

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Barbara Vancheri Leaves Post-Gazette

Respected, long-time *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* film critic and reporter Barbara Vancheri has left the paper.



The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (PG) was first published as *The Pittsburgh Gazette* in 1786. The paper was won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize six times. It's a signature

holding of **Block Communications**. Last year, after more than two centuries in Downtown, the paper moved into a new headquarters on the city's North Side.

Vancheri announced her departure in an email on her last day, March 31. She explained that she had accepted a buy-out. This is just the latest in reductions being executed by the company. In early March, Tim Schooley reported in the *Pittsburgh Business Times* that both layoffs and buy-outs begun in late 2015 were continuing. (In 2013, the newspaper released James Richards, also editor of *Pittsburgh Applause*, as manager of the paper's online events calendar.)

The paper's general manager, Lisa Hurm, explained to Schooley that the PG had "a very difficult fourth quarter [2015], as did the entire industry" due to major declines in ad revenue.

Meanwhile, the president of the **Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh**, Michael A. Fuoco told Schooley that "our hope is that once they get through the buyouts that they stop there . . . you can't do the job [needed] with a diminished staff."



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“Outsiders” Gets Season 2

The Pittsburgh-shot series “Outsiders” has been renewed by cable network WGN America for a second season, reports Rob Owen in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Interiors are shot at **31st Street Studios** in the Strip District. The series follows a mountain family fighting an energy company.

“The renewal of ‘Outsiders’ marks the first time in the modern Pittsburgh production era that a scripted prime-time drama has made it to a second season,” Owen writes.

For more information, click <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/tv-radio/2016/03/11/WGN-America-renews-Outsiders-pittsburgh-pennsylvania-millvale/stories/201603110217>

Consultant Studies Troubled PF/PCA

A consultant has been hired by the **Heinz Endowments** to assess the issues facing **Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**, reports Marylynne Pitz in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (PF/PCA) was formed in 2006 through the merger of two separate entities: Pittsburgh Film-

makers, founded in 1971 and one of the largest media arts centers in the nation and arts education/exhibition organization Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, which began in 1945.

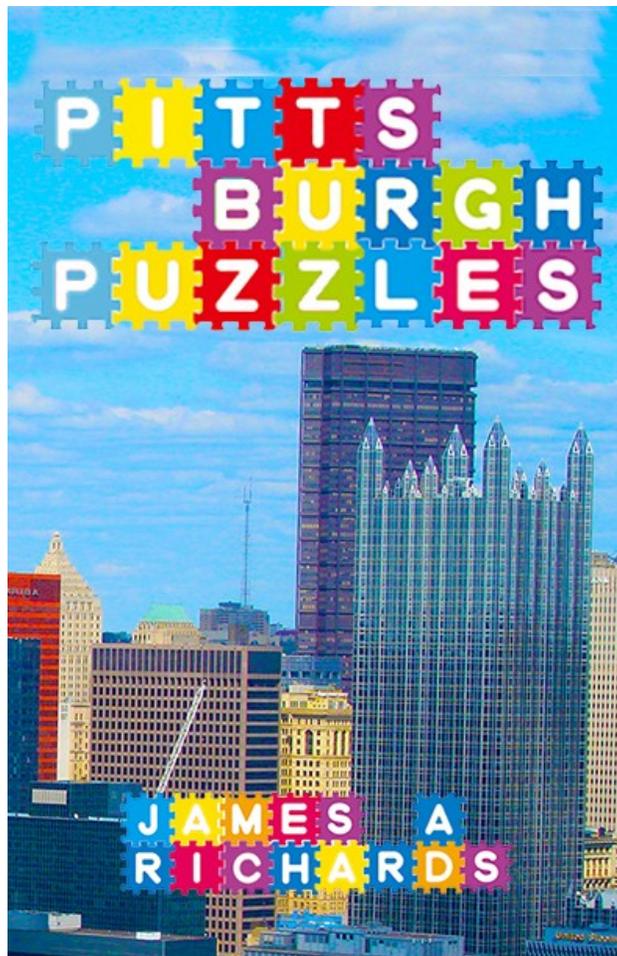
The organization has been struggling financially for more than a year with a \$1 million deficit, major layoffs and the resignation of long-time leader Charlie Humphrey.

According to Pitz, Baltimore-based arts and culture consultant Alyce Myatt has a \$35,000, three-month contract to evaluate the PF/PCA and report her findings to

the Heinz Endowments. She began her efforts in early March. Presumably this means a report will be ready by summer.

In a separate article, Pitz reports that the PF/PCA board is seeking to reinvent and streamline itself. For details on this subject visit <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2016/03/14/Film-and-arts-group-looks-to-revamp-board-following-leadership-shakeup/stories/201603100008>

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Local Rockers To Be Honored @ Stage AE

The newest inductees for the Pittsburgh Rock 'n Roll Legends has been announced



Created in 2014, the Pittsburgh Rock 'n Roll Legends is a local registry honoring the individuals and organizations that have contributed to the rich history of rock music in Pittsburgh. Proceeds raised by the annual awards ceremony benefit the **Cancer Caring Center**, which provides free support services to cancer patients and their families.

Inductees for the 2016 awards were selected through weighted ballots cast by more than 1,550 registered voters from the general public and the Pittsburgh Rock 'N Roll Legends Awards Academy of Voters, comprised of more than 200 local producers, promoters, music historians, musicians, media, educators and other music industry professionals.

This year's inductees are:

Joe Grushecky (Modern Era Legend) a prolific songwriter, singer and guitarist who has released 18 albums as the leader of the Iron City Houserockers or as a solo artist.

Billy Price (Modern Era Legend), who was recently nominated for best soul blues album at the 37th Annual Blues Music Awards.

Pat Dicesare (Music Industry Professional Legend) whose firm, founded in 1973 with Rich Engler, put Pittsburgh on the music industry map by booking big name artists

The Skyliners (Legacy Legend), one of the biggest doo wop groups in history.

Sean McDowell (Music Broadcaster Legend), who has been a leading radio disc jockey and local rock supporter for nearly 23 years.

"We're extremely happy for this year's Legends, and look forward to celebrating with them in April," said Rebecca Whitlinger, of the Cancer Caring Center, in a press release. "We thank the fans for voting, and hope everyone will join us to congratulate the honorees and all of the nominees, for everything they've done to enrich our lives through music. The opportunity to see so much Pittsburgh talent in one room on one night is what makes the Legends celebration truly unique."

This year's ceremony is scheduled for April 28 at Stage AE. For more information, visit <http://www.pittsburghrocklegends.com>



Channel Pittsburgh

SAG-AFTRA Loses Two Leaders

One of the entertainment industry's leading unions suffered two sad losses as March came to a close.



A winner of the Tony Award and an Emmy Award, critically acclaimed actor and union leader Ken Howard died on March 23 at the age of 71.

Howard played a critical role in the 2012 merger of the Screen Actors Guild with the American Federation of Radio & Television Artists into **SAG-AFTRA**. The performers union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and maintains a full-time office in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Only a few days later, current SAG-AFTRA president, the Oscar and Emmy winner Patty Duke died at the age of 69. Actress Gabrielle Carteris ("Beverly

Hills 90210") has been named Acting President.

Ken Howard is best known for two roles: portraying Thomas Jefferson in the stage and film versions of the musical "1776" and the television series "The White Shadow" (1978-1981).

"1776" is an entertaining mixture of fact and fiction concerning the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a key moment in early U.S. history. Along with William Daniels, John Cullum and Howard da Silva, he was a member of the original Broadway cast who made the transition to the film.

On "The White Shadow," Howard played a retired Caucasian basketball player who takes a job coaching an inner city high school team composed primarily of African-American teens. It was considered one television's groundbreakers, presenting teen life in a realistic

way and dealing with issues ranging from race to sexual orientation.

Patty Duke began her career in her early teens, appearing on such programs as the soap opera "The Brighter Day." Her biggest break is portraying deaf-blind author and activist Helen Keller (1880-1968) in the Broadway play "The Miracle Worker." She and co-star Anne Bancroft reprised their stage roles in the 1962 film version. Duke won an Academy Award for her performance.

Television viewers know her best from "The Patty Duke Show" (1963-1966), a situation comedy developed specifically for Duke in which she portrays cousins who look identical but are otherwise very different.

She was the former wife of "Addams Family" star John Astin and the mother of Sean Astin, best known from the "Lord of the Rings" movies.

Bell Fired Over Comments

Wendy Bell, the long-time news anchor at WTAE-TV has been fired for making racially stereotypical words on the station's Facebook page.

HEARST corporation

The station is owned by media conglomerate **Hearst Corporation's** television division.

According to TheWrap.com's Brian Flood, the comments involved a mass shooting in Wilkesburg that resulting in the deaths of six people, all young

African-Americans.

"They have multiple siblings from multiple fathers and their mothers work multiple jobs," Bell wrote. "These boys have been in the system before. They've grown up there. They know the police. They've been arrested. They've made the circuit and nothing has scared them enough. Now they are lost."

Bell had been with the station for 18 years.



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Cultural District Makes Downtown Livable

Pittsburgh has been named by Liveability.com as having one of the best Downtowns in the United States --- and the Pittsburgh Cultural District is cited as a key factor.

Liveability.com is web site the ranks the quality of life in American cities. It is owned and operated by **Journal Communications** of Tennessee.

“The 14-block Cultural District in downtown provides daily opportunities to watch performing artists and dine in some of Pittsburgh’s most prestigious restaurants. Venues ranges from places like the Altar Bar, a popular place to check out emerging artists and the college crowd, to the Heinz Hall, home of the internationally acclaimed Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Museums and art galleries always have inspiring exhibits to see.”

Check out their review of Downtown by clicking <http://www.livability.com/top-10-downtowns/top-10-downtowns/2016/pa/pittsburgh>

Ke\$ha To Share Her Pride

Multi-platinum recording artist Kesha will be the headliner for this year’s Pride in the Streets, the **Delta Foundation** has announced.

The Delta Foundation is lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender (LGBT) organization that produces the city’s major Pride events each June celebrating the LGBT community. Pride in the Streets is an outdoor concert and party held on Liberty Avenue in the Pittsburgh Cultural District.

Kesha Rose Sebert --- often referred to as Ke\$ha --- is a 29-year-old singer, songwriter and rapper from Nashville whose song “Tik Tok” is among the best selling digital singles in music history.

She identifies as bisexual and is active in animal rights and LGBT rights.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 11.



Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment



Pittsburgh's legendary tradition of the “parking chair” is getting an upgrade thanks to the Carnegie Museum of Art. To learn more, visit <http://press.cmoa.org/news-releases/>

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

Videohouse Battles FCC

Local television production firm **Videohouse** is in a tussle with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), reports John Eggerton in multiple articles published in *Broadcasting & Cable*.

Videohouse has been a supporter of *The Pittsburgh A&E Book*, the professional directory occasionally published by *Pittsburgh Applause* editor James A. Richards.

At issue is the spectrum space issued to Videohouse's low-power television (LPTV) station, WOSC. The company wants to keep it, but the FCC intends to auction it off along with that of other LPTV's as part of a plan to increase the nation's wireless infrastructure.

The commission's web site explains that "a key part of the FCC's efforts to meet the demand for spectrum is the first-of-its-kind Incentive Auction, a means of repurposing spectrum by encouraging licensees to voluntarily relinquish spectrum usage rights in exchange for a share of the proceeds from an auction of new licenses to use the repurposed spectrum."

It is, to say the least, an extremely complicated situation. However, anyone interested in accessing Eggerton's many related articles can click <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/bnc/search/Videohouse>

InventHelp & TV Center

A noted Pittsburgh firm is helping a Florida inventor re-imagine the traditional home entertainment center.



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Inventor service company **InventHelp** (best known for the annual INPEX trade show) is peddling a new creation to manufacturers called the Flat Screen TV Entertainment Center.

A press release explains that the wall-mounted unit can accommodate the television set, DVD player, cable box and related equipment thus "eliminate the need to use a freestanding piece of furniture to house electronics."

"The Flat Screen TV Entertainment Center would consist of a wall-mounted entertainment center designed for use with a flat screen television. The unit could be constructed of wood or laminated particleboard. The unit would feature an upper frame that would neatly surround the user's wall-mounted television. One- to three shelves would be located below the upper frame. The shelves would be sized for holding a DVD player, cable/satellite box, game console, and DVD cases. Flat Screen TV Entertainment Center could be produced in a range of sizes and finishes, and include a lower raceway-style cover that could be used to conceal the various power cords extending from the lower center of the unit."





**THU
7**

Stage AE is really rocking tonight with the band **Wolf Alice**.



**FRI
8**

There's nothing more tragic than spilt popcorn as the **Pittsburgh Playhouse** presents "The Flick".

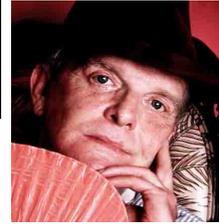


**FRI
15**

The Pittsburgh Ballet closes out its 2015-2016 season with "Le Corsaire" at the **Benedum Center**.

**THU
21**

Novelist and raconteur Truman Capote gets reflected in the play "Tru" at the **O'Reilly Theater**.



**THU
28**

Head over to **Stage AE** and join the celebration honoring some of Pittsburgh's greatest music artists.



**FRI
29**

Although he's published four novels, Jim Richards is participating in a new author's night at **Barnes & Noble**.



**Channel
Pittsburgh**

National/World A&E News Round-Up

Sorry folks, but Jim didn't have time to write a roundup or an editorial this month!

**Never Underestimate The Power
Of A Good Scandal!**



Social Media Blues Strikes The Young

Locally and nationally, arts & entertainment professionals have been trying for years to figure out the best way to use social media in their marketing and outreach to youth --- but maybe they shouldn't, reports Andrew Flanagan in *Billboard*.

In a March 25 article, Flanagan describes a recent study conducted by **the University of Pittsburgh** (Pitt) on the effects of social media on young adults. The results are not good. "The more time young adults use social media, the more likely they are to be depressed," the report concludes.

The survey asked nearly 1,800 Americans between the ages of 19 and 32 about their use of social media in tandem with "an established depression assessment tool." The project focused on 11 popular social media platforms:

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Google Plus, Instagram, Snapchat, Reddit, Tumblr, Pinterest, Vine and LinkedIn. The average respondent used social media about 61 minutes per day and accessed social media accounts 30 times per week.

Frequent users of social media were 2.7 times more likely to be depressed. More than a quarter of the respondents were classified as having high indicators of depression.

There is some debate as to whether the heavy use of social media leads to depression or is reflective of existing depression. "It may be that people who already are depressed are turning to social media to fill a void," the lead author, Lui yi Lin, suggested in a press release.

That press release is available online at <http://www.upmc.com/media/NewsReleases/2016/Pages/lin-primack-sm-depression.aspx> while Flanagan's article can be read at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/business/7290221/depresso-social-media-sad-pittsburgh-study>

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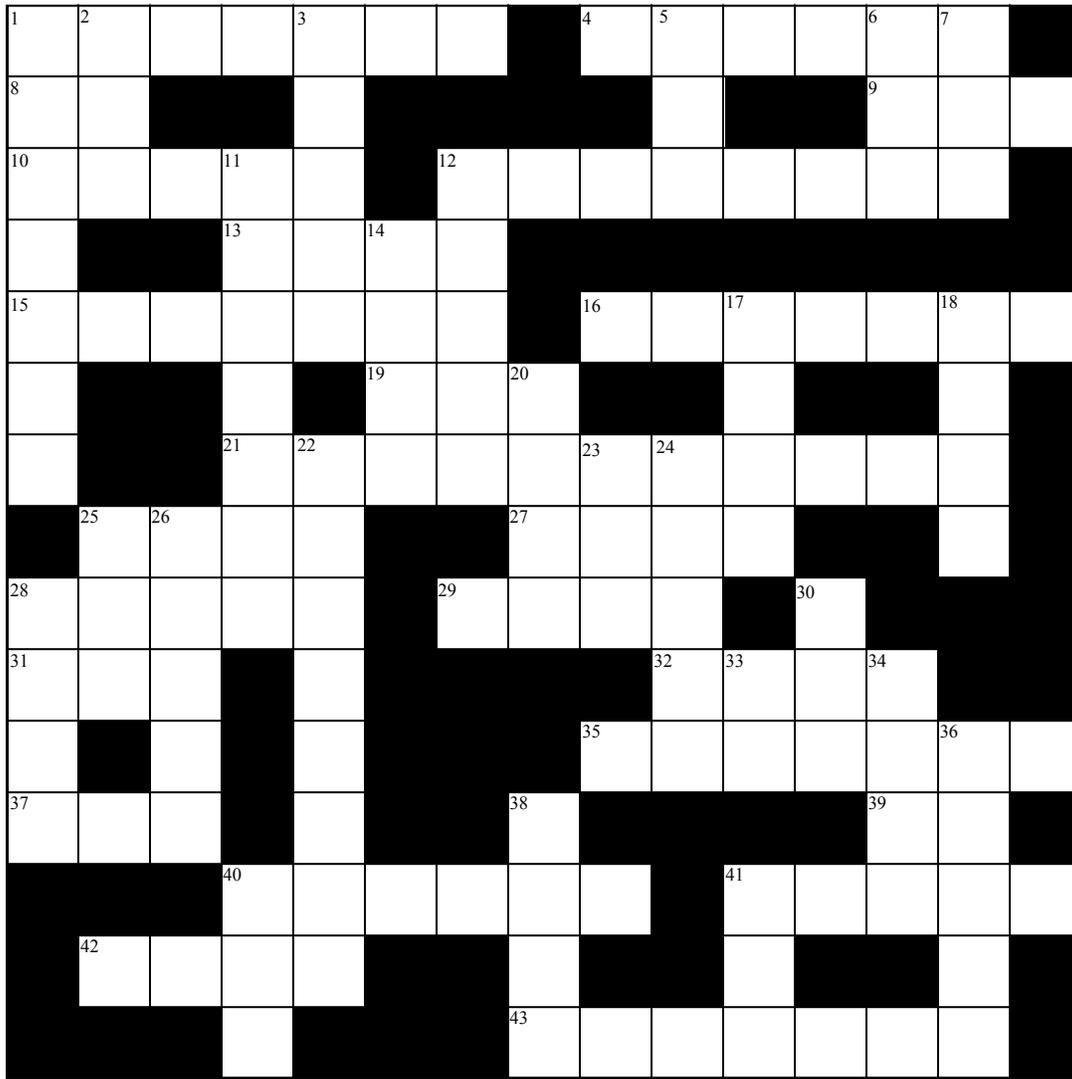
Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- * Purchase an ad in *Pittsburgh Applause*
- * Sponsor a project
- * Hire Jim to do your marketing
- * Give him free tickets to your show
- * Make a monetary donation

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THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

“Being Shakespearean”



ACROSS

1. The Bard's shortest tragedy
4. He play the Bard in a 1998 movie
(with 43-Across)
8. "Mad Men" subject
9. Human listening organ
10. Famous 1977 TV mini-series
12. The Bard's probable orientation
13. What you do with 9-Across
15. The Bard's famous Moorish general
16. The Bard's rumored boyfriend
(with 35-Across)
19. A long time
21. The Bard's theater company
25. Old Testament exile leader
27. Egypt's famous river
28. Donald Trump's favorite type of communication
29. See 41-Across
31. Night bird
32. Cooking instruction
35. See 16-Across
37. Pull
39. Hip Pittsburgh clothing company (mit.)
40. The Bard's tragedy about a Danish prince
41. He starred in 1998's "Basil"
(with 29-Across)
42. TV show: "I'll Fly ___"
43. See 4-Across

DOWN

1. The Bard's famous contemporary
2. Play: "Much ___ About Nothing"
3. Painter's stand
5. Grand poem
6. Soup vegetable
7. The computer from "2001"
11. See 24-Down
12. Small stream
14. Toward land
17. What Donald Trump hates to do
18. The Bard's wife (with 22-Across)
20. Number of feline lives
22. See 18-Down
23. Louse's egg
24. The Bard's stage (with 11-Down)
25. "Yuck!"
26. 1983 Woody Allen movie
28. Horn sound
30. Lobster eating need
33. "E/R" setting
34. The Bard's royal madman
36. Belonging to actor/singer Jerry
38. A vegan would never touch this
40. An emoter in 40-Across
41. Marcia and Cindy's TV sister

Last Month's Solution

S	N	A	K	E	S		J	E	A	N	S		M	T	
H	A			M			O	D	M				A	C	E
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For more information, contact Jim at jim@james-richards.com



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