging high-quality music drama not normally available in the area, including more than 20 Pittsburgh premieres.

The competition is named after founder Mildred Miller and provides an opportunity for singers age 35 and younger to win cash prizes and roles in upcoming OT productions. It will be held at **Carnegie-Mellon University** on November 3 and 4.

For more information, visit <http://otsummerfest.org/miv>

Key to these additions are Elizabeth Baisley who now heads the organization's marketing and communications. Baisley has worked with the **Houston Grand Opera** and on the public television series "Live From Lincoln

Center," among others. Also joining COA/P is Erin Hutton as a new administrative assistant. She is a poet and a graduate of **Carnegie-Mellon University**.

Jams' Music Contest

Local independent record label **Jams Avenue Music** is holding a special event this month to introduce Pittsburgh vocalists to a national

record executive in a talent contest he'll be judging.



That exec is Damon Eden, who has worked for various labels and is the co-founder of **Titanium/Epic Records**. He is best known

for signing hip-hop artist Bobby Ray Simmons Jr. (aka B.o.B.)

The contest --- called "Headliners: Stars of tomorrow" --- will be held at the Hard Rock Café at Station Square on Friday, November 16. Only a maximum of 10 artists will be allowed to compete. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. For more information, visit <http://www.jamsavenue.com/>

Images

Photos Celebrating Pittsburgh's Arts/Entertainment History & Community



This is a photo of actress Kelly McAndrew, who stars in the upcoming Pittsburgh Public Theater production of the play "Good People". Her other credits include TV shows like "Gossip Girl" and "Law & Order" as well as the critically acclaimed 2011 indie film "In The Family".

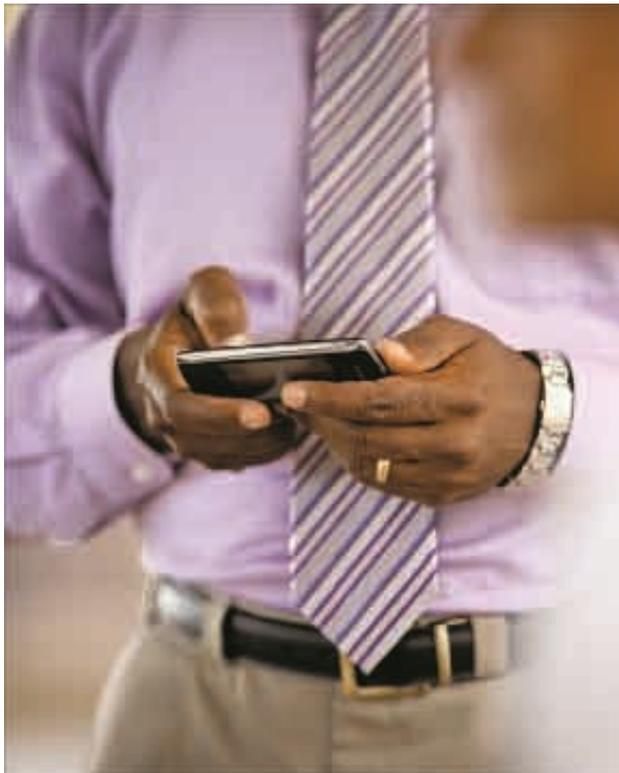
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THU
1

The clowns aren't only on the campaign trail, some are appearing at the **Consol Energy Center** with the return of Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The annual Three Rivers Film Festival begins tonight.

FRI
2

SAT
3

The notorious hardcore band Falling In Reverse climbs to the top at **Stage AE**.

SAT
3

The amorous "Don Giovanni" croons potential lovers at the **Benedum Center**.

SAT
3

The **Carnegie Museum Of Art** welcomes contemporary artist Corey Arcangel.

MON
5

Hot disc jockey Bassnectar spins out at **Stage AE**.



TUE
6

The **Consol Energy Center** gets materialist with Madonna.

THU
8

The tough yet tender play "Good People" bows at the **O'Reilly Theater**.

SAT
10

The Veteran's Day Parade proudly struts through **Downtown**.

SAT
10

Tami Disxon's one-woman show "South Side Stories" opens at **City Theatre**.



SUN
11

Consol Energy Center has all the answers when The Who performs.

SUN
11

The Kansas City Chiefs come to **Heinz Field** to challenge the Steelers.

MON
12

The Tony Award winning play "War House" conquers the **Benedum Center**.

TUE
13

The former Republican presidential candidate discusses the recent election at **Heinz Hall**.

WED
14

Return to **Heinz Hall** where the PSO Pops performs a special night of Beatles tunes.

THU
15

Come **Downtown** for Light-Up Night!

FRI
16

SUN
18

The Baltimore Ravens descend on **Heinz Field** to take on the Steelers.

TUE
20

Teen sensation Justin Bieber rocks out **Consol Energy Center**.



THU
22

Controversial heavy metal band Lamb Of God bedevils at **Stage AE**.

TUE
27

Carrie Underwood brightens **Consol Energy Center** tonight.

TUE
27

National journalist Lisa Ling provides some insight at **Heinz Hall**.


Don't forget to submit your holiday events to the online calendar!

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National/World A&E News Round-Up

Sandy Shuts Broadway, Museums

It has often been called the City That Never Sleeps, but New York City essentially went to bed as Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern coast of North America,

This means Broadway, Off-Broadway, film/television production and the city's museums ceased all operation for at least three days.

According to **Wikipedia**, Sandy was the largest Atlantic hurricane in diameter on record; its winds stretched approximately 1,100 miles from end to end. Numerous New York streets were inundated and even the city's iconic subway system had to be shut down. It wasn't clear at press time how much the losses will be for the arts/entertainment community.

In the meantime, the *Hollywood Reporter* has posted some shocking images taken by residents of the storm hitting the city: <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/gallery/hurricane-sandy-photos-storms-destruction-384346#3>

May The Force Be With Mickey

In a move that surprised many observers, George Lucas has announced that he is selling his company, **Lucasfilm** to the **Walt Disney Company** for \$4 billion.

Industry experts are seeing the sale as a good fit. "It was incredibly smart for both sides," consultant Seth Willenson told *TheWrap.com*'s Sharon Waxman. "Even though the series is falling off, it's still worldwide like James Bond in terms of

valuation. I believe they're going to be in this position where they can revitalize the franchise and keep pumping out 'Star Wars' movies."

The sale wasn't the only surprise: a new trilogy of films starting in 2015 that will continue the saga after "Return of the Jedi".

Lucas, meanwhile, says that he is going into semi-retirement to make the occasional "hobby" film. He will also be a creative consultant for the new "Star Wars" movies.

A Major (& Stupid) Theft

One of the most stunning art thefts in recent history occurred on October 16 when thieves managed to break into the **Kunsthall**, a museum in the Netherlands --- despite the security alarm.

The museum was celebrating its 20th anniversary with an exhibit of avant-garde works. But the robbers walked off with classics, including paintings by Claude Monet and Pablo Picasso. The paintings are worth millions of sold legally but they have been registered with **Art Loss Registry**, an organization that maintains a computerized international database of stolen work.

But that's the catch: with the pieces in the database, they are essentially worthless. Author and art crime expert Robert Wittman told *The Atlantic's* Jordan Weissmann that it is nearly impossible to sell stolen famous works. Wittmann calls the thieves "terrible businessmen."

Two Mans For One Woman

Respected British author Hilary Mantel has made history by becoming the only woman to win the prestigious Man Booker Prize twice.

Begun in 1969 the prize is presented annually by the alternative investment company **Man Group**. It is awarded to the best full-length, English language novel written by a citizen of the United Kingdom or the one of the Commonwealth nations.

She first won in 2009 for the novel *Wolf Hall* and won again last month for *Bring up the Bodies*. "You wait 20 years for a Booker prize," she's quoted by *The Economist*, "and two come along at once." For more information, visit <http://themanbookerprize.com/>

A Fallen Icon

People all over the United Kingdom are shocked at the revelations concerning one of their most popular entertainment personalities.

Jimmy Savile (1926-2011) was a disc jockey and television host whose career includes stints at the helm of the iconic music series "Top of the Pops". He was also known for his charity work, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. But years of rumors of his alleged child sexual abuse have gone public since his death. Savile's targets are said to be primarily girls but at least one boy may have been involved. A formal criminal investigation has begun into his actions.

Film Factory News

Aspiring filmmakers interested in the annual **Steeltown Entertainment Project's** Film factory program are welcome to a special event on November 5 at the Regent Square Theater.



Founded in 2003, the Steeltown Entertainment Project's mission is to build a vibrant and sustainable entertainment industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Film Factory program judges script submissions with the win-

ner receiving a \$30,000 prize to turn that script into a short film. At the Regent Square the current winner will be screened, a charming little movie called "Growing Up Flat Chested."

Meanwhile, Steeltown has also announced that a new, locally-made television series is seeking ideas and videos. Called "The Next Reality Star" the producers are seeking people who are or know someone who is "such a character that they just NEED to be on TV?" For more information, visit <http://thenextrealitystar.com>

NBC Improving

When **Comcast** took controlling interest in **NBC-Universal** last year, some observers were curious to see how a cable delivery firm (Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise) could successfully manage a content provider.

Quite well, it seems.



The NBC Television Network, which has been in third place for years, is showing new signs of life early in the 2012-2013 prime time season. "We came in with a sober, realistic long-term approach," CEO Brian Roberts is quoted by *Advertising Age*. "In the last 90 days, we've seen a shift with some really good things taking off." The new series showing the

most promise include the drama "Revolution" and the sitcoms "Go On" and "The New Normal," all of which have been picked-up for the full season.

However, ratings for the news division's stalwart, "Today," is losing viewers. [See this month's editorial – Ed.]

MediaPost.com's Wayne Friedman reports that ad sales from the Summer Olympics significantly added to Comcast' third quarter results. Over-all revenues surged 31.2% which included not only an improving NBC line-up but also strong box office for Universal movies such as "The Bourne Legacy." Even traditional cable subscriptions went up 3% despite the nation's continuing economic challenges.

Union's New Health Deal

The executive board of SAG-AFTRA has announced a new health insurance program for members and franchised talent agents.



Formed earlier this year through merger, the **Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television & Radio Artists** (SAG-AFTRA) represents over 150,000 film and television principal and background performers worldwide. This includes hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and a full-time regional office in downtown Pittsburgh.

The package of products is for members who do not currently qualify for the existing health plans or need added insurance. Anyone interested in finding out more should log on to <http://www.sagaftra.org>

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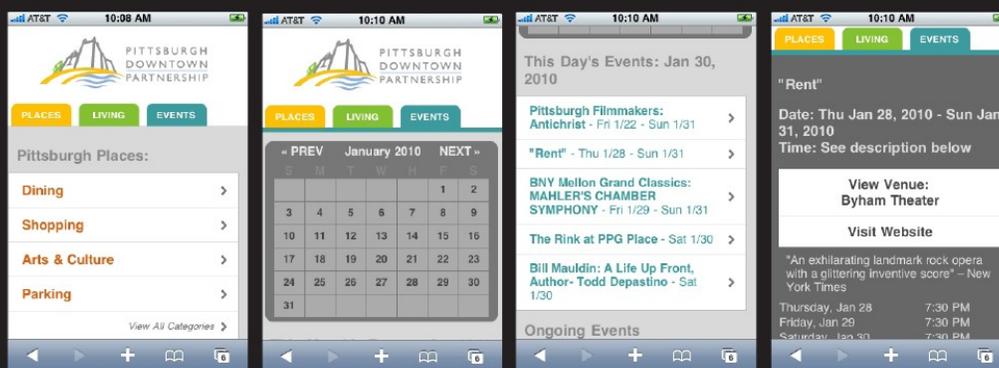
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NSX's New Concept Album To Debut

One of Pittsburgh's more distinctive bands, the **Neon Swing Experience**, has announced a new album with an interesting pedigree.

Their new CD is called "Grandpa Tempo: The Chairman of Swing" and it was inspired by an elderly gentleman who attended one of their performances in Maryland. It seems their normal breakneck speed was too much for him when he said "Hey --- watch the tempo!" leading the band to slow its pace and nickname him "Grandpa Tempo". Meeting him inspired the band to create their first concept album.

The 17 songs --- most of which were recorded live at various venues around the region and showcase a variety of vintage styles --- tell the story of Seymour "Grampa" Tempo, a cranky old man who was once a great ballroom dancer who spent much of his life searching for what he considered the perfect dance before regretfully giving up on music and start his own business.

The band celebrates the CD's release with a special performance and party at **the James Street Gatro Pub & Speakeasy** on the city's North Side on November 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Pgh Actor Returns Home To Produce

Local actor John Allen Biles has returned to Pittsburgh after working spending ten years working in New York City.

His first production is the musical "The Last Five Years" which will be staged **at Off The Wall Theater's** new home from November 1 through 10.

A graduate of **Point Park University** he has worked primarily Off-Broadway and in touring shows as an actor. This is his first attempt at producing theater.

"After spending over a decade in New York City," he says in a press release, "I saw many of my talented Pittsburgh friends struggling to find an outlet for their craft. I wanted to return to Pittsburgh to give my talented friends' exposure and that outlet all while bringing a new voice to the city's theater community."

For more information, email joh-nallenbiles@aol.com



Play To Help People During Holidays

Local theater company **QM Productions** has announced that their new production will benefit people struggling during the holidays.

QM Productions is a non-profit corporation that produces quality theatre and music events to raise money for local charities and needs. This season's charity is the **Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank**, which collects and distributes food through a 380+ member network in 11 counties.

That production is the inspiring, engaging and award winning musical "The Spitfire Grill" at the **Grey Box Theater**. "Spitfire" is the journey of a young woman just released from prison who decides to start her life anew in a rural Wisconsin town --- and starts people whispering. A press release describes the show as "a surprising and graceful story with soaring, unforgettable melodies."

According to the Food Bank web site, nearly 600,000 children in the state are considered "food insecure" and that hunger causes health problems, behavioral issues and educational problems.

There will be eight performances of "Spitfire" from November 9 through November 18. For more information, call (412) 576-0898.

Photo Contest

Entries are now being accepted by the **Silver Eye Center for Photography** for their international photography competition.

The competition recognizes both rising talent and established photographers. The top prize is the International Award which includes \$3,000 for exhibition-related expenses. The Keystone Award includes \$1,000. New this year is the Multimedia Storyteller Award with \$500 to put toward producing a short video documentary or online project.

Submissions will be accepted through November 26. For more information, call (412) 431-1810.

This Garden Is Growing

More progress is being made in the Garden Theater Block, reports Kelsey Shea of the *Northside Chronicle*.

The Garden Theater Block is a public-private project to redevelop a former movie theater and its adjacent buildings on the city's North Side into a mixed-use urban facility.

Italian restaurant **Piccolo Forno** will open a second location in the development, joining Japanese restaurant **Nakama**. Piccolo is located in the city's Lawrenceville neighborhood and Nakama already operates on Long Island, New York and Pittsburgh's South Side.

Domenic Branduzzi, the owner of Piccolo, told Shea that he sees some real potential on the North Side. "I love the feel of the neighborhood. It's great to be smack in the middle of it." Picco will go into the actual theater building and include outdoor patio dining. He may give the new restaurant a different name, but expects to keep the same menu.

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Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

Missing Yesterday's "Today"

By James A. Richards

It's really sad to see what has happened in the last ten years to television news.

As a Communications Major at the University of Wisconsin way back in the Dark Ages (aka the 80s), I studied all sorts of things, from writing copy to editing videotape. Back then there were two all-news channels: Cable News Network (CNN) and the Satellite News Channel (SNC). The latter was eventually folded into CNN. I read thoughtful and sometimes humorous books by journalists like John Chancellor and Linda Ellerbee. I learned what good reporting means and that it's important to not forget that in the pursuit of ratings.

This is why I stopped watching NBC's "Today" earlier this year.

"Today" was once a thoughtful two-hour mix of news and information, where interview subjects on the same broadcast could be the President followed by an award-winning author or legendary actress offering an insightful reflection on her career. Today, it is about the latest reality star, recipes and outdoor concerts.

What is interesting is that I am not alone. According to the web site Mediabistro.com, ratings as of late September were down 18%. While the firing of recently promoted anchor Ann Curry sat poorly with many viewers, I left before that debacle. And it had nothing to do with her.

Take a look at what other former "Today" fans are saying: http://www.mediabistro.com/tvnewser/the-viewers-speak-why-ive-left-the-today-show_b149683

So, what am I now watching each morning? Well, I start with CNN and switch at 7:00 a.m. to "CBS This Morning."

Letters to the editor are welcome via email to jim@james-richards.com

They may be edited for publication.

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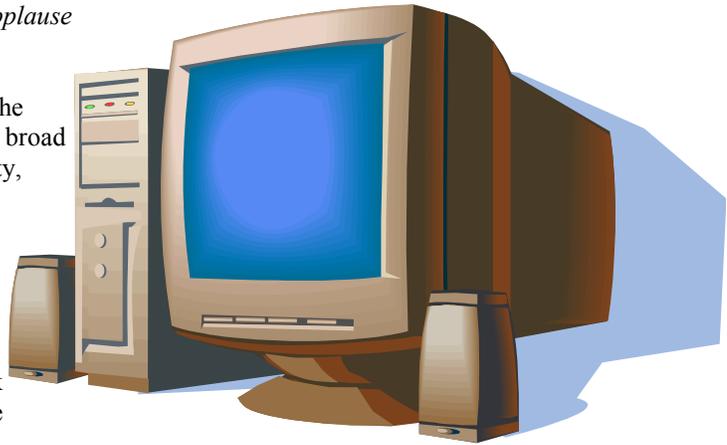
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But Jim needs a collection of advertisers willing and able to commit to at least six months of advertising. For more information, contact him at jim@james-richards.com

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