

# pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

## Local Music Icon B.E. Taylor Dies

One of Pittsburgh's most beloved musical artists, B. E. Taylor, died on August 7 from complications of an inoperative brain tumor. He was 65.

William Edward Taylor was born in Aliquippa on March 18, 1951. A life-long passion for music first took form while he was in high school and leading the band B.E. Taylor & the Establishment. Starting in the 1990s, Taylor became best known for a series of successful Christmas albums and their accompanying annual concerts. The Associated Press re-

ports that he was working on "B.E. Taylor Christmas 4" when he died.

"Nobody could sing like him," local booking agent Rich Engler told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Tony Raap. "He was exceptional. It's not too often that a guy comes along like him who could really belt it out."

Scott Mervis of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* has an article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/music/2016/08/08/Singer-B-E-Taylor-of-Vitamin-L-and-Christmas-Tour-fame-dies-at-65/stories/201608080099> in which he quotes several people close to Taylor offer their thoughts.

"All the superlatives have been said about his musicianship, but the guy that we knew, when he talked to you, he made you feel like you were the most important person in the room," fellow musician Hermie Granati told Mervis. "Very at ease and very comfortable being himself. There was a light emanating from Bill, and he pulled everyone into that light. He wore his faith on his sleeve and he lived it."

*Billboard* has posted a video clip of Taylor performing which is available at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/rock/7461948/be-taylor-dead>

Inside This Issue	
The PSO seeks a large RAD grant in budget crises	Page 2
Cultural Trust announces new security plan	Page 2
Lots of casting and jobs available	Page 4
Silver Eye Announces Fellowship apps	Page 5
Village Theater hires program chief from NYC	Page 5
Pittsburgh A&E Group	
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## Miller Sentencing Delayed

Torstein Ove reports in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that Abby Lee Miller, local dance instructor and star of the reality TV show "Dance Moms," has had her sentencing rescheduled.

"Dance Moms" debuted in 2011 on **A&E Networks'** Lifetime basic cable channel. It follows the early training and careers of children in dance and show business under Miller's tutelage.

Miller began having legal problems in 2014 when one of the "Dance Mom" dancers sued her for assault. The charges were later

dropped. The following year, Miller was charged with fraud for creating a secret bank account to hide some of her income. She could face up to five years in prison.

Her sentencing was originally scheduled for October 11 but has been moved to December 2, when she will also face a new judge.



## PSO Seeks \$1.5 Million From RAD

One of the region's leading cultural institutions, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO), continues to struggle with financial issues.



Mark Kanny of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* writes that the PSO's president has urged the

Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD) to provide a major grant because the symphony is at a "critical crossroad."

## Powdermill Grant

An impressive \$700,000 grant from the **Richard King Mellon Foundation** has been awarded to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

CARNEGIE MUSEUMS  
OF PITTSBURGH

Part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, the natural history museum operates an environmental research center called Powdermill.

A press release explains that "the grant will expand Powdermill's capacity as a center for research and education focused on the Appalachian ecosystem. The funding will provide two years of support for a series of research projects that will incorporate emerging technologies as tools for research and enhance the profile of Powdermill as the premier ecological research center in the region."

"Among the projects connecting modern technologies to studies of biodiversity is 'nanotag' radio

"Despite exceeding budget goals for the 2015-16 season in earned and contributed income," Kanny explains, "the orchestra will post a \$1.5 million deficit for the season ending Aug. 31." The PSO is asking RAD for \$1.4 million for operating and \$150,000 for capital expenses.

The PSO is facing a number of challenging issues. Among them is the approaching end of a contract with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust for the Broadway Series. The orchestra's pension will also need at least \$10 million over the next five years.

Kanny adds: "In documents submitted for its RAD application, the symphony projects a deficit of \$1.56 million for the upcoming 2016-17 season, with expenses of \$31.8 million and revenue of \$30.2 million. The projection includes receiving the full requested amount from RAD."

Read his full article at <http://triblive.com/aande/music/11052132-74/symphony-million-expenses>

## Trust's Security Measures

After studying security measures in other urban cultural centers, the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** is enacting new set of rules, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Marylyne Pitz.



Involving four key venues --- the Benedum, Byham, Cabaret and August Wilson Center --- the new

telemetry of migratory birds," the press release adds. "Tiny radio beacons are attached to birds and track their migration as they fly by special sensory towers. The towers log the tagged birds in a central database, allowing scientists to track birds from South America to Canada without recapturing the bird. According to Wenzel, only about one in a thousand of Powdermill's traditionally banded birds will be recaptured."

measures are designed to protect the roughly 2 million annual visitors to the Pittsburgh Cultural District.

"A guest cannot enter any of those venues with a bag that is larger than 16 by 16 by 8 inches," Pitz writes. "That policy covers purses, tote bags, duffels, suitcases, knapsacks, backpacks, briefcases, paper sacks, portfolio cases and equipment cases."

The developments of these policies were spearheaded by Kevin C. Wilkes, a former police detective who was hired by the Trust in May.

For details, read Pitz's full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2016/08/23/New-security-measures-at-Downtown-theaters-begin-Oct-1/stories/201608230018>



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## Opportunities Everywhere: A Special List

We have found various postings around the web (and elsewhere) for local arts/entertainment professionals and aspirants.

Please be aware that neither *Pittsburgh Applause* nor James A. Richards is endorsing anything or anyone here; it's being provided simply as reported information.

The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** will hold auditions in March 2017 for its two-year pre-professional program for young African American musicians, which is entering its 10th anniversary year in 2017.

Created in 2007, the program aims to prepare young African American musicians for careers in a professional orchestra. Fellows' time with the Pittsburgh Symphony will include practice time, education and community engagement opportunities, and audition training. The fellowship, awarded to one fellow every two years, includes an annual stipend, as well as additional payment toward health insurance, audition expenses and professional development.

Applications must be submitted on or before Friday, December 9. Auditions will be held March 7 at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. For more information, visit <http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/OTPAAM>.

There are still opportunities for local actors in the upcoming **Netflix** series

Co-produced by award winning actress Charlize Theron, "Mindhunters" is a period drama set in an unnamed city in 1979 starring Jonathan Groff (HBO's

"Looking") and Holt McCallany (currently seen in the film "Sully") as federal agents who solve murder cases with the help of imprisoned serial killers. Pittsburgh is substituting for the fictional "Metro Area".

For more information, click <http://mhccasting.wixsite.com/signuptoday>

The short film "Deal with It" is looking for a lead actor, ages 50 to 69 in what the producer calls a "dark, yet comedic" story of family dysfunction during the holidays. Details are available at <https://www.backstage.com/casting/deal-with-it-121039/>

Ohio-based audio/visual firm **ITA Inc.** is seeking a part-time technician for the Cranberry office.

The company specializes in providing services to conventions. An online posting says that the successful candidate "will setup, install and deliver ITA audio/visual products and services, professionally interact with client management and staff, maintain audio/visual inventory and perform administrative duties."

For more information, visit [www.ita.com](http://www.ita.com)

Financial services firm **United States Automobile Association** (USAA) is looking for current USAA members (and their families) to offer genuine customer testimonials for an upcoming television commercial.

Founded in 1922, USAA offers offering banking, investing, and insurance to people and families that serve, or served, in the United States military.

Participants will be paid. Send your contact information, a recent photo and a brief write-up of your experience with USAA (along with a unique NFL fan story; the spot will have a football theme) to: [usacasting2016@gmail.com](mailto:usacasting2016@gmail.com)

Principles needed to portray controversial historical characters in socially-conscious roles for ongoing projects.

Acting experience and ability to master serious dialog required. \$100.00 per diem. For more information, call James at (412) 804-8653.

Local event firm **Party On Entertainment** is seeking performers to be disc jockeys or hosts for various parties the company produces.

They are especially interested in someone with solid DJ skills. To learn more, visit <http://www.partyonpgh.com/employment.php>

Radio station WAMO-FM is looking for a music engineer.

Interested individuals should be comfortable "working with rappers, singers, and musicians of all types." The hour rate is between \$15 and \$20 per hour. For more information, call Lou Wingfield at (724) 719-8530.

Booking firm **Lime Entertainment** is seeking musicians interested in performing on cruise ships.

Contract length ranges from four to six months and includes flights, accommodations and health insurance as well as a monthly salary.

## Fellowship Applications

Submissions are now being accepted by the **Silver Eye Center for Photography** for their annual Fellowship International Photography Competition.

Now in its 17th year, Fellowship recognizes both rising talent and established photographers from all corners of the globe as well as Pennsylvania. This year's juror is Rebecca Senf, of the Norton Family Curator of Photography at the Phoenix Museum of Art.

"Award recipients will be selected by the juror on the basis of exceptional, distinctive talent as evidenced by the strength of their submitted portfolios," a press release explains. "The juror is especially interested in seeing portfolios with a strong narrative thrust and highly individual, original points of view."

Top prize includes \$3,000 in cash along with a solo exhibition at Silver Eye. The deadline for entries is October 31. For more information, click <http://silvereve.org/fellowship17/>

## Grants Available

Some modest art grant opportunities have been announced.

Pittsburgh-based medical software firm **Net Health** is seeking the first of what they are calling a "Corporate Artist Partner." This person will receive \$1,000 to create an original work that can be reproduced and use as awards to employees of note. Those interested need to send John Wolowiec ([jwolowiec@nethealth.com](mailto:jwolowiec@nethealth.com)) an artist resume, link to online portfolio, and a high level explanation of initial concept

Writers with children may apply for a \$6,000 grant from the **Sustainable Arts Foundation**, an organization that aims to assist parents in the creative fields. For details, click <http://www.aerogrammestudio.com/2016/08/11/grants-for-writers-and-artists-with-children/>

## New Theater Hires Programmer

A New York entertainment pro has been selected as programmer for the developing Tull Family Theater, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Sharon Ebersson.

### VILLAGE THEATER

Established in 2011, the **Village Theater Company** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating an art house movie theater in the suburb of Sewickley. Primary funding is coming from the **Tull Family Foundation**.

The theater is scheduled to open in early 2017. It will have two screening rooms and a multi-use space inside a 11,800-square-foot building.

Ebersson also reports that Village Theater has hired "Debbie Beck, a Mt. Lebanon resident and principal at DB Consulting LLC, as its chief financial officer, and named Hollywood-based Rival Creative as its marketing firm."

The company has posted details of these appointments online at <http://villagetheatercompany.com/blog-2/>



## Regional History Center's New Leaders

New trustees have been named to the board of the **Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center**.

In a press release, the center announced a new chair and other changes were announced. The most important being the appointment of a new chairwoman, Diane P. Holder, president and CEO at **UPMC Health Plan**. She was unanimously approved as the new chair of the History Center's board of trustees. Holder succeeds William Lambert, chairman, president and CEO at **Mine Safety Appliances (MSA)**, who served as chair of the History Center for the previous three years.

"The History Center has enjoyed unprecedented growth and is recognized as one of the region's top cultural institutions and a national model for history education," the press release quotes Lambert. "The museum's dedicated staff, led by President and CEO Andy Masich, continually produces award-winning work and makes our region proud as the Smithsonian's home in Pittsburgh. It's been an honor for me to lead such a talented and dedicated board over the past three years, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of the organization's future growth."

Holder has been a member of the board since 2013.

Several additional officers were named to the History Center's board of trustees, including Beverlynn Elliott, vice chair; Laura Ellsworth, vice chair; Alvaro Garcia-Tunon, treasurer; and Paul O'Neill, Jr., secretary. The History Center's board currently comprises 53 regional leaders.



## Daya's Debut

Local pop singer Grace "Daya" Tandon is dropping her first album on October 7, reports the *Pittsburg Tribune-Review*.

The album shares its name with the lead single, "Sit Still, Look Pretty." The teen vocalist released the single in June and has reached the Top 30 on the Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

MTV debuts the music video on September 9. Additional information at <http://triblive.com/aande/music/11056712-74/sept-album-pretty>



## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment



*A publicity photo of the late B.E. Taylor*

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)

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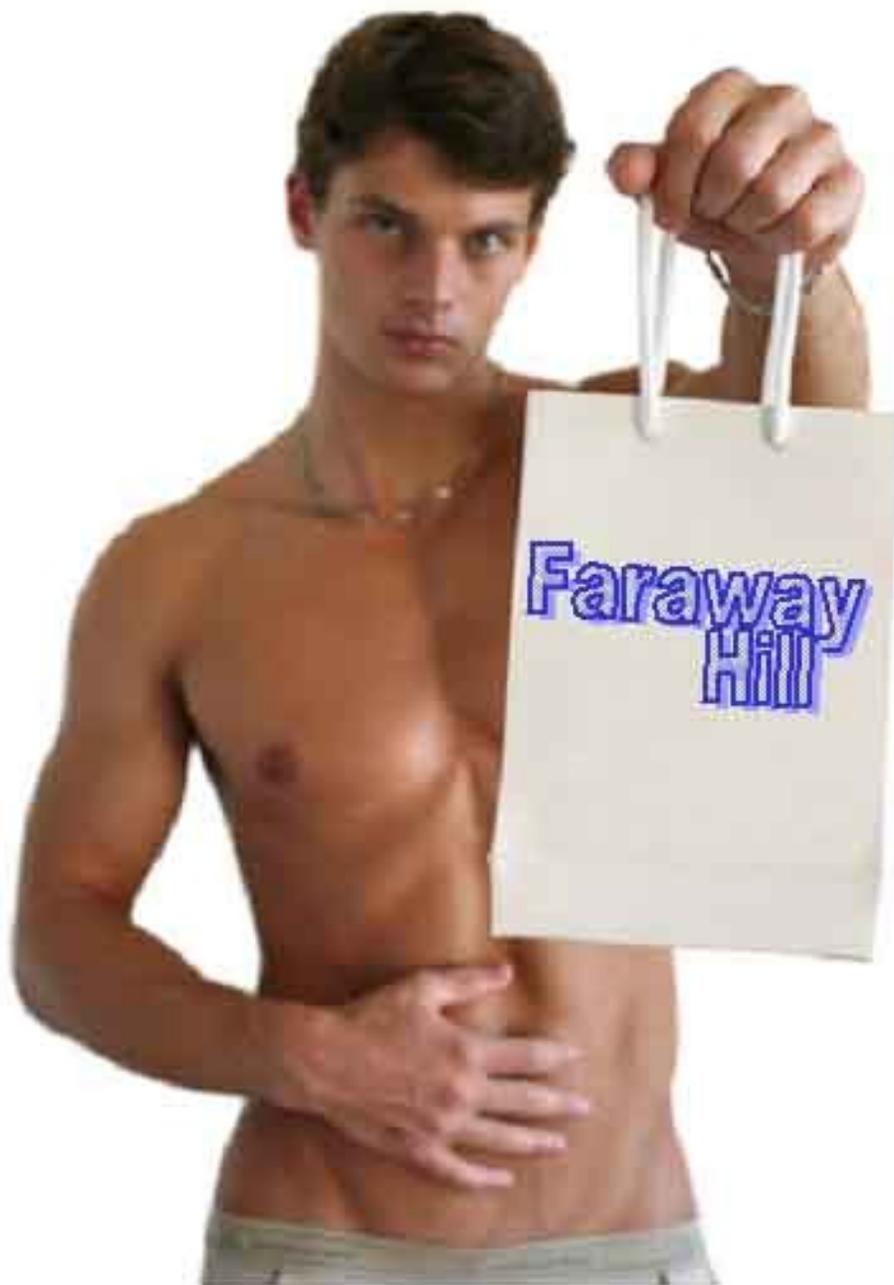
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## Oliveira Leaves WPXI

The news director at **Cox Enterprise's** WPXI-TV is leaving Pittsburgh to work at another Cox station, reports Maria Sciuлло in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



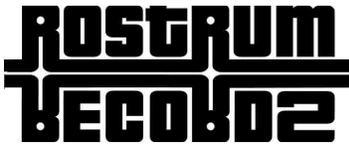
Mike Oliveira, who has been with the station since 2005, is moving to Boston to run the news room at WFXT-TV.

"It's a great opportunity," Sciuлло quotes Oliveira. "While I couldn't be more excited, I will miss this city and this station so much. I got to work with such great people and I'm so proud of what we were able to accomplish together."

Read the full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/tv-radio/2016/08/17/WPXI-News-Director-leaving-for-post-in-Boston/stories/201608170220>

## Rostrum Enters Into Deal

The one-time Pittsburgh label **Rostrum Records** has entered into a partnership agreement with Caroline, reports Dan Rys in *Billboard*.



Rostrum Records was founded in Pittsburgh in 2003 by Benjy Grinberg. He is best known for promoting the career of Pittsburgh rapper Cameron "Wiz Khalifa" Thomaz. The company is now based in Los Angeles.

Rys points out that "Rostrum becomes the latest label to partner with Caroline following the appointment of Piero Giramonti and Jacqueline Saturn as co-general managers in December. Photo Finish Records and the Fader label have also come aboard in recent months."

He also quotes a statement by Rostrum founder Benjy Grinberg

as saying that "[Giramonti and Saturn] are continuing to build an amazing team and we're looking forward to launching our new artists and growing our label with them."

Read the full article at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/business/7469501/rostrum-records-partners-caroline-three-new-signings>

## New Tax

Pennsylvania is the latest state to tax certain streaming services, writes Andrew Flanagan in *Billboard*.

The 6% tax is applied to most streaming and downloading services such as **Spotify**. Its goal is to help address a \$1.3 billion budget gap.

Exempt are digital versions of newspapers, magazine and the Bible. Details of this and other tax matters can be downloaded by clicking <http://>

## Retrans Deal

A new, multi-year retransmission agreement has been reached between the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** and **Comcast**.



In Pittsburgh, Sinclair owns two television stations while Comcast operates the city's cable television franchise.

However, details are being held

"We are pleased to announce that we were able to come to an agreement with Comcast, the largest cable provider in the country," Sinclair's Barry Faber says in a press release. "While we are not permitted to disclose the financial terms of the new agreement, we are pleased with the value received, which reflects the importance of our programming to Comcast subscribers."

In separate news, Sinclair has reached a new affiliation agreement with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox's flagship television network. One of the company's Pittsburgh stations is a Fox affiliate.

[www.revenue.pa.gov/GeneralTaxInformation/TaxLawPoliciesBulletinsNotices/Documents/State%20Tax%20Summary/2016\\_tax\\_summary.pdf](http://www.revenue.pa.gov/GeneralTaxInformation/TaxLawPoliciesBulletinsNotices/Documents/State%20Tax%20Summary/2016_tax_summary.pdf)

"Pennsylvania joins several other states in enacting the tax," reports Flanagan, who also points out that "varying definitions of what constitutes a digital good leaves some room for legal challenges to emerge over whether streaming services are included or exempt from the rules."

**TUE**  
**6**

May God save the Queen: Britsburgh starts tonight!

# BRITSBURGH



**FRI**  
**9**

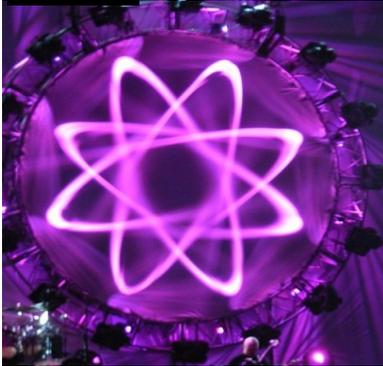
What's old can be new again, as the Re: New Festival proves.

# RE: NEW

FESTIVAL

**TUE**  
**13**

Stunning visual effects add to the amazing music of the Australian Pink Floyd Show.



**FRI**  
**16**

Another of Pittsburgh's great film festivals returns for another year of sterling cinema



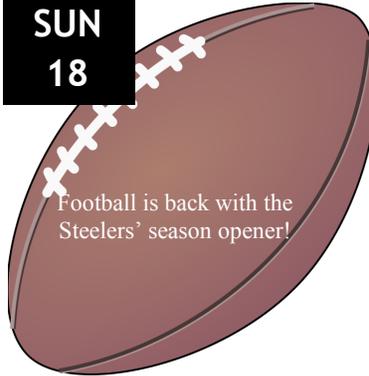
**FRI**  
**16**

Embrace the Weird — Weird AI, that is!



**SUN**  
**18**

Football is back with the Steelers' season opener!



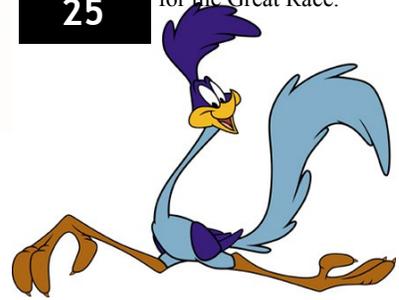
**TUE**  
**20**

There's nothing like sexy footwear for saving the day as the musical "Kinky Boots" reminds us!



**SEN**  
**25**

Beep! Beep! Limber up for the Great Race.



**THU**  
**22**

"The Toxic Avenger" proves that nothing make a man a hero better than green slime.



**THU**  
**29**

Try to remember the first time you saw "The Fantasticks" and you'll rush to see it again.



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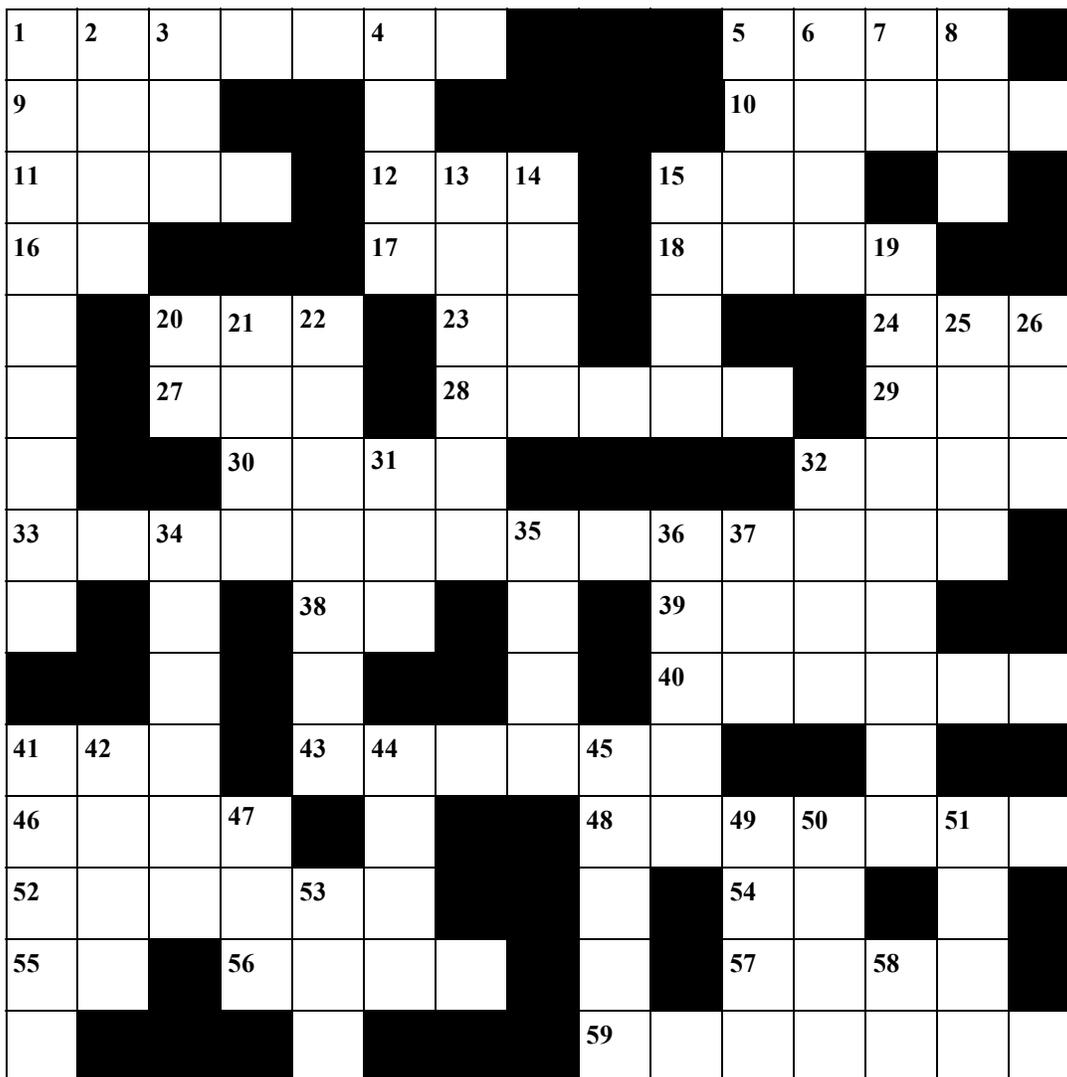
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## “British Pittsburgh”



### ACROSS

1. See 34-Down
2. Brit who named Pittsburgh (with 10-Down)
9. Percussion instrument for hula dancing
10. Bird-related
11. Big, brass horn
12. CIO's partner
15. Sony's stock symbol
16. "Mr. Robot" star (init.)
17. Egg
18. See 22-Down
20. Excitement expression
23. Dorm boss, briefly
24. Really big shoe size
27. Actress Dolenz, to pals
28. Salt water solution
29. "Alas!"
30. Soothing substance
32. Chain component
33. Brit author who visited Pittsburgh 1842
39. Bell tolled
40. See 5-Down

41. Broadcast
43. Wetland
46. The first one is the hardest
48. English water expanse
52. Put to sleep, in a way
54. Commentator Cupp
55. Type of type measurement
56. Penny
57. It wags well
59. Brits who "invaded" US

### DOWN

1. Brit filmmaker who thrilled US audiences
2. Breathed comic strip
3. Brit place for a pint
4. Close by
5. *Little Women* lady (with 40-Across)
6. Baking appliance
7. State that borders nothing but ocean (abbr.)
8. Pester
13. See 5-Across
14. Legendary Brit king

15. Rotate
19. Estate in Sewickley with English garden
20. State above OR
21. Actor Epps, to pals
22. Top early Pittsburgher (with 18-Across)
25. Many, many years
26. Cartoon shriek
31. Anglo-Saxon pub.
32. Camera need
34. Architect of Hartwood's manor (with 1-Across)
35. Famed girl explorer
36. Collision
37. District in 7-Down
41. Like real estate
42. Part of a list
44. Sign of doom
45. Clean hard
47. Politics: Super \_\_\_
49. Nick & Nora's pooch
50. Orderly
51. *Vogue* competitor
53. Brit drink
58. State south of WI

### Last Month's Solution

B	R	I	C	O	L	A	G	E		S	P	A							
E	E	L		R	E	N	A		T	R	E	E		T					
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For more information, contact Jim at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)



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