

Smith Slap Overshadows Heder's Victory

A film written by **Carnegie-Mellon University** (CMU) graduate Sian Heder won three statuettes at this year's annual Oscar ceremony. But the "CODA" accolades aren't what everyone is talking about.

"CODA" is the story of a young woman who is the only hearing member of an otherwise deaf family (the acronym CODA stands for "child of deaf adults"). The film was named Best Picture, co-star Troy Kotsur honored as Best Supporting Actor and Heder earn an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

What they are talking about is "the slap heard 'round the world": after comedian and presenter Chris Rock made a failed joke about actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, her husband --- the Oscar nominated actor Will Smith --- walked up to the stage during the live broadcast and slapped Rock.

It was a stunning, unexpected act by one of Hollywood's (usually) most likable artists. A short time later, Smith was named Best Actor and apologized to the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** (AMPAS).

Pinkett-Smith has alopecia, a genetic and hormonal condition that results in hair loss. The actress chose a close-cut style which apparently reminded Rock of the 1997 film "G.I. Jane". The film stars Demi Moore as a woman who joins the United States Navy and shaves her head. A joke con-

necting Pickett-Smith with Moore's role led to the assault.

Adding to the odd and troubling situation is that Smith received considerable applause after winning his Oscar and was welcome to the after-parties.

The response locally has mirrored the nation's. *The Pittsburgh Tribune Review's* Rob Owen is among the many criticizing the actor, writing "Smith's ego and need to satisfy his wife's glare led him to upstage all the awards that followed the slap."

As *Pittsburgh Applause* was readying this issue, *Variety* broke the news that AMPAS officials met with Will Smith on March 29. Brent Lang and Matt Donnelly report: "Academy President David Rubin and CEO Dawn Hudson talked to the actor on Zoom about

the fallout from the assault during Sunday's Oscars telecast. The talk lasted for roughly 30 minutes, according to a source. Another source familiar with the meeting said only that the conversation was 'brief.' Smith apologized again to Rubin and Hudson for his action, expressed his awareness that there would be consequences and tried to explain why he snapped when Rock made a joke about his wife Jada Pinkett Smith's hair. Pinkett Smith has said she suffers from hair loss due to alopecia."

Expulsion from the Academy is a very real possibility for Smith.

Meanwhile, Chris Rock's "Ego Death" tour will be in Pittsburgh this September at the Benedum Center. Tickets available by clicking [here](#).

The Other Oscar Controversy

Will Smith's action wasn't the only controversy at this year's Academy Awards. So was the decision not to include certain categories in the live broadcast.

Awards in crafts such as Film Editing and Hairstyling were removed, apparently to make the broadcast a faster pace and more popular with viewers. This has upset **International Alliance of**



Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), which has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area. The union president, Matthew D. Loeb, issued a statement "our position remains that the awards should put all the positions that make pictures possible on equal footing. If the winners walk away with the same trophy, then the winners deserve the same recognition."

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Warhol & Supreme Court

Did the pioneering Pittsburgh pop artist Andy Warhol violate copyright law forty years ago? That's something the **United States Supreme Court** is to decide, reports Adam Liptak for the *New York Times*.

The issue considers the fair use understanding within the law. At the center is a collection of works of pop rock star Prince created by Warhol based on a black & white picture taken in 1981 by noted photographer Lynn Goldsmith. She learned of the collection's existence when one of the images was published in *Vanity Fair* after

the singer's 2016 death. The collection is held by the **Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts**.

Legal action was pursued. Judge John G. Koeltl ruled in favor of the foundation in 2019. Liptak quotes the judge explaining that each image is "immediately recognizable as a 'Warhol' . . . in the same way" as the more famous portrait of Marilyn Monroe. However, an appellate court overturned that decision saying that Koeltl "should not assume the role of art critic"

The Supreme Court announced on March 28 that it will review the dispute. No date has been set for arguments, which is expected sometime after October.



CMA Gets Ready For International

The prestigious Carnegie International is less than six months away. And the Carnegie Museum of Art (CMA) has announced its first round of commissions and partnerships.



First staged by the CMA in 1896, the Carnegie International is the oldest North American exhibition of contemporary art from around the globe. CMA is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**.

"Our team is thrilled to be working with such a wide ranging and globally expansive group of artistic voices," CMA's Eric Crosby in a press release. Those voices include the Berlin-based collective **terra0** which is described as "a

group of developers, artists, and researchers exploring the creation of hybrid ecosystems in the technosphere." The collective's contribution is a unique one: a tree that owns its own land.

Pittsburgh artist James "Yaya" Hough has been commissioned to create a mural in the Hill District which "expands on and continues Yaya's legacy of making art public to create common imaginaries" by utilizing community workshops in the planning. Another artist, Tony Cokes is creating a series of digital billboards.

Partner organizations include the Chilean **Intuition Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende**, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

As part of the lead-up in an installation opening in the CMA's

courtyard created by Cuban American artist Rafael Domenech. The piece is inspired by the work of Cuban poet Severo Sarduy (1937-993) "who believed that the form represents a de-centering of knowledge production and expands intercultural elasticity." The June launch is fitting: as it Pride Month and Sarduy was gay and some of works dealt explicitly with homosexuality and transvestism.

The International is scheduled to open September 24.



Opera Gets \$3 Million

An impressive \$3 million gift from retired financier Henry J. Gailliot and his wife, Nary Louise, will support classical productions at the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Gailliot spent the bulk of his professional career with what is now called **Federated Hermes**, retiring as chairman in 1997. The donation will launch the new The Henry J. and Mary Louise Gailliot Fund for Classical Opera.

Strahan's Pittsburgh Pilot

A new Pittsburgh-set series is in development at the **Walt Disney Company's** flagship ABC television network.

Deadline's Denise Petski reports that a pilot for "The Front Line" has been written by Marc Halsey ("The Resident") and will be co-executive produced by former professional football player Michael Strahan. Her article describes the concept as "a feel-good medical procedural centered on Sebastian 'Bass' Clark, a professional athlete-turned-doctor who left the front line of the football field to start over on the front

"This gift will help ensure that seminal works of the opera canon continue to delight future generations of Pittsburghers," says Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn in a press release. "Music by composers such as Mozart, Verdi and Puccini stand the test of time for a reason, and we deeply appreciate the Gailliot's support of them. This will help us propel the art form into the future by continuing to appreciate its past."

The fund is part of Pittsburgh Opera campaign to raise \$50 million to secure the company's long-term health while improving its diversity and programming. The press release says that over half of its goal as already been raised.

Talk about impressive: Jeremy Reynolds reports for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that former President George W. Bush and his wife Laura among those contributing to the former **National Negro Opera Company** (NNOC),

lines of healthcare as a medical resident" at a major Pittsburgh hospital.

At press time, it was unclear if the pilot would be shot locally.

Star @ Age 7

A little girl from Latrobe named Victory Brinker has been recognized by the *Guinness World Records* as the world's youngest opera singer.

First published in 1955 as the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the tome is reference book of extreme, distinctive or unusual facts. It was originally sponsored by the Irish brewer Guinness (owned by **Diageo PLC**) and is now published by **The Jim Pattison Group**.

Victory was just seven years old when she performed at the **Pittsburgh Public Theater** in 2019. Her honor was reported on March 28 by **United Press International** (UPI). Read more by clicking [here](#).

Opera Building's Presidential Present

Operating out of a Homewood mansion from 1941 to 1962, the NNOC was the first African-American opera company in the United States. The home's current owner, Jonnet Solomon, estimates \$2 million will be needed to restore and renovate the 1894 building as an arts center.

Reynolds writes that the efforts "recently received more than \$800,000 from Laura and former President George W. Bush, the **Allegheny Foundation** and **The Burke Family Foundation**." Read his full article by clicking [here](#).

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GPAC/NEA Grant Alert

In a blog post, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council's** (GPAC) Sarah Schreck is altering organizations interested in the recent **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) grant: take a number.

GREATER PITTSBURGH
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Arts loud and clear

GPAC is designated to distribute \$500,000 in NEA funds to artists and organizations in the region this sum-

mer. However, before applying an interested organization must create a specific identification number. This isn't the current Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) because this has been replaced by the System for Award Management (SAM). For this an applicant needs a Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number.

Needless to say, this can be a little confusing. Schreck has posted a Q&A for interested organizations which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



SAG-AFTRA: A Decade Later

It's now been a decade since the **Screen Actors Guild** (SAG) and the **American Federation of Television Arts and Sciences** (AFTRA) merged. This anniversary has provided an opportunity for reflection by *The Hollywood Reporter's* Peter Labuza.

SAG-AFTRA

Labuza's article begins in the 1930's when the each separate union was formed. Even then, there was talk of combining the two into a single entity.

"Although a 1940 study suggested [a merger] was in the best interest, the coastal divide between SAG in Los Angeles and [AFTRA] in New York made it more convenient to remain separate." Things became more complicated in the ensuing years.

A vote was finally held in 1999 when "AFTRA members approved the merger by around 67 percent of voters, while SAG voters fell well below the 60 percent threshold at only 47 percent." In another vote, in 2012, more than 80% of each union's memberships voted in favor.

The union has marked the milestone with an online message citing successes such as "expanded

protections for members through establishing standards and protocols for the use of intimacy coordinators, creating a sexual harassment reporting tool, adding anti-harassment language to contracts, and working with other unions to create safety protocols that allowed members to resume work during the pandemic."

You can read Labuza's interesting, full article by clicking [here](#).



Trust Eases COVID Rules

COVID-19 rules are being eased at the Benedum Center and sister venues, the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** announced on March 29.

The announcement reads "effective April 4, 2022, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust venue entry requirements including proof of vaccination and masking will be determined on a per event basis, as set by the artist or promoter." The change reflects Allegheny County's low COVID positivity rate.



In other news, Robin Elrod announced on March 28 that she is leaving her post as Director of Public Relations and Communications. She has taken a position with San Francisco-based communications technology firm **Twilio**. "While this new job is a complete departure from the arts, I am not going anywhere," Elrod wrote in an email. "I will continue to live in Pittsburgh, attend as many Cultural District events as I possibly can, and will always sing the praises of this amazing organization that has given me so much."

Deb Docherty's Semi-Retirement

One of Pittsburgh's leaders in talent and casting has stepped away from day-to-day operations, reports Joshua Axelrod for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

That leader is the legendary Deb Docherty, whose 35-year career guiding **Docherty Agency** including discovering future stars such as Zachary Quinto and Joe Manganiello.

Docherty has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. ALS is a degenerative condition of uncertain causes that results in the progressive loss of motor skills. The most famous case is that of professional baseball player Henry Louis Gehrig (1903-1941), which

forced his early retirement and brought national attention to the disease.

Jared Pascoe is now agency director. Read Axelrod's full article for more information.

Girl Talk & Wiz Team-Up

A pair of Pittsburgh music stars -- - Wiz Khalifa and Girl Talk (a.k.a. Gregg Gillis) have been collaborating on a new album, reports Dani Janae for *Pittsburgh City Paper*. Also part of "Full Court Press" are Big K.R.I.T. (Justin Scott) and Smoke DZA (Sean Pompey).

"While work on 'Full Court Press' may have started in 2017," writes Janae, "the project is just now seeing the light of day. Meeting in Los Angeles for multi-day study sessions, the four melded their unique sounds to form a project that brings together the best of what each has to offer."

Read her full article by clicking [here](#).



March was Women's History Month and artist Kirsten Ervin used the last day to share "a farewell letter" because she is stepping down as coordinator of the Women in The Arts Network. Her letter was posted to the GPAC web site and be read by clicking [here](#).

Applause Addresses Steeltown Errors

Some errors were made in last month's *Pittsburgh Applause* article about **Steeltown** becoming part of **WQED**.

The article incorrectly stated that "the organization morphed into a media education institution for teens." Actually, the organiza-



tion's youth education program was launched in 2015 as a component of Steeltown. Its revenues streams were also misstated: Steeltown has always relied primarily on grant funding, donations and its annual awards event. The article additionally implied that co-founder Carl Kurlander left of his own accord. Actually, the board asked him to resign. A Steeltown spokesperson also described WQED's absorption of

Steeltown as mutually compatible because each organization's existing programs complimented the others.

Pittsburgh Applause regrets the errors.



PMI's Mural Project

If you've noticed a few additions to the downtown skyline, you can thank local creative firm **PMI Digital**.

PMI has spearheaded a mural program with artist Ashley Hodder to build awareness of the foster family organization **Auberle** called "Love Carries." The company "recruited foster parents and children to create more than 100 tags . . . using temporary chalk spray paint," explains Fern Siegel for MediaPost.com. "The murals, some 25-feet high, show foster children and parents being lifted with heart-shaped balloons. Hashtags direct viewers to additional information."

The effort is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which ballooned the number of children and teens needing foster care.

Images



Slim Forsythe salutes his late father in the season finale of "Pittsburgh Tempo" this month on Channel Pittsburgh.

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News About CBS News

The hiring of a close associate Donald Trump by CBS News has had a negative response at the **Paramount Global** unit.

Paramount Global owns two television in Pittsburgh. The associate in question is Mick Mul-

vanev, reports Jeremy Barr for the *Washington Post*. Milvaney was Trump's chief of staff from January 2019 through the end of March 2020. He was involved in several controversies --- most notably Trump's efforts to induce Ukraine's government to investigate Democrat Joe Biden's son.

CBS News is now paying him to be an on-air commentator. His press bashing and allegedly mis-



leading public statements while working for Trump is the main issue, "I know everyone I talked to today was embarrassed about the hiring," Barr quotes one anonymous employee with another adding, "everyone is baffled." The division's chiefs argue that adding diverse voices provides better coverage.

In other news, Pittsburgh Patch reports that KDKA-TV reporter is leaving the station. She is joining the **Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh** where she'll write stories for publications such as the magazine *Pittsburgh Catholic*. A few days later, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Joshua Axelrod reported that the station's news director, Kathy Hostetter, is also departing. She has been named general manager of WJZ-TV, another station owned by Paramount Global.

Cox Sells Stations

The parent company of WPXI-TV, Cox Media Group (CMG), has announced the sale of television stations in 12 other markets.



CMG is owned by **Apollo Global Management** and **Cox Enterprises**. The stations are being acquired by Imagicomm Communications, a component of the **INSP, LLC** entertainment network.

INSP was launched in 1978 by televangelist Jim Bakker and first wife Tammy Faye Bakker (1942-2007) as a religious network called PTL ("Praise the Lord"). A sexual and financial scandal led to the former's disgrace and the sale of PTL. A change in ownership lead to a rebranding (first as The Inspiration Network and late INSP) and schedule focused on family-friendly programming. Westerns dominate the network's schedule.

Most are small-market stations such as KAYU-TV in Spokane, Washington (market rank #66)

There are 210 recognized television markets in the United States (not counting territories). The top 30 markets are generally considered the most important.

1. New York City
2. Los Angeles
3. Chicago
4. Philadelphia
5. Dallas-Fort Worth
6. San Francisco
7. Atlanta
8. Houston
9. Washington (DC)
10. Boston
11. Phoenix
12. Seattle-Tacoma
13. Tampa-St. Petersburg
14. Minneapolis-St. Paul
15. Detroit
16. Denver
17. Orlando-Dayton Beach
18. Miami-Fort Lauderdale
19. Cleveland
20. Sacramento
21. Portland (OR)
22. Charlotte
23. St. Louis
24. Raleigh-Durham
25. Indianapolis
26. Pittsburgh
27. San Diego
28. Baltimore
29. Nashville
30. Salt Lake City

The smallest market, ranked #210, is Glendive, Montana.

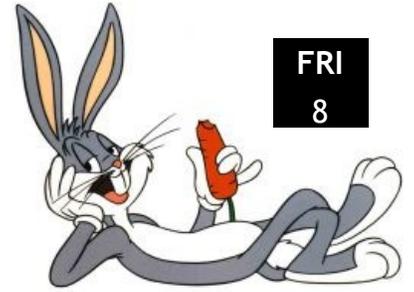
Source:
Media Tracks Communications.

and KIEM-TV in Eureka, California (market rank #193).

By the way, Pittsburgh ranks #26.



FRI
1



FRI
8



SAT
2



FRI
8



SAT
3

TUE
12



WED
6

Angels in America



WED
13



HARPER LEE'S
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
A PLAY BY AARON SORKIN

TUE
19



SAT
6



FRI
22



SAT
23

NEP In UAE

Pittsburgh-based communications/entertainment technology firm **NEP Group** has announced a new branch office --- in the Middle East.



A company press release states the new office in Abu Dhabi "will provide a wide range of outside broadcast solutions, including both on-site and remote production services, to enable clients to bring live sports and entertainment to fans and audiences around the region and worldwide."

Saeed Izadi has been appointed President of NEP Middle East. He currently leads NEP's Singapore and India businesses and will now oversee business strategy and operations for all three business units.

PMT Names Ed Head

Quinn Patrick Shannon has been hired by **Pittsburgh Musical Theater** (PMT) to head the company's arts education and youth development efforts.

"What excites me most is the opportunity to help children of all backgrounds find who they were always meant to be, not just as artists, but as individuals," the



Brondyke Leads Sweetwater

Christine Brondyke has been named the new executive director of the **Sweetwater Center for the Arts**, reports Shirley McMarlin for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Brondyke has most recently been the manager of corporate development and special events at the **Pittsburgh Opera**. That background and the connection related to it are expected to be major assets for Sweetwater.

"My strength lies in development, and they were looking for someone with experience in raising funds and growing the organization financially," McMarlin quotes Brondyke. "From that side, you also grow the creative side with new ideas and new programs."



The New York native and her husband moved to Pittsburgh in 2012 and settled with their kids in the suburb of Sewickley. Read the full article.

Little Lake's New CD

Patrick Cannon has been selected as the new artistic director for the **Little Lake Theatre Company**. His appointment came after a four-month search and was made through a unanimous board vote.

"We are thrilled that Patrick Cannon has joined the Little Lake family and will be guiding our artistic vision," said Board Chair Melissa Struzzi in a message posted to OnStagePittsburgh.com. "Patrick's extraordinary and wide-ranging talent brings a new energy to Little Lake. His commitment to inclusivity, outreach, and education will expand opportunities for artists to connect with each other, our audience, and fellow creators of all backgrounds and experiences. Patrick's artistic leadership will be invaluable as Little Lake moves forward during this pivotal time in theater and we recognize the importance of the arts to provoke thought and understanding in our community."

The Pittsburgh native is an actor, writer, director and producer whose full background is available by clicking [here](#).

Audacy Takes On Local Hunger & WAMO

Thanks to the efforts of **Audacy Inc.**, more than 600,000 meals were made possible to needy people through the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank**.



Audacy (formerly CBS Radio) owns four stations in Pittsburgh, most notably KDKA-AM.

"Pittsburghers help their neighbors in times of need," said Audacy's Michael Spacciapoli in a press release. "Our community is at the core of everything we do at Audacy Pittsburgh. The results of the 'Feed the Need Radiothon' are a good showcase of radio's power in our region. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to make this another successful year."

All four local Audacy stations participated in the "Giant Eagle Feed the Need" radiothon. Listeners were encouraged to donate online and via phone through the call center or text message.

In addition, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Scott Mervis reports that Audacy is now programming another Pittsburgh radio duopoly, WAMO-AM and WAMO-FM. Mervis quotes Spacciapoli in a separate statement making a commitment to "continuing WAMO's mission of celebrating cultural diversity and commitment to promoting quality diverse music, community support, fan engagement, and local and national news."

DGA Forms Team

A team has been formed by the **Directors Guild of America (DGA)** to negotiate a new deal with ABC (**Walt Disney Company**), NBC (**Comcast**) and CBS (**Paramount Global**).

The team will discuss a new pact covering news, sports and general operations on both the national level and with the networks' owned & operated stations. These include KDKA-TV and WPCW-TV in Pittsburgh.



Chairing the team is Lily Olszewski, the Emmy Award winning director of "Good Morning

America." Joining her are NBC News' Brett Holey and CBS' Joyce Thomas. The DGA's Lesli Linka Glatter praised the trio in a press release: "With decades of working experience at the top of their craft, combined with years of expertise as leaders in prior network negotiations, this team will be a significant asset to the Guild" when formal discussions begin.

The current agreement expires on June 23, 2023.



ACA Chair Makes Hall Of Fame

Patricia Jo Boyers, a cable industry veteran for three decades and chair of **ACA Connects** is being included in the Cable Hall of Fame.

The Pittsburgh-based ACA Connects is a trade organization representing more than 600 smaller and medium-sized, independent companies that provide cable, phone and internet access primarily to rural communities. The Cable Hall of Fame is an initiative of **The Cable Center**, a non-profit organization experiential programs, thought leadership, aca-



demic partnerships and a museum-like archive involving the connectivity industry.

“This is one of the cable industry’s highest honors and it means that anyone interested in knowing the history of cable TV and the evolution of broadband will need to focus on the career accomplishments of Patty Boyers,” ACA Connects President and CEO Matthew M. Polka said in a press release. Boyers and her husband own a small cable & broadband company in rural Missouri with about 3,000 customers.

The 25th annual Cable Hall of Fame dinner is scheduled to be held at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City on September 15, 2022.

CMP Makes Top 10

A reader's survey conducted by the newspaper *USA Today* has named the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** (CMP) as one of the top ten children's museums in the country.



CMP explains in a press release that it "was initially one of 20 preliminary museums recognized by a panel of family travel experts for its engaging, interactive experiences." The newspaper's readers were then invited to vote through an online poll. Launched in 1982, *USA Today* is the flagship daily of the **Gannett Company, Inc.**

Read more by clicking [here](#).

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Opportunities

WBZZ, a local radio station owned by **Audacy**, is seeking a part-time on-air personality. The successful candidate will not only be a capable host but good at generating online content. [Information and application here.](#)

Several positions are available at the **Carnegie Museum's of Pittsburgh**, including gallery coordinator, youth educators, web developer and program presenters. [Check out the full list.](#)

The war between Ukraine and Russia is inspiring many artists and arts programs. This includes the **Sweetwater Center for the Arts**, which seeking submissions for a relevant exhibit. [Click here for this and other opportunities.](#)

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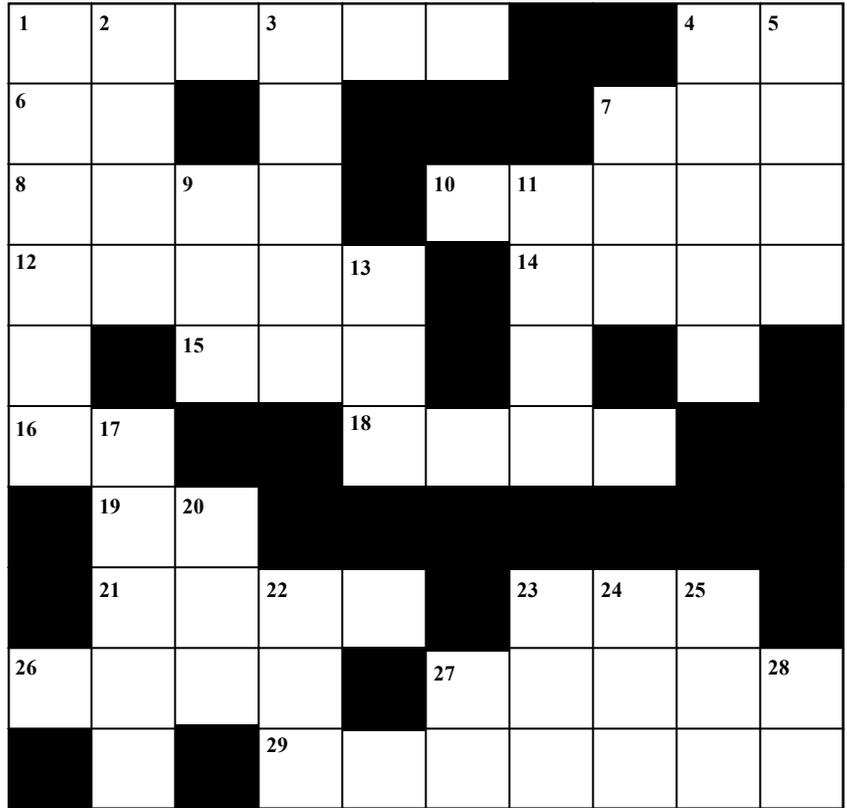


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Across

1. Another term meaning “fool”
4. Vaudeville comic known as “The Perfect Fool” (with 18-Across)
6. Record label division, initially (with “&” in the middle)
7. Greek pop-rock band formed in 1996
8. Reference
10. Depart
12. Atlantic or Pacific
14. Like Narcissus
15. Consumed
16. Card or tag
18. See 4-Across
19. Overhead train, initially
21. True
23. Arrest
26. Shakespeare king with a Fool in his court
27. Divining deck with a Fool card
29. See 2-Down



Down

1. See 17-Down
2. Rock star who has a guitar named “The Fool” (with 29-Across)
3. A sweet extra?
4. Title of a 1973 album (or name of its artist) with the song “Fool”
5. Porn star’s surname that sounds like movie legend’s surname
7. Lamb’s lament
9. Coffee alternative
11. Tied
13. Brand spankin’
17. He starred in a British movie titled “The Fool” (with 1-Down)
20. Actress Thompson, to pals
22. Part of a circle
23. Short snooze
24. Dance, painting or theater
25. Ghost’s lament
27. Title of 2002 rock album with the song “Cold War”
28. State south of KY

Last Month’s Solution

J	U	R	A	S	S	I	C		
E	T	U	D	E		V	O	L	T
F		H	A	X	B	Y		O	
F	I	R	M		I		L	I	E
					G	E	E	N	A
I	P	O	D		C	V	A		S
D	I	N		T	H	E	F	L	Y
T	A	E		R	I	N			
A	N	A		I	L				
G	O	L	D	B	L	U	M		