

## Troubled Post-Gazette Wins 3rd Pulitzer

Among the honorees of this year's prestigious Pulitzer Prize is **Block Communications'** *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



Block Communications, Inc.

The Pulitzer Prize was created in 1917 through the will of pioneering newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911). Administered by **Columbia University**, the prizes recognize achievements in journalism, literature and musical composition.

Citing its "immersive, compassionate coverage" of the Tree of Life shooting, the paper's entire staff was recognized in the Breaking News Reporting category. This is the paper's third Pulitzer. Read more at <https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/staff-pittsburgh-post-gazette>

Ironically, former *Post-Gazette* illustrator Rob Rogers was a finalist in the Editorial Cartoons categories. Rogers had been fired in 2018 for allegedly not conforming to the paper's increasingly conservative editorial page. (The award went to freelancer Darrin Bell for his work regarding President Trump and his administration).

The 223-year-old paper has been experiencing considerable backstage turmoil. It's union staff (the one cited in the prize) has been working without a contract since 2017 (there have been no raises in 13 years and some have concerns regarding the health insurance program). Several high-profile writers (such as film critic Barbara Vancheri) have left, often as part of a cost-cutting move. The situation is apparently centers on publisher John Robinson Block. The *Columbia Journalism Review's* Kim Lyons describes a February incident when "Block ranted about the union and former employees; threatened to 'get rid' of Michael Fuoco and Jonathan Silver, two guild leaders; and said

he might close the paper and 'burn the place down.'"

This situation has not been lost on observers. Andrew Conte, writing for NextPittsburgh.com, explains that "what makes this moment especially awkward for the *Post-Gazette* and its owners is that [award winning executive editor David] Shribman no longer works for the newspaper. He abruptly resigned less than two months after the shooting." Read Conte's full --- and informative --- commentary at <https://www.nextpittsburgh.com/features/on-media-pulitzer-prizes-bring-awkward-moments-for-post-gazettes-owners/>

See the entire April 15 announcement of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners by clicking the link below.



Below is a link to a WTAE-TV news report about the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's internal turmoil.



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## Stolen Bible Recovered

Another of the over 300 items stolen from the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) has been recovered, reports Daniel Uria for United Press International.



It was discovered in 2018 that library archivist Gregory M. Priore and rare book dealer John Schulman had been allegedly stealing items from the CLP's collection and selling them to people and institutions. [See [Pittsburgh Applause August 2018](#) - ed.]

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recovered a 404-year-

old Bible from the **American Pilgrim Museum** in Leiden, a city of 124,000 in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Similar Bibles were brought to North America on *The Mayflower*.

This is the eighteenth recovery. "Our history is precious, but it's not permanent," Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala told WESA-FM's Kathleen J. Davis. "The fact that we've recovered 18 books is a good thing, but 320 items were taken."

The Bible and other recovered material will be eventually returned to CLP.

## Opera Wins TV Award

A television production by Pittsburgh's lesser-known opera company has won an international award.



Founded in 1978 as the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and now called the **Pittsburgh Festival Opera**, the group stages a program each summer of operas, musicals, recitals and cabaret. The award comes from the **New York Festivals TV & Film Awards** organization, which honors content in all lengths and forms of television and film from over fifty countries.

The PFO has been honored for the WQED-TV's 2018 broadcast of the company's "A Gathering of Sons." This original work, commissioned by the PFO, deals with race and justice after a white police officer shoots a young black man.

You can watch the production in full by clicking <https://www.newyorkfestivals.com/winners/2019/pieces.php?iid=537420&pid=1>

## Tonys & The Burgh

Five graduates of **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) are up for Tony Awards, reports Mary Pickles for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.



These five alumnus are producer Jamie deRoy (class of 1967), costume designer Ann Roth (1953), sound designer Peter Hylenski (1997), lighting designer Peggy Eisenhower (1983) and actress Judith Light (1970).

"Every year, several of our alumni join the ranks of Broadway's best as Tony Award nominees, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments," Pickles quotes CMU President Farnam Jahanian.

Read the full article at <https://triblive.com/aande/theater-arts/5-cmu-grads-earn-tony-award-nominations/> The complete of nominations has been posted to <https://www.tonyawards.com/nominees/> The awards will be presented on June 9.

## Modine Challenges Carteris For President

Matthew Modine is challenging Gabrielle Carteris for the presidency of **SAG-AFTRA**, reports Deadline.com's David Robb.

**SAG-AFTRA**

The performers union has hundreds of members in the region and operates a full-time office in Downtown Pittsburgh. Carteris, best known for the television series "Beverly Hills 90210" (1990-2000) has been president since 2016. Modine's career is highlighted by films such as 1985's "Vision Quest" and 1988's "Married to the Mob."

According to Robb, the actor is part of a progressive group calling

themselves Membership First. This group opposed the 2012 merger between the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists (AFTRA).

Membership First's web site (<https://membershipfirst.com/>) states: "There are over 450 scripted television programs --- yet it's harder than ever for working actors to make a living or get pension and health credits --- because the contracts haven't kept up with the marketplace."

Robb writes that several prominent members are backing Modine, including three former SAG presidents.

Matthew Modine's campaign video (which makes a specific appeal to stunt performers) can be seen by clicking the link below.



The union has posted the following video to YouTube explaining the new commercials contract.



## New Netflix Series

Another **Netflix** series is being produced in Pittsburgh, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Rob Owen.

**NETFLIX**

The series is an adaptation of 2017 graphic novel *I Am Not Okay With This* written by Chuck Forsman. It's the story of Sydney, a seemingly normal fifteen-year-old girl. But Sydney is dealing challenges not normally faced by a high school student: the mysterious death of her father, the emer-

gence of telekinetic powers and her crush on another girl.

Netflix ordered the series last December according to Deadline.com's Nellie Andreeva [Read <https://deadline.com/2018/12/i-am-not-okay-with-this-graphic-novel-netflix-coming-of-age-series-jonathan-entwistle-shawn-levy-stranger-things-producers-1202518315/> - ed.] Owen broke the news of Pittsburgh's selection just as the April edition of *Pittsburgh Applause* was launching.

Shooting on the eight episodes is expected to start this summer.



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## ShowClix Douses Burning Man

Pittsburgh-based ticketing service ShowClix (owned by **Patron Technology** since 2017) admits to causing a "ticket meltdown," reports Billboard's Dave Brooks.



The situation involves the 2019 Burning Man art and music festival. The event began annually in 1986 as a bonfire ritual --- an 8-foot-tall wooden man was burned --- on San Francisco beach by a group of friends lead by artist and activist Larry Harvey (1948-2016). The festival grew over time, eventually relocating to the Nevada desert. It's now run by the non-profit **Burning Man Project** and attracts over 60,000 people

each year. The full history can be read at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burning\\_Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burning_Man)

ShowClix began offering online tickets on April 10. But serious glitches began appearing almost immediately starting a slew of social media complaints of a "Burning Man meltdown."

"We are profoundly disappointed that we did not perform in the way that the Burning Man community deserves and in the way we know we can," Brooks quotes ShowClix's Brian Arnone. A detailed explanation was posted on April 26 (read it: <https://blog.showclix.com/showclix-addresses-burning-mans-high-demand-main-sale/>)

Landing the prestigious Burning Man account was quite a coup for ShowClix. From 2014-2018, tickets were sold through the Ticketfly division of **Eventbrite**. The deal, explains Brooks, is part of the event's producers "to push back on social media influencers and Silicon Valley executives who funded elaborate luxury camps that seemed to go against the festival's" core principals.

This year's Burning Man is scheduled for August 25 to September 2. Read Brooks' full article at <https://www.billboard.com/articles/business/8508985/showclix-burning-man-ticket-meltdown-apology>

## Kennywood Owner May Be Sold

Reporting for the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, Tom Davidson writes that the owner of Kennywood has received a buyout offer.



Kennywood k first opened as a "trolley park" attraction at the end of the Monongahela Street Railway in 1899 on land leased from a family called Kenny. It was pur-

chased seven years later by a trio of partners and named it Kennywood. The current owner is the Spanish firm **Parques Reunidos**. A group led by a Swedish investment firm is offering \$703 million.

Read more at <https://triblive.com/local/regional/owner-of-kennywood-idlewild-sandcastle-courts-takeover-bid/>



## CLP Honors Supporters

Two individuals, one non-profit organization and a major corporate foundation were honored by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** on April 17.

A press release explains: "Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Advocate and Partner of the Year Awards were created as a way for Library board and staff to recognize the outstanding library advocacy efforts by community members and local organi-



zations." Nominees are put forward by staff and community organization with the board making the final decisions.

The honorees are education advocate Dr. Nosakhare Griffin-EL, high school student (and library volunteer) Jeremiah Fielder; the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** and **PNC Foundation**.

## Children's Museum Takes Over Former Library

The former North Side branch of the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** has now been repurposed for the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh**, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll.



Operating from 1890 to 2006, the architectural landmark was a vital community resource. A lighting strike caused serious damage and led the Carnegie to construct a new, more modern building. (The performance space continues to function as the New Hazlett Theater). After sitting vacant for over a decade, the museum stepped in. The former library is now a 47,000-square-foot museum extension called Museum Lab.

Read O'Driscoll's detailed article at <https://www.wesa.fm/post/childrens-museum-opens-museum-lab-older-kids-renovated-historic-library>

## GPAC Grants \$1000

A micro grant program of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) has announced its first recipient.

GREATER PITTSBURGH  
ARTS COUNCIL



Arts loud and clear

Launched in 2018, the Emergency Fund for Artists provides grants (of up to \$1000) to support individuals who have experienced career-threatening situations. Examples of such situations include a fire or an accident.

The first local artist to receive a grant is musician Nathan Zoob, who needed to replace stolen items related to his guitar. The

total cost of replacement is estimated at \$1,300 and GPAC is providing him with \$1,000.

"The Emergency Fund for Artists is a program we hope will become a legacy of support for the artists we serve," said Mitch Swain, CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council in a press release. More information on the fund is available at <http://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/programs/artist-services/emergency-fund>



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## New Spray Park Gets CMU Grad's Art

New public art will be unveiled at a city playground that has been re-imagined as a spray park.

Sometimes called a spray pool or a splash pad, a spray park is a recreational area that provides the fun of water without the costs or safety concerns associated with a public pool. Although spray parks have existed for decades, they have become more common in recent years.

Paulson Park (named after its street) is located in the city's Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar neighborhood. When Paulson reopens on May 18, it will be the city's eighth spray park. There are also improvements to the existing pool

house (the pool has been closed for over a decade), the installation of new play equipment and redesigned landscaping.

But the spray component and public art are the most visibly striking additions.

Anyone can enjoy the sprays, which are triggered by sensors for, what CitiParks' web site calls a "three-dimensional world of water." Will Schlough (<https://www.willschlough.com/>), a graduate of **Carnegie Mellon University** and an accomplished muralist, has created what a press release calls "a vibrant underwater

environment [that transforms] the pavement into an interactive play-space, incorporating themes of nature and encouraging children in active play. The mural will work together with the new park equipment and landscaping to create a colorful and lively atmosphere in the renovated park."

An existing sculpture, "Pipe Movement in Blue" --- created in 1970 by artist Josefa Filkosky (1933-1999) --- has been restored and installed at the park's entrance. More information is available by clicking <http://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases.html?id=2852>



## Images



*This is a painting of the Jones & Laughlin steel mill by Johanna K.W. Hailman (1871-1958) that is part of the "Monet and the Modern City" exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Art.*



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## Warhol Pics Posted Online

What are being called "intimate" photos of pop art pioneer and Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol are going to be posted online, reports Claire Selvin for Art-News.com.

From April 29 through May 11, the **Andy Warhol Foundation** will post dozens of image to Instagram with material drawn from an archive housed at **Stanford University**. "Donated by the foundation in 2014," Selvin writes, the archive "includes

130,000 photographic negatives and more than 3,600 contact sheets." Images are being posted daily with #IntimateAndy to <https://www.instagram.com/warholfoundation/?hl=en>

Candid shots of Warhol included the artist wearing a beanie and another of him working with a Polaroid instant camera. The entire archive can also be viewed online by clicking [http://cantorcollection.stanford.edu/IT\\_267?sid=838&x=121783&display=thu&x=121784](http://cantorcollection.stanford.edu/IT_267?sid=838&x=121783&display=thu&x=121784)

## Salem's Quiet Growth

They own three Pittsburgh-area radio stations and yet has been operating under the radar for years. But that may be changing as **Salem Media Group** grows, writes Jeremy Barr for the *Hollywood Reporter*.



Formed in 1972, Salem Media Group describes itself as targeting "audiences interested in Christian and family-themed content and conservative values." It was founded by Stuart Epperson (an alumnus of the controversial **Bob Jones University**) and his brother-in-law.

Barr reports that Salem's digital footprint has grown again thanks

to the March 2019 purchase of PJ Media for \$100,000. He compares the programming of the company's 116 radio stations to the Fox News Channel and is very pro-Donald Trump. This approach is readily defended by Salem's broadcast media president Dave Santrella who explains that their audience prefers "information through the lens of conservative politics." Santrella adds that "our experience has always been that any time we deviate from that, we lose listeners and we lose advertisers."

Read Jeremy Barr's full article at <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/salem-radio-is-quietly-becoming-a-conservative-media-giant-1204182>

## WGA's "Report Card"

The western half of the **Writers Guild of America** (WGA) has released a new "report card" on diversity among television writing staff. The results are not good.



A union press release explains that "the report card finds that systematic discrimination against writers from historically under-represented groups --- including women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, and people over age 50 --- remains pervasive in the hiring of television writers." Read the full report at [https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/the-guild/inclusion-and-equity/wgaw\\_inclusion\\_report.pdf](https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/the-guild/inclusion-and-equity/wgaw_inclusion_report.pdf)

In other news, on April 17, the union and a group of individual writers filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court arguing that talent agency packaging fees are illegal under both California and federal law.



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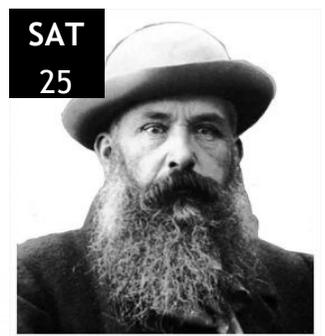


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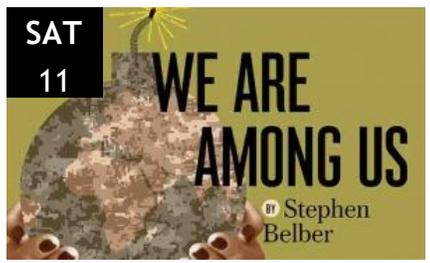
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SAT  
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**Memorial Day**  
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THU  
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**Mother's Day**

SUN  
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THU  
16



THU  
30

# Opportunities

The **Directors Guild of America** (DGA) has announced that the application period for the 25th Annual DGA Student Film Awards for African-American, Asian-American, Latino, and Women Directors is now open. The awards are designed to honor, encourage and bring attention to exceptional direction by diverse student filmmakers in film schools and select universities across the country. Details are available at <https://www.dga.org/News/PressReleases/2019/190424-DGA-Announces-25th-Annual-DGA-Student-Film-Awards.aspx>

Crew members are being sought for the streaming television adaptation of Chuck Forsman's graphic novel *I Am Not Okay With This*. Send your resume to [teenangst2019@gmail.com](mailto:teenangst2019@gmail.com)

**The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** is seeking teaching artists. Click <https://pittsburghkids.org/job/jobs>

Applications are now being accepted by **Decapital** for "radical projects." The maximum grant is \$1000. Learn more at <http://decapital.org/>

Open auditions for the **Pittsburgh Opera's** chorus are scheduled for May 7. Auditions are open to classically-trained singers in all voice categories who have completed at least one year of undergraduate vocal study, or equivalent. An accompanist will be provided. Auditions are by appointment only. To apply for an audition, applicants may submit a resume to Robert Boldin, Artistic Administrator at [rboldin@pittsburghopera.org](mailto:rboldin@pittsburghopera.org)

The non-profit organization **Cover 2.0** is accepting applications to their micro-grant (\$500) program. Details at <https://projectcover.org/>

KDKA-TV, owned by **CBS Corporation**, has a number of news positions open, including a producer, a director, a web producer and a photographer. Click <https://cbcorporation.jobs/jobs/?location=Pittsburgh%2C+PA>

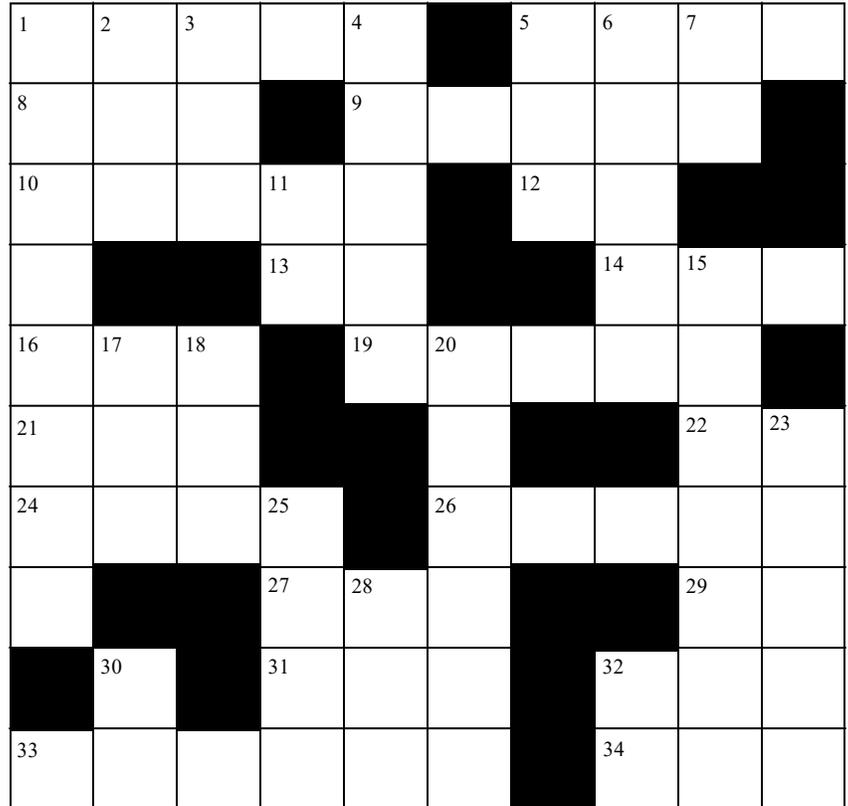


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## Across

1. See 33-Across
5. See 5-Down
8. Sports legend being honored at the August Wilson this month
9. Ancient Greek alphabet
10. Edit film again
12. Music formant, briefly
13. Singapore actor Jeffrey
14. Brit lang.
16. Choose
19. Part of an act
21. Lawrenceville cinema (with 23-Down)
22. Famous gay pornographer, initially
24. Frankenstein's right-hand man
26. "Major League" actress Rene
27. Be sick
29. Stage name for South Korean singer Lee Ji-eun
31. "Golly!" partner
32. Affirmative word
33. Subject of a new Carnegie Museum of Art exhibit (with 1-Across)
34. Vane direction



## Down

1. Title character for a play opening at the O'Reilly this month
2. Madrid cheer
3. Leomonheads guitarist, to pals
4. Title of a 2000-2002 sitcom (whose star appears at the Improv this month).
5. Pirates' home (with 5-Across)
6. "An Early Frost" actor Quinn, to pals
7. Coke and Pepsi competitor, briefly
11. Latin word for "wife"
15. Paperboys by another name (and the title of musical film *and* play)
17. Game piece popular in the 1990's
18. Duo number
20. Title of a 3D installation at this month's children's festival (if tripled)
23. See 21-Across
25. Popular brand of pasta sauce
28. Powerful letters in some war zones
30. Overhead railway, briefly
32. Common intro to "olde"

### Last Month's Solution

C	R	U	E	L		D	E	S	I
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