

Local Rapper's Conviction Upheld

In an unanimous decision, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of Pittsburgh rapper Jamal Knox.

The situation began in 2012 when Knox was stopped at an East Liberty intersection by two Pittsburgh Police officers and admitted that he didn't have a valid driver's license. This led to a car chase that ended with damages to a fence and a parked car. The officers searched Knox's vehicle and found bags of heroin, a stolen firearm and \$1,500 in cash. Not long after, using his stage name Mayhem Mal, he composed and videotaped a song that someone posted to YouTube (Knox's lawyers deny that he uploaded it) that names the two officers and includes the lyric "let's kill these cops, 'cause they do us no good."

A lower court judge convicted Knox to a prison sentence of up to six years for witness tampering and terroristic threats as well as the drug charges. He was released on parole in December 2016.

In his appeal, Knox claimed that it was a general anti-police song and is thus protected speech. The PA Supreme Court disagreed. "The calling out by name of two officers involved in [Knox's] criminal cases who were scheduled to testify against him," wrote the Chief Justice, "and the clear expression repeated in various ways that these officers are being selectively targeted in response to prior

interactions with [Knox], stand in conflict with the contention that the song was meant to be understood as fiction."

At press time, *Pittsburgh Applause* had no information on whether Knox will file an appeal to the United States Supreme Court.



Tribune Calls Off Sinclair Buyout Plans

It became official on August 9: the proposed purchase of **Tribune Media Company** by **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) is cancelled.



Sinclair owns two television stations in Pittsburgh. The company is controlled by the family of founder Julian Sinclair Smith (1920-1993) who have faced criticism for using SBG's stations to promote conservative positions. This, along with general concerns over media consolidation, made the merger controversial. If the buyout occurred, SBG stations would have been available in 72% of American homes.

Opposition to the combination grew steadily after it was announced on May 8, 2017.

The complicated plan also raised concerns with federal regulators when it became clear that, to comply with ownership rules, SBG would sell select stations to companies connect with Sinclair.

Eventually, the inability to get regulatory approval killed the deal. A breakdown of events is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attempted_acquisition_of_Tribune_Media_by_Sinclair_Broadcast_Group

Among those happy with the collapse is the Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association**. The organization issued a state-

ment August 9 praising Tribune's decision as "great news for consumers who will avoid paying the higher pay-TV rates the deal would have caused. It is especially great news for those consumers served by smaller video providers that have been victimized in the past by outrageous retransmission consent fee hikes and scurrilous signal blackouts by large corporate broadcasters."

Tribune has filed a \$1 billion breach of contract suit against Sinclair for alleged losses.

Censorship & Race Controversy @ Arsenal

There has been continuing fallout since bowling alley/party venue **Arsenal Lanes** fired one of their disc jockeys (DJs).

On August 19, part-time DJ Peter Guellard posted a photo to his Facebook profile [which seems to have been deleted - ed.] of a sign displayed at Arsenal instructing DJs to not play any rap or hip-hop songs. It soon spread among many local social media users, reports *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz, with most charging racism.

Two days later, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll, husband-and-wife DJs Dan and Tara Kirkman resigned.

"I can totally understand if the note said, 'No explicit lyrics' or 'Play Rock'n'Roll music,' which is supposed to be the theme," Guellard told Charlie Deitch of PittsburghCurrent.com. "But I think the picture of the note that I posted stinks of racism. I also felt very uncomfortable explaining to people who were requesting hip hop that the owners don't want me to play it."

In her article [<https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/arsenal-bowl-in-hot-water-after-alleged-poster-banning-rap-circulates-on-social-media/Content?oid=10160463>], Waltz quotes an unnamed Arsenal employee: "There's a lot of things on Facebook that's not true. Somebody could have made up a picture. I don't know. But what you're telling me [about the ban] is not true."

However, Deitch writes that "Arsenal Bowl owner Paul Buncher told the Current that he recently 'leaned' on his managers after receiving continued complaints about adult language in the lyrics of some music played at the establishment." [<https://pittsburghcurrent.com/hip-hop-ban/>]

The venue has also released the following statement: "Our goal is to create a warm and welcoming environment for all customers, and we have zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind. Our entertainment is intended to capture the fun from the heyday of the classic rock bowling era. With that in mind, we generally focus on rock and roll music and closely related genres. We are looking into this specific situation now to confirm exactly what occurred, but moving forward, we'll strive to ensure that any communication to DJs focuses on what the evening's bowling experience should include instead of exclude."

Tara Kirkman conceded to O'Driscoll that the owners are probably just trying to avoid music with offensive language [<http://www.wesa.fm/post/djs-firing-over-apparent-ban-hip-hop-lawrenceville-bowling-alley-sparks-protest>]. "That was my understanding what they didn't want there, but they framed it by saying, 'no hip hop or rap'".

Guellard stands by what he saw and posted to the web. "[The sign] has their logo, it has their name. If they wanted the DJs to not play

music with explicit lyrics they should have said that and there wouldn't be a problem. Also, if there was a theme music for the place, all they could have said was just play rock n' roll music from the 1950s, I would be totally fine with that. But apparently they want to make it known that they don't like music that is mostly identified with African Americans."

Rapper Miller Charged

Pittsburgh rapper Malcolm "Mac Miller" McCormick has been officially charged by the Los Angeles Attorney's Office for driving under the influence (DUI).

Celebrity news site TMZ broke the news on August 21 and the story was picked-up by *Billboard* and other media.

Miller was arrested and booked on May 17 when authorities found his Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon had crashed into a power pole. He confessed when officers arrived at his LA residence and taken into custody. A breathalyzer test revealed that the rapper had twice the legal alcohol limit. Miller was released on \$15,000 bail.

TMZ speculates that, as a first time offender, Miller will likely face a fine and community service.

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SAG-AFTRA Members Ratify New Deal

As expected, the members of performers' union **SAG-AFTRA** (which has a full-time office in Pittsburgh) have voted overwhelmingly to ratify the 2018 SAG-AFTRA National Code for Network Television Broadcasting.



The vote was 93% in favor.

"I am gratified by our members' vote of approval for this agreement. SAG-AFTRA members working in this area will benefit from stronger protections and meaningful increases in wages and residuals rates," said SAG-

AFTRA President Gabrielle Carteris in a press release.

In other news, the union has been investigating claims by some firms who may be falsely presenting themselves as performers' representatives. "This investigation confirmed widespread evidence of companies providing 'signatory services' for a fee and falsely representing that they are the employer of performers on commercials," SAG-AFTRA reports.

As punishment, the union has revoked the signatory status of **Executive Media Services** and is reviewing the status of at least four other companies.

At their annual meeting, the local chapter of SAG-AFTRA focused on successful auditioning skills. Read the article, which was first published in the Local's newsletter, at <https://www.sagaftra.org/commercials-and-art-audition-etiquette>

Art Chosen For Park

A local artist collective comprised of Oreen Cohen, Olivia Kissel and Alison Zapata has been selected to create a public art piece for Wightman Park.

The collective, called **OOA Designs**, creates steel structures that embrace color, form and nature.

Wightman Park is located in the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. It is about to undergo a complete renovation as explained at <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/wightmanparkproject/>

OOA's proposed work (pictured with the press release at <http://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases.html?id=2167>) will use organic forms and designs influenced by nature --- everything from cell structure to waterfalls.

The redevelopment project is currently at the design development stage.

Bloomberg's Largesse

Billionaire media mogul Michael Bloomberg's philanthropic organization is donating millions to 38 Pittsburgh arts organizations, reports Claire Selvin for *Art News*.



Headquartered in Manhattan, **Bloomberg Philanthropies** focuses its resources on five areas: the environment, public health, the arts, government innovation and education. It is currently ranked as the nation's 12th largest foundation by the **Foundation Center**.

In a program called Arts Innovation & Management, the foundation provides

"unrestricted general operating support as well as arts management training in areas that include fundraising, strategic planning, marketing and board development" (per a press release). Bloomberg Philanthropies has posted an information video at <https://youtu.be/4KJy8DgjRDg>

A total of \$43 million is being distributed to organizations in Pittsburgh and other cities. See the complete list of Pittsburgh recipients by clicking <https://aim.bloomberg.org/grantees/#pittsburgh>

ShowClix Goes Down Under

Pittsburgh-based ticketing service ShowClix has announced an exclusive partnership with the Australian firm **Audiencetools**.

Audiencetools is an event marketing platform designed to assist venues, promoters and event organizers with boosting their viral exposure and social reach. Covering everything from social media integration to incentivized promotion, Audiencetools makes it easy for organizers to set up campaigns and measure their success. ShowClix is owned by **Patron Technology**.

“We’re thrilled to bring Audiencetools to our event partners,” said Amy Mrazek, Director of Marketing at ShowClix, in a press release. “It’s going to help them maximize ticket sales by utilizing word-of-mouth advertising from their most loyal customers. This integration aligns with our continued efforts to expand our system’s marketing functionality and services.”

In other news, Patron has acquired experiential marketing technology firm Thuzi.



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Church Sex Abuse Victims Include KDKA Alum

It should be no surprise that the shocking revelations of child abuse by Pittsburgh-area priests would touch on every segment of the community. Among these is the media community.

Former KDKA-TV reporter Mary Robb Jackson has come out publicly as one of these victims --- a list that also includes her sister. The culprit was Rev. Lawrence O'Connell (who died in 1986) of St. Gabriel Church of the Sorrowful Virgin.

Her interview with the Associated Press was published online by WESA-FM at <http://www.wesa.fm/post/former-kdka-reporter-sister-just-one-example-how-predator-priests-targeted-siblings>.



ACA Board Elections

The Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association** (ACA) has announced that its sitting leaders have been re-elected to the board.



The ACA represents cable television system operators in mid- and small market. Robert Gessner continues as ACA Chairman and Patricia Jo Boyers as Vice Chairwoman.

Gassner is the president of **Massillon Cable Television** (MCT), which provides services in a collection of small Ohio towns about 50 miles south of Cleveland.

Boyers is president of **BOY-COM**, the cable provider for the small Missouri town of Poplar Bluff.

ACA's Board elections were announced July 30 in Anaheim, California, at the annual ACA Members' meeting.



Images



Pictured are the winners of this year's Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Teen Media Awards.

Carnegie Teen Media Awards

Hundred teens gathered at the Carnegie Lecture Hall on August 11 for the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's** annual Teen Media Awards.

The Teen Media Awards recognize accomplishments among youth in film, photography, music, creative writing, digital design and fashion.



grams are playing in capturing the creativity of teens in intriguing ways that support their overall education and future career development," says Kristin Morgan, Digital Learning Lead Librarian at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in a press release, "The teens not only can grow their skills but also engage with mentors and peers in learning and making. The Teen Media Awards serve as a platform for celebrating teens and their original content."

"We are proud of the ever-growing role the Library's pro-

First place winners in each category received \$250 and second

place winners received \$100. For the complete list, click https://www.carnegielibrary.org/clp_press_release/2018-carnegie-library-teen-media-awards-recognize-broad-range-of-creative-work/

WIFM Workshops

The local chapter of **Women in Film & Media** (WIFM) is presenting two programs for crew and actors.



Both will be held at Pittsburgh Technical College in Oakdale on October 14. The first, at 10:00 a.m., addresses on-set etiquette; the second at 1:00 p.m. focuses on auditioning and promoting your acting career.

Details are available at <http://www.wifmpit.org/>

Kaminski Talks PPT Future

The new artistic director of the **Pittsburgh Public Theater** recently spoke to *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz about her plans.

Marya Sea Kaminski succeeds the retiring Ted Pappas, who served the company for nearly two decades.



think we have to ask that question at every level, from programming and the stories that people want to hear, to the tickets and the box office, to the online experience."

The full interview can be read at <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/new-pittsburgh-public-theater-director-hopes-to-bring-inclusivity-twists-on-tradition-to-theater-season/Content?oid=10164565>

In the interview, Kaminski talks about overcoming barriers to reach new audiences and provide a voice for underserved groups. "One of the biggest barriers in regional theater to me is the sense of elitism. That it's for some, not all. How do we make people feel welcome and comfortable, like it's easy for them to get in here? I



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PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FIRSTS

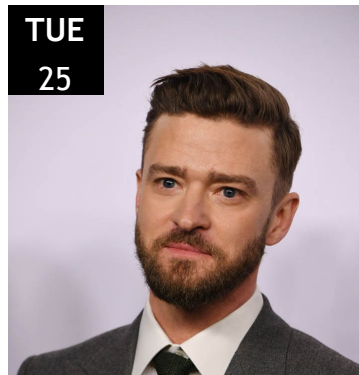
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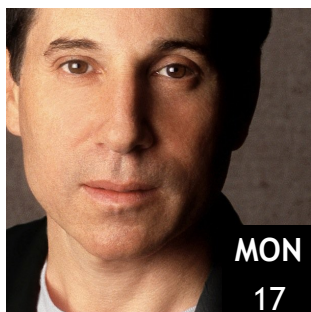
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TUE
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MON
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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

THU
27



SAT
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Opportunities

New York-based artist Rashaad Newsome will make his Pittsburgh debut in December with a staging of his "Shade Compositions." Presented throughout the country, each production uses local performers and artists. Auditions will be held in November. Details are available by clicking <https://press.warhol.org/press/call-for-performers-for-rashaad-newsome-shade-compositions/>

A casting session for **SAG-AFTRA** members for **Point Park University** student productions is schedule for Saturday, September 8, 10:00 a.m. to Noon. For more information, contact mcmaruc@pointpark.edu

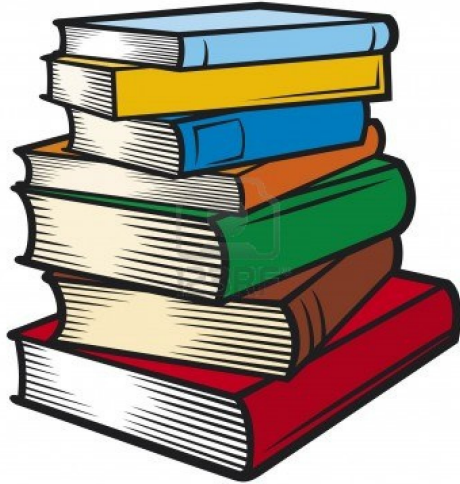
A part-time position is open at **City Theatre** for the company's first Audience & Community Engagement Coordinator. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to represent City Theatre at events with community partners, discussing current programming and helping to facilitate greater interaction between the theatre and its patrons, neighbors and various collaborators. Details at <http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/inside-city/auditions-and-employment/>

Programming, curatorial and other job openings are currently available at one or more of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**. These include a collection manager at the Natural History Museum and a curator at the Museum of Art. See the full list at <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

As of August 30, the **Pittsburgh Film Office** has both paid and unpaid cast openings, including for a female voiceover, at <https://www.pghfilm.org/for-crew-and-talent/casting-notice/>




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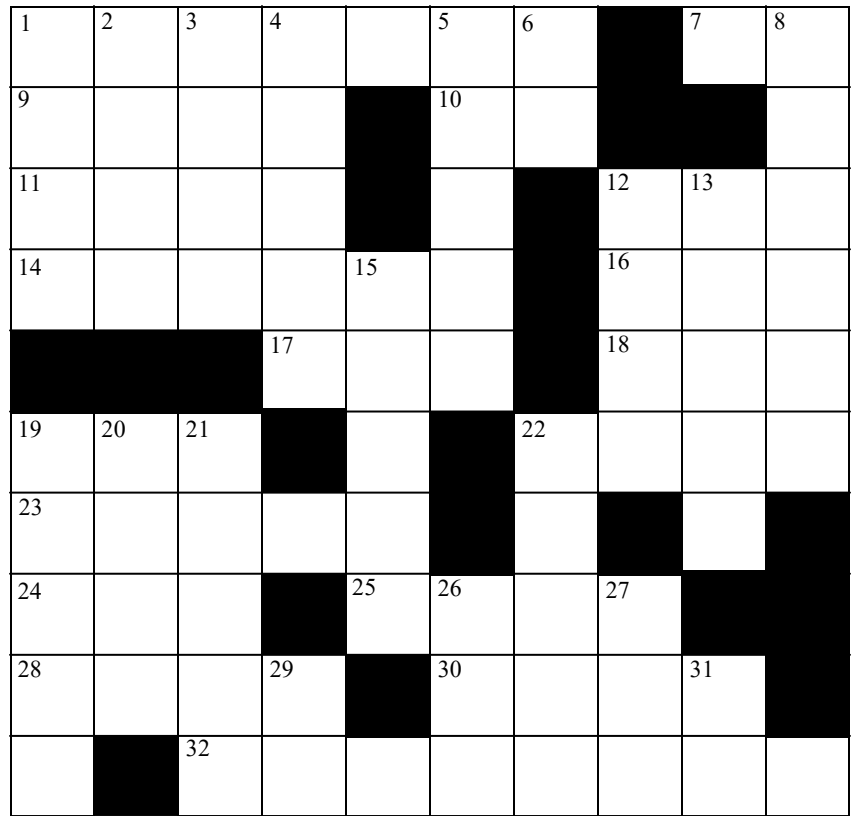
Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

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

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Across

1. Part one of a famous Pittsburgh question
7. Home of the Whooper, briefly
9. Between happily and after
10. International energy giant, briefly
11. Building overhang
12. Author Capote, to pals
- 14 Earth, Mars or Vulcan
16. Affirmative response
17. “___ the season”
- 18 Julia Sweeney’s androgynous alter ego
19. Ryan Gosling’s are famous
22. Part two of a famous Pittsburgh question
23. Perpetual Coke competitor
24. West Bank group, briefly
25. A bakery’s allure?
28. Nation next to Thailand
30. Part of an agenda
32. Third and final part of a Pittsburgh question



Down

1. Cry
2. The shape of a famous DC office
3. Famous Russian river
4. Site of a famous 1545 Council
5. Short. posthumous bios
6. Down, flipped
8. Bart’s favorite funny man
12. Use a keyboard
13. Units of paper
15. Old MacDonalD’s musical vowels
19. Its often red and delicious
20. Mr. Lugosi, to pals
21. The dish ran away with it
22. “Hazel” star Shirley
26. Archeologist’s work site
27. CSA soldier, briefly
29. NW flipped
31. Cop code for a bad guy’s pattern

Last Month’s Solution

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I	D	E	A	L			A	C	E
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