

Trump Cuts Hit Public Media Hard

The recently signed “Big Beautiful” law is having an immediate impact, both nationally and locally, especially on public media by essentially shuttering **the Corporation for Public Broadcasting** (CPB).

Ostensibly the cuts are about saving money. However, the consensus is that they are another part of the implementation of the controversial [Project 2025 program](#) of proposals spearheaded by the **Heritage Foundation**. The program charges that public media funding involves “half a billion dollars squandered on leftist opinion each year.”

Third-party assessments largely dispute Heritage’s claims. Writing for the nonprofit academic website **The Conversation**, author and educator [Stephanie A. Martin](#) states bluntly that

“charges of bias rarely survive empirical scrutiny.”

“We got sucked into a fight we’re not a part of,” said Terry O’Reilly, the president and CEO of **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting** (PCB) told the [Philadelphia Inquirer’s Rob Tornoe](#). The nonprofit organization is the parent of public broadcasters WESA-FM and WYEP-FM.

Fortunately for PCB, the community rallied. “Within hours of the early-morning vote on July 18,” the organization [announced online](#), “listeners flooded the stations’ phone lines and online donation portals” totally more than \$357,000.

WQED Multimedia also received a significant boost, [reports KDKA-TV](#). But the organization must still let go of 19 staff members. “Beyond the direct loss of \$1.8 million annually,” the organization [posted online](#), “WQED is preparing to absorb new expenses --- such as music licenses that were previously paid for by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Grants from other federal agencies have been suspended, and WQED must also address long-deferred repairs and neglected infrastructure needs that have become critical.”

One of the **Public Broadcasting System’s** (PBS) leading producer,

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Paramount Deal Approved

Now that the regulatory hurdles have been surmounted, the date has been to finalize the combination of **Paramount Global** with **Skydance Media**. (Paramount’s assets include two Pittsburgh television stations). That date is August 7.



The road to August 7 has been tumultuous, controversial and public. Beginning with Donald Trump’s claims of political favoritism at CBS News, the surprise cancellation of the long-running hit “The Late Show with Stehen Colbert” and ending with an unusual agreement with the **Federal Communications Commission** (FCC).

That odd agreement includes a settlement with Mr. Trump and certain stipulations regarding an alleged lack of viewpoint diversity. It sparked a strong response from one FCC commissioner. Anna Gomez is quoted by [Deadline’s Ted Johnson](#) as saying: “In an unprecedented move, this once-independent FCC used its vast power to pressure Paramount to broker a private legal settlement and further erode press freedom.”

In what may be an act of corporate confidence building, CBS News has named Tanya Simon

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Singer Loses Assault Suit

Former **Anti-Flag** frontman Justin “Sane” Geever has lost a civil suit charging the singer/songwriter with rape.

Anti-Flag was originally formed in 1988. The punk band toured regularly and released 15 singles (as well as some two-dozen studio, live and compilation albums) and some 30 music videos. [More than two years ago, New York-based therapist and social worker Kristina Sarhardi appeared on a podcast claiming that Sane sexually assaulted her in a hotel room](#). The band responded by cancelling the remainder of its current tour and permanently dissolving the act. At

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Trump Cuts

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the **WGBH Educational Foundation** (GBH), has paused production on its popular “American Experience” series. [Deadline’s Ted Johnson quotes GBH CEO Susan Goldberg](#): “severe cuts in federal funding for public media are requiring the system --- including PBS and GBH--- to make difficult decisions about programming and staffing.”

Time will tell just how deeply and broadly the cuts will finally have on public media.

Paramount

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as executive producer of “60 Minutes.” She has long history with the venerable program --- some 25 years --- first, as an executive editor and later as a senior producer.

Details for shareholders and other relevant parties have been [posted online](#).



AXIOS

Share of public radio and TV funding coming from Corporation for Public Broadcasting grants

For stations within 100 miles of Pittsburgh; As of fiscal year 2023

Station affiliation **NPR** **PBS** **Other**

Station	Location	Share %
WNEO Channel 45	Kent, Ohio	15.8%
WQED TV Channel 13	Pittsburgh	13.3%
WYSU 88.5 FM	Youngstown, Ohio	9.2%
WAPS 91.3 FM	Akron, Ohio	8.4%
WYEP 91.3 FM	Pittsburgh	7.5%
WQED FM 89.3 FM	Pittsburgh	0.7%

Data: CPB financial disclosures compiled by Alex Curley; Chart: Erin Davis / Axios Visuals

PITTSBURGH APPLAUSE
DOGE WATCH



“The Pitt” Gets Emmy 13 Nods

The acclaimed medical drama “The Pitt” has been nominated for thirteen Emy Award nominations.

With exteriors shot locally, “The Pitt” is set in the emergency room of a fictional Pittsburgh hospital. The series has been hailed by critics for its realistic portrayal of the challenges faced by healthcare workers.

The most important nominations are for best Drama Series and Best Actor in a Drama Series.

“It’s going to sound trite to say, but I’ve already reaped so many benefits from this show,” star Noah Wylie, in regard to his nomination, to [Deadline’s Lynette Rice](#). It’s been an answered prayer and beyond my expectation that even just being included in the conversation was enough for me. And sometimes you can win by losing, sometimes not being nominated. You can garner a lot of public sympathy and actually it’s better for the longevity of the area of your show. So I was very philosophical about it and thought, I’m happy with whatever comes our way.”

The statuettes will be presented on September 14. A complete list of nominees is available by [clicking here](#).

PG Strike (Almost) Over?

The seemingly never-ending strike at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* may be in its final stretch, [reports Ray Schultz for MediaPost](#).



Both management and the union have agreed to mediation. More or less. Schultz describes the relevant July 7 hearing as “contentious” and quoting the newspaper explaining that there remains “little common ground between the two parties” with the union charging the paper with using “delay tactics.”

Nevertheless, the striking staff are hopeful that the end is finally in sight. “I’m feeling...tired. Mad. Broke,” writer/editor Bob Batz Jr. told [Nieman Lab’s Sarah Scire](#). “But hanging in and hoping to end this thing.”

No date for the mediation was known at press time.



Sane Suit

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least a dozen other women have claimed they were also victims. Sane denied the claims a few days later in an Instagram post.

Both *Rolling Stone* and [Pitchfork](#) have reported that Judge Brenda K. Sannes granted a default judgment in Sarhadi’s favor because Sanes never responded to the lawsuit after it was filed. The judge “awarded Sarhadi \$1,170,800 in damages related to her claims of assault, battery, and sexual battery. She awarded Sarhadi a further \$750,000 in punitive damages.”

The other band members were originally a target of the suit, but Judge Sannes determined that the rest of Anti-Flag were not culpable in Sane’s actions.

Sane is living overseas, although where is unknown (he has dual US-Irish citizenship). There are also questions about his assets with regard to paying the awards.

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Schell Games Creation Aids Trauma Teams

A study recently published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) suggests that a locally created video game may help physicians' pattern recognition in trauma triage.

The goal of the study was to see if "exposure to an educational trauma triage video game" can help physicians make better (and faster) decisions during emergencies. To this make this possible, Dr. Deepika Mohan of the **University of Pittsburgh** partnered with **Schell Games** to develop "**Night Shift**." The company explains that the game "places physicians in the shoes of an emergency medicine doctor who is faced with personal and



professional issues to solve. The goal is for the game to challenge physicians' diagnostic heuristics and to help them re-evaluate how they think of the 'trauma' patient through emotionally engaging, scientifically accurate, and clinically accurate gameplay."

800 medical triage professionals from across the nation participated in the study. Each of them played "Night Shift" for two hours, simulating three shifts, between November 2023 and March 2024. The data was processed and the analysis posted online in 2025. The results suggest that specially designed video games "may serve as useful adjuncts to existing continuing medical education efforts."

The full report can be read by [clicking here](#).

Digi Deal

It took more than a year, but members at CBS News Digital have ratified their first union contract. The news was announced on July 30 by the **Writers Guild of America East**.

The union explains that the three-year contract "covers writers, reporters, editors, and producers at CBS News' digital platforms" [including, presumably, CBS Pittsburgh – ed.] while establishing "minimum salaries and guaranteed pay raises for all job titles."



Other stipulations involve remote work policies, paths for promotion and artificial intelligence. More information is available by [clicking here](#).

Possible Worlds Up For Award

A new role-playing game (RPG) created by Pittsburgh-based **Possible Worlds Games** has been nominated for an ENNIE.

Created in 2001, [the ENNIE Awards](#) are an annual fan-based celebration of excellence in tabletop roleplaying gaming.

That game is called "[The Details of Our Escape](#)" and, using a set of dominos, "players control a caravan of over 2000 people in search of a new home. What they're leaving and what kinds of strange & wonderful sights they encounter along their journey is up to you. Which groups continue all the way to the caravan's final destination,

however, is up to fate. Original short fiction and dual-color illustrations are included throughout."



Company founder Tyler Crumrine recently told [Matt Petras of Pittsburgh City Paper](#) about his theater background helped in developing the game. "[Working with the team was like] 'alright, you're the lighting designer, you're the director, you're the sound designer.' "

Crumrine credits the awards (the company has been honored in the past) in Possible Worlds' growth. "I've talked to a lot of the folks that stock our games," he tells Petras, "and the ENNIEs is a list that they go to when they're looking" for something new.



LAMP Wins Honor

A program administered through the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) has been honored with a national award.

That service is called Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP). It has been bestowed with the 2025 Library of the Year by a component of the **Library of Congress**.

LAMP has its roots in programs launched more than a century ago by the CLP and **the Free Library of Philadelphia** (FLP) to provide reading material to the visually impaired. What is now LAMP

serves more than 15,000 people across Pennsylvania.

“There has never been a more innovative time to work at LAMP,” explains administrator Mike Lee in a press release. “We’re fortunate to have a deeply creative staff and an engaged community of patrons who constantly push us forward.”

In addition to Braille-printed media, LAMP also offers digital downloads of audio and described video material.



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Five Young Writers Picked

Five writers have been selected by **City Theatre** as winners for this year's Young Playwrights Contest.

The contest received over 300 submissions from students in grades 7 to 12. The five winners will work with theater professionals to further develop their plays.



"These young writers captivated our literary committee with fearless storytelling and emotional depth, and their one-act plays offer unique perspectives of the world around us," City's Katie Trupiano is quoted by [On Stage Pittsburgh](#). "As we launch into our 26th year of producing youth voices, we are excited to continue to nurture these playwrights and provide a platform for their voices."

The polished works will be staged this October as part of the Young Playwrights Festival.



Channel Pittsburgh

SBG CFO

Narinder Sahai has been selected by **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) as the company's new executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Sahai has degrees from **Thapar University** in India and the **University of Michigan**. "I am honored to join Sinclair during such an exciting period of transformation and growth," he says in a press release. "Having worked across diverse industries --- from automotive and energy to consumer and technology --- I have a deep appreciation for companies that are successfully transforming themselves while maintaining strong operational discipline."

SBG owns two Pittsburgh television stations.

PMT News

With Mayor Ed Gainey and County Executive Sara Innamoro present, the next step in renovating a century-old

school for **Pittsburgh Musical**

Theater (PMT) began with a ceremonial smash.



Sharon Ebersson of On Stage Pittsburgh was among those attending the event and given a tour by PMT's Colleen Doyno. Read about it and check out some photos by [clicking here](#).

Images



CAPA celebrates its 45th anniversary (in part) with a specialty exhibit at Space Gallery. Learn more [here](#).



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Opportunities

Ever want to own a top-quality piano? **The Pittsburgh Opera** is holding a piano sale from August 21 to August 24. To learn more, [click here](#).

Local stations owned by **Audacy** are seeking on-air personalities along with other positions. You can access the [full list here](#).

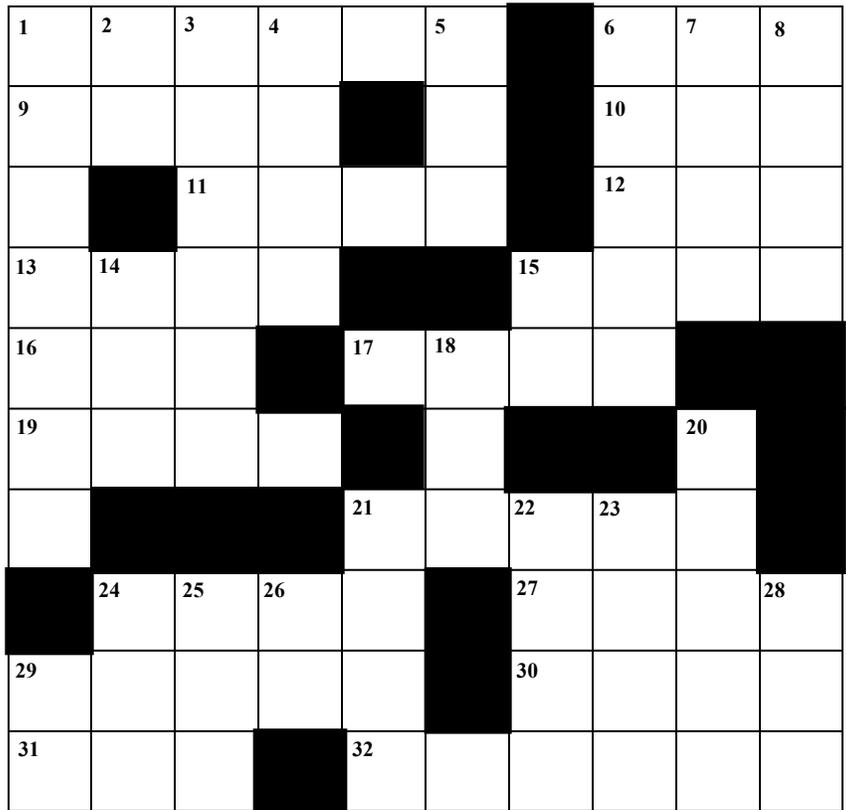
Submissions are being accepted by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** for its Envisioning A Just Pittsburgh project. Categories are open for writers, visual artists, performers and video creators. [Details here](#).

Applications are being accepted by **Shiftworks** for those interested in the Pittsburgh Creative Corps. [Information and forms here](#).



Across

1. Where much of the action in 1-Down occurs (with 32-Across)
6. See 18-Down
9. Heavenly instrument
10. Listening organ
11. The star of 1-Down (with 20-Down)
12. Reagan period, for example
13. Common complaint heard on 1-Down
15. Classic 1960's espionage TV show
16. Rocks, to a bartender
17. Old time pronoun
19. Exam
21. Role played by 11-Across
24. Mr. Strauss, to pals
27. Parisian plane place
29. Pandemic that still rocks 21-Across
30. Toe or finger follower
31. In debt
32. See 1-Across



Down

1. Current acclaimed TV show (and theme of this puzzle)
2. Dorm biggie, initially
3. Belonging to composer Roth
4. Word often heard between "once" and "a time"
5. Local location used for exterior shots (in brief)
6. German performance artist Jonathan
7. Older folks letters?
8. Common imaging tool used in 1-Down
14. Long standing bandage brand
15. That is, per Caesar
18. Where to see 1-Down (with 6-Across)
20. See 11-Across
21. Local redevelopment org.
22. Former capital of West Germany
23. Naughty kid
24. Not high
25. Adam's partner
26. Best selling author Keeland, to pals
28. New Haven legal journal, initially
29. Alternative to Inc or LLC

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