



# The GA-ZETTE

FALL 2023

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

VOLUME 24



## Lighting the Way to 2024

See page 10 for a fun guide to Pittsburgh!

*2023 Holiday*

*Edition*

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# Campus Update:

## Prepared Students and Important Conversations

**Melanie McGinniss**  
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Reflecting on 2023 before preparing for 2024, Interim Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Megan Nagel, maintains pride in the progress and success seen from all the students, staff and faculty at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA).

“We have really revamped the internship processes,” Nagel said. With collective efforts from the fall semester, students have been placed in locally, nationally and internationally-recognizable internships.

“What we really put a concerted effort on is the preparation,” Nagel said. “Students know all of the tools. They have a very strong resume, they have interviewing skills, they know how to reach out.”

Nagel recognized that the success from these students is a “huge growth opportunity” for future students and the campus, as a whole. All of the new connections from internship sites have developed into relationships where they now reach out to the campus for interns instead.

“My long-term vision would be that students are having job shadow-



*Summer and fall 2023 interns and their advisors at the Inaugural Internship Showcase Presentation and Breakfast on Dec. 8.*

*(Photos Courtesy: Nick Trunzo)*

ing and real-world projects infused into their coursework so that you’re getting the ‘flavor’ of an internship much earlier,” Nagel said. Being able to apply what is learned can show students why they are learning what is taught in class. Recognizing the applicability makes the learning feel more meaningful and helps to motivate students.

After much well-thought planning, the campus would also want to know how successful its student success initiative has been. “We have developed a clear definition of how we’re going to measure success,” Nagel said.

She shared that the campus has been collecting data of first-year students to create a campus “report card” that will show “how are we doing?”

“We’re looking at career planning and academic data and student engagement data,” Nagel said.

She envisions a town hall meeting with the campus student success team, to look at the data in early 2024 and open a discussion for plans or changes.

She also hopes to have students included in the conversation. “Students might be defining success for themselves differently,” Nagel said.

The town hall meeting could act as a starting point to bridge how students and the campus are seeing success. Regarding student engagement, the Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer (CAO) candidate sessions that were open to students this fall seemed to lack exactly that. At the most, five students attended one of the three sessions.

From the end of October to the first week of November, the PSUGA campus began the election for a permanent placement for chancellor and CAO. That was just one open role on campus to which students were invited to participate.

“We’re currently in a search for a director of student affairs,” Nagel said. She believes that the reason for a lack of engagement by students in more official meetings like these could be a result of not having a full staff in that department.

Normally, the student affairs department gives students a bit of a push to attend important events like faculty elections. Having a full department is important “because they really are keeping their hand on the pulse of students and understanding where they are and who should be attending which things,” Nagel said.

Participating and engaging in these sorts of events can not only act as a vehicle for more student influence on campus life, but also for bigger community discussions. While faculty and staff can encourage students to have conversations, Nagel said that students need to take the lead on this.

“We can throw out what we think is a compelling topic and if students aren’t interested it’s not going to be a very good conversation.” In order for any campus to move forward, the voices of students are needed, she added.



# Student Vandalism Costing the Campus

## Respecting the Dorm Environment

**Noah Hill**  
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McKeesport Hall is the only area for students who want to live on campus at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) for the fall and spring semesters. With this being said, the students who live there have raised concerns about the condition of the dorms.

For many, the dissatisfaction comes from a lack of enforcement of many policies in the dorm. Penn State Greater Allegheny is a dry campus, so the use of substances like drugs and alcohol is prohibited from being on campus. Despite these policies, several students complain about the use of these.

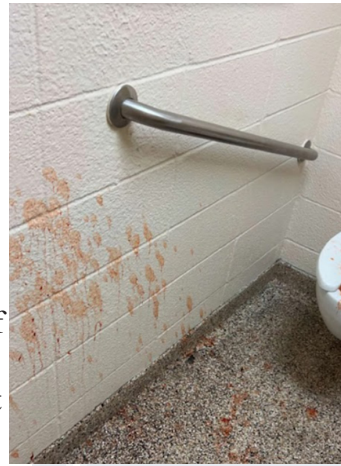
“There is a constant smell of weed all over the dorms,” said Tyler Ferderer, a third year

information sciences and technology (IST) major. These concerns make the idea of a stricter punishment system seem in order, as not only are people upset with the use of substances in the dorms, but also the lack of people cleaning up after themselves is an issue that hasn’t been fixed.

Multiple students have said the hallways and communal bathrooms are constantly filled with trash and are overall unsanitary.

This past fall semester, from Sept. 13 to 15, the men’s bathroom on the second floor was out of commission for two days, for reasons that weren’t specifically disclosed.

Peter Long, who was a campus resident coordinator at the time, mentioned some incidents as well, saying that “someone or a group of people used the leftover cupcakes from a



**Communal bathrooms left in unsanitary conditions by students.**

program and smeared them throughout the stairwell and second floor.” Long also made the claim that “There has been some evidence that suggests some students have been drinking in the hall.”

While this may not address the use of marijuana, alcohol is another banned substance in the dorms, whether a student is of legal drinking age or not. This is only one of the major complaints about the building.

McKay Ross, a second year business major, said, “The dorms are basic and feel like jail cells...I don’t like how the outlets barely worked on the first week, so I couldn’t even plug in fans to cool down.”

Director of Housing and Food Services, Gage Shaffer, raised concern over fixing damages made by students. Early in November, he said he

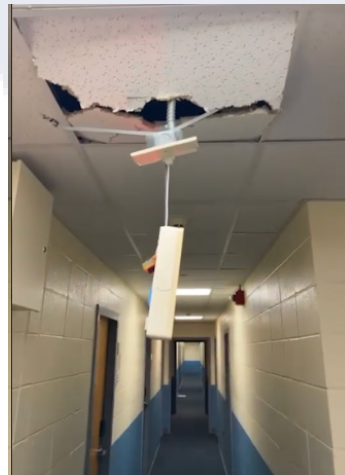
met with a contractor for a quote and to set up temporary exit signs that were ripped off the ceilings.

“How damage works in the hall...they’re kind of a grey area,” Shaffer said. Since cameras cannot be placed in the living areas, he said “we never figured out who did the actual acts” of vandalism.

Shaffer stated that the repairs were made, shortly after receiving a quote, costed the housing and food services about \$3,000 for the sign, tile work and grid work. “We couldn’t bill anyone for the damage...so we eat the cost,” he said.

While budget constraints are a given and the repairs are made, students feel as if their living conditions should be a top priority. “We pay too much for what we get,” remarked Gideon Jones, a third-year recreation, parks and tourism management (RPTM) major, who also said, “On top of paying so much, we have to pay for washing our clothes which is very expensive.”

Whether it’s a need for an improved living arrangement or lack of responsibility for people abusing the space, students agree that something needs to change in the dorms.



**Emergency exit signs and ceiling tiles ruined in the McKeesport Hall hallways.**

*(Photos Courtesy: Jacob McCartney, RPTM major)*

# A “Salute” from Departing Faculty



***Penn State Greater Allegheny Mathematics Professor James Pritchett  
(Photo Courtesy: Connie Surman)***

“It's been a rewarding experience as well as an awakening experience.

I've met a lot of interesting people, especially the students.

I hope that my impact on them has been and will be a positive influence in their lives and careers.”

**- James Pritchett**

Lecturer, Mathematics  
at Penn State Greater Allegheny  
(2007-2023)

James Pritchett has left the building after over 16 years of hard work at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA). “I have always had a passion for teaching and Greater Allegheny has allowed me to fulfill that passion,” Pritchett said through an email.

In addition to his teaching at PSUGA, Pritchett used his bachelor's degree in physics from Alabama A&M University to teach at the Wilkinsburg school district and the Boyce Campus of the Community College of Allegheny County.

Before pursuing his passion in teaching, Pritchett worked for 25 years at Westinghouse Electric Company using his master's degree in nuclear engineering. The campus appreciates Pritchett for his years of service to PSUGA in also extending his knowledge to students as part of the work he did previous to his classroom teaching when he worked as a tutor in the Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) program.

(See next edition of The GA-Zette for a “goodbye”  
to Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, Galen Grimes.)

## CLUB ADVERTISING

Does your organization want to promote its event or program in the newspaper?

**The GA-ZETTE** offers complimentary, no-cost display ads to any university-sanctioned club or organization.

**Space is limited!** Contact the campus newspaper at [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of **The GA-ZETTE** welcome letters to the editor by writing to [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu).

Please include your full name, PSU email, address, and phone number to verify.

Missing contact information will result in non-consideration of your article.



# Happy Holidays!

Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) Asian Cultural Exchange Club welcomed the campus community on Nov. 14 to join the celebration of Diwali.

The PSUGA community learned about the origins and meaning of Diwali, a festival of lights, and were opened to asking questions and enjoying some food provided by the club.

The celebration ended with the lighting of candles outside of the Student Community Center (SCC), where the club also decorated the scene with colorful Rangoli art, an ancient Indian art form that uses colorful sand and other natural materials (such as rice, flour and flower petals) to create patterns and designs on the floor. As a cultural and religious symbol, the art represents the welcoming of the divine and happiness and prosperity.



# Psych Club's Gingerbread Contest



(Photos courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)



# Congratulations David “Mr. McFeely” Newell



***“Mr. McFeely heads to post office”***

***(Photo Courtesy: US Census Bureau, CC Libraries)***

He was Penn State Greater Allegheny’s commencement speaker this past spring, bestowing accolades and words of wisdom to dozens of graduates.

Now, David “Mr. McFeely” Newell, who for more than three decades played the

Speedy Deliveryman on “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” was just feted himself. Newell was inducted Dec. 17 into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences’ Gold Circle at the second Children’s and Family Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

According to the Academy, the Gold Circle is reserved for inductees who “have performed distinguished service within the industry, setting standards for achievement, mentoring, leadership and professional accolades” for 50 years or more.

## The GA-Zette

AWARD-WINNING  
NEWSPAPER

2023 Pennsylvania  
Golden Quill Award for  
Excellence in Journalism:

Yousuf Ibrahim

2023 Pennsylvania  
Golden Quill Award  
Finalists:

Carlin Whalen  
Melanie McGinniss  
Shannon Reid

Newell continues to be the person who carries on the legacy of Fred Rogers/Mister Rogers since the series ended in 2000, and he does so through his appearances at events around the world.



# National Museum of Broadcasting Pittsburgh's Roots in Radio

**Melanie McGinniss**  
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Over a century ago, on November 2, 1920, KDKA Radio made broadcast history in East Pittsburgh as the first-cited commercial radio station in the United States. On the same date in 2023, the nonprofit National Museum of Broadcasting (NMB) commemorated the local radio station for its impact, rededicated a state historic marker to the station, and also announced its own plans to build an historic museum to the legacy of broadcasting and electronic media that started in Pittsburgh, all at a news conference in a building where a future broadcast museum is planned.

“We’ve gone from cable, then to satellite TV, and now you can watch TV on your iPhone or wherever you want to... it all began here,” former KDKA-TV weatherperson, news anchor, reporter, congressman, and current NMB board member, Ron Klink, said. Pennsylvania Senator, Jay Costa (D-43rd District), Pittsburgh Steelers announcer and President of the NMB’s board of directors, Bill Hillgrove, joined Klink and other



**At a news conference last month, community leaders from Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, unveil the KDKA Radio marker commemorating the country's first commercial broadcast in 1920.**

community leaders, gathered with a crowd of more than 50 people, including some of Pittsburgh’s retired broadcast personalities, at what used to be a bank at 701 Braddock Avenue in East Pittsburgh, to talk about the museum and to rededicate an historic marker in the area where radio and broadcasting began.

KDKA Radio started its journey by broadcasting the results of the Warren G. Harding and James Cox election on that date in 1920 in a rooftop shack at the site that was the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in East Pittsburgh. That original site, now called Keystone Commons, is owned by the Regional

Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC) which has revitalized the site to house 40 various companies and businesses that employ more than 1000 people. Keystone Commons is just down the street from the bank building—which is currently owned by the RIDC--where the museum will be housed.

Unfortunately, in 2007, the K Building and rooftop shack had deteriorated to the point that the RIDC had to demolish it for safety reasons. A historic marker that was rededicated during the news conference last month marks the spot of that broadcast and continues to emphasize the historic significance of Nov. 2. Klink emphasized how all of the media that people consume on a regular basis through phones, laptops or TVs, wouldn’t have existed without this “first step that was taken to be able to broadcast the human voice.”

Klink also noted the subsequent role that broadcast technology played throughout history. The first steps taken to be able to broadcast the human voice was as a defense technology for World War I.

*(Continued on next page)*



**The organization and supporters collected artifacts to be placed in the new museum.**



# Investing in History for the Future

*(Continued from page 7)*

Founder of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing, George Westinghouse, looked for a way to commercialize the technology, and what people would buy and use it for.

“At first, they had people singing and performing live and eventually they went to a record store in Wilksburg,” Klink said. With an agreement to borrow records from the store in exchange for a mention of the store on the radio broadcast, Klink said the first commercial was aired. “Stop and think about the history that we have absorbed during our lifetime,” Klink said. “Most of it, we have watched or listened to on some type of medium.”

It’s because of the developments in communication that people during the Vietnam War were able to see footage of Americans being killed and wounded in the battle.

“That changed the attitude of the country... and that happened because of broadcasting,” Klink said. The ability to mass communicate to the entire country changed perceptions. He is hopeful that having a museum that tells the story of the past and where technology is going, will help future generations to carry on and develop new visions

for “what communications can and should be.” The museum will not only act as a home for history, but also a site for educational opportunities.

Costa also noted the economic impact of the museum and the growth for the local economy, including the Mon Valley. “People coming here who want to learn about radio and broadcast history, and also programming that will take place here, will bring people to be a part of what could be done here through the economic impact,” Costa said. “With the bike trails around the area and other developments taking place across the street, like the Keystone Commons, the museum would support the community efforts to bring more life back to the area.

“This museum would be connected to the actual site, within about a hundred yards of where the actual first broadcast took place in 1920,” Costa said. “That, to me, is absolutely fascinating.”

To be able to start up the new addition to the community, the NMB needs financial help so it has partnered with the RIDC, which owns the building. The building is off the market while the NMB looks for funding to buy or lease the property.



**KDKA's commercial radio license from 1912.**

The museum also needs to continue to pay for proper storage space for all the artifacts it has collected from donors and other media sites until it can open its doors officially to the public.

One of the many items in storage includes the garage where Westinghouse engineer, Frank Conrad, built that first radio transmitter than helped to launch the broadcasting age and KDKA Radio.

Conrad was working out of this garage when he was able to convince George Westinghouse to see the potential of radio on a greater level.

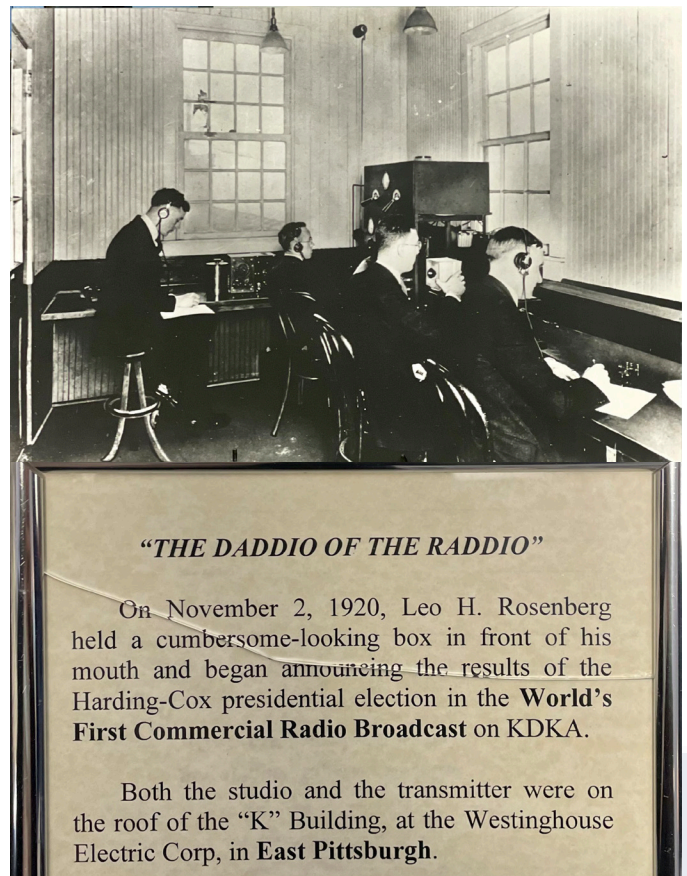
“This changed life,” Klink said. “Think about the history that we’ve absorbed during our lifetime. Most of it, we have watched or listened to on some type of medium.”

To learn more about or donate to the NMB, visit their website at [nmbpitt.org](http://nmbpitt.org).



**Two bronze plaques that remained from the K Building after the demolition in 2007.**





**Photos and artifacts displayed as part of the National Museum of Broadcasting’s news conference in November, 2023 (Photo montage courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)**



# A College Student's Guide to Pittsburgh

## 5 Areas of City Life to Explore

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Whether it's permanent or temporary, going into a new city can be overwhelming for anyone. Problems can range from unfamiliarity and navigation problems, all the way to social isolation and new culture. For those new to Pittsburgh, the initial excitement of seeing this new city rich in local culture and social life, can often be overshadowed by uncertainty of where to start. Here are some ways to get in touch with the city life in Pittsburgh.

### 1. Sports

#### Steelers

100 Art Rooney Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Fans of the Pittsburgh Steelers are some of the most loyal fans you will meet. The Steelers serve as one of the City's greatest rallying points for the community, as thousands of fans fill up the stadium every game of the season.

The Steelers find themselves as one of the most winning teams in NFL history, being tied in 5th place for having the most championships.



*Pittsburgh Penguins play at PPG Paints Arena.*



*Pittsburgh Pirates play at PNC Park.*



*Pittsburgh Steelers play at Acrisure Stadium..*

Regardless, whether you're going to one of the rowdy tailgates, or just grabbing a, "Terrible Towel" inside of Acrisure Stadium, it will be a fun and unique experience.

#### Penguins

1001 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Similar to the Steelers, the Pittsburgh Penguins have a loyal audience. The Penguins, with all of their success, have solidified themselves as one of the powerhouses of the NHL.

Housing legends such as Sidney Crosby, it's an exciting time watching a game, matching the excitement that an NFL game brings and for a much cheaper price.

#### Pirates

510 W Station Square Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Though the Pirates haven't had the most success in recent years, they are home to one of the most beautiful stadiums in the world. Highmark stadium is an absolute must see, whether you are a fan of baseball or not. For the baseball fans, you are able to snag a seat for as low as \$10 for a ticket to watch a game.

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from page 10)

## 2. Arts and Culture

### The Mattress Factory

509 Jacksonia ST,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

This museum is one of the more interactive ones in the city. Home to many permanent and temporary exhibits, there is always something interesting to see. The museum houses room-sized galleries that will often leave you very immersed with the art. It is worth it for everybody to go here at least once.

### Carnegie Science Center

1 Allegheny Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The Science Center is a popular destination for families, schools, science fans, or anybody. The center offers a huge number of exhibits that focus on all STEM subjects, all of which are extremely engaging. On top of that, the center features the Rangos Giant Cinema to view interesting movies in an exciting way. If those aren't enough for you, they often feature live presentations which can be very entertaining.

### The Andy Warhol Museum

117 Sandusky St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



**One of Yayoi Kusama's interactive "infinity room" exhibits at The Mattress Factory.**

Andy Warhol, world-renowned artist, and Pittsburgh native, has the largest museum dedicated to a single artist in the United States.

This museum holds many of Warhol's works including sculptures, paintings, photographs, and more. The collections help to show just how influential he was.

People from Pittsburgh won't be afraid to express that either, because who doesn't like famous people from their city?



**"The Pitts-burgher cheese steak at Primanti Bros" (Photo courtesy: Martin Bowling, CC Libraries)**

## 3. Food

### Primanti Bros

46 18th St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Primanti Bros is the most iconic restaurant chain in Pittsburgh.

Every local knows about the place, and will tell you about their unique sandwiches that make Primanti Bros who they are.

The sandwiches have a distinct style, which includes having fries and coleslaw as ingredients on the sandwich.

The chain has been recognized as a culinary symbol for the city. On top of their sandwiches, if there is a sports game on, it will certainly be playing at the restaurant. You can even still go to their original location in the historic Strip District for the total experience.

### Grand Concourse

100 W Station Square Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The Grand Concourse is another popular Pittsburgh restaurant. The restaurant is often praised for its seafood and steak options, but every local will tell you about their brunch buffet. The restaurant, while already having a pretty elegant interior, is on the riverside, giving you a view of the city and river, which makes it only seem grander.

This restaurant has been a part of the Pittsburgh community since 1978, and is guaranteed to give you a special dining experience.



**A display of Andy Warhol's famous Campbell's Soup pop art at the Andy Warhol Museum. (Photos courtesy: Noah Hill)**

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 11)

## The Melting Pot

242 W Station Square Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

While the Melting Pot isn't local to Pittsburgh, it is still one of the best places to go.

The Melting Pot specializes in their fondue dining style. The typical meal here will often leave you eating course after course. The Station Square restaurant is the stereotypical spot for celebrations, nice dinners, or even dates, and for good reason. While the restaurant at first glance has a cozy and almost intimate atmosphere, the interactivity of cooking your own food makes it very sociable and enjoyable.

## 4. Nightlife

### Howl at the Moon

125 7th St, Pittsburgh,  
PA 15222

Howl at the Moon Pittsburgh is a dueling piano bar which often features live music, drinks, and more events. All of this combined with its spacious interior makes it a nice, enjoyable place for the younger crowd that likes to go out and have fun while still being able to just sit back and relax.



*"Melting Pot Restaurant, San Mateo, CA"  
(Photo courtesy: Jim G, CC Libraries)*

### Club Cafe

56 S 12th St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Club Cafe is the place to go for live music. Every night, they will host some of the best bands you've never heard of, adding a lot of people to your playlist.

This venue is always packed out on the weekends, causing a more intimate atmosphere than perhaps Howl at the Moon. If you are looking for quality drinks, music, new friends, and a good time, this is the place for you.

### East Carson Street

East Carson St.  
Pittsburgh, PA

East Carson Street, often referred to as Southside, is a very interesting place at any time of day. Southside at night is full of people in lines at various dive bars, which

makes it seem like you have to be 21 to enjoy your time there, but that isn't the case. On top of the large number of bars, the street is full of people, shops, restaurants, and music you can stumble upon. They also have a movie theater and an escape room which are both open late, and are always a great time.

## 5. Annual Events

### Picklesburgh

Boulevard of the Allies,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Picklesburgh is an annual festival held in Pittsburgh celebrating all things pickled.

Voted "#1 Best Specialty Food Festival" in the country by USA Today, the festival typically features a variety of pickle-related activities, food vendors, and entertainment.

Visiting in the summer, this weekend long event is

truly a weird one from an outsider's perspective, but a must see nonetheless.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Pittsburgh has one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades in the country, and is often filled with events that surround it.

Whether it is themed bar crawls, comedy shows, or anything else, this holiday is hugely celebrated in this city, and is always a good time.

<https://pittsburghstpatricksdayparade.com/>

### Christmas Time

1 Schenley Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Christmas in Pittsburgh is full of activities for you, your family and friends, or a romantic date.

Whether it's ice skating Downtown, or listening to music and watching fireworks during "Light Up Night," there is much to do in the holiday season. With a multitude of options for light shows, seeing the lights at the Phipps garden is a must.

**For more, visit  
[visitpittsburgh.com](http://visitpittsburgh.com)**

120 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222





An ice rink surrounds a bright and colorful Christmas tree at PPG Place in Pittsburgh.  
(Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)



Phipps Conservatory fully decorated the garden for the holiday season.  
(Photo courtesy: Noah Hill)

# The Ultimate Guide to Stress-Free Gift Giving with Experiences in the Cultural District

(Information from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's blog by Andy Sharfman)

## Cultural District Gift Cards

Gift your friends and family the options to shows from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

## Enjoy events and shows together!

- First Night Friends
- Mr. Messado's School of Magic
- "Sleighin' It" Tour
- PNC Broadway
- "Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition"

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust  
803 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

(Students are eligible for discounts up to 50% on tickets to select performances)



Image retrieved from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Website

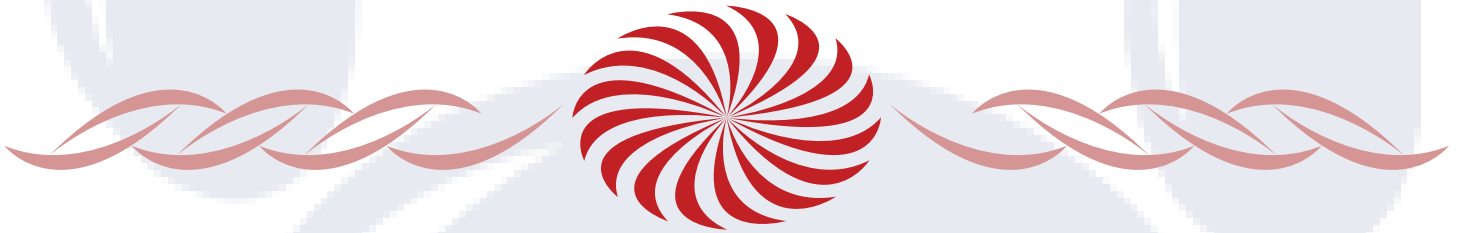


# Scottsdale's Winter Light Celebration



**Christmas decor and Santa Claus fill Scottsdale with holiday joy with a parade and festivities to celebrate the season and the community's 150 year anniversary in 2024.  
(Photo montage courtesy: Shayla Fulton)**







# Hawthorne Heights

## Rockin' the Roxian Theatre With a Twist

**Brandon Schuetz**  
Staff Writer

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On a cold Sunday night, the popular 'emo' rock band Hawthorne Heights, accompanied by an orchestra, came into town to perform for a packed and energetic audience at the Roxian Theatre.

The Ohio-based band played through their hit songs such as "Niki FM" and "Ohio Is for Lovers". The band performed up on stage just like any other rock show, only this time there was a twist. Behind the band was an orchestra that performed their renditions of these early 2000s classic emo rock songs.

"This is something we have never done before," said lead singer and frontman of the band JT Woodruff as he and his band members took the stage. The orchestra was composed of members from all across the world from many different countries, explained Woodruff.

In addition to performing their hit songs, the band and orchestra delighted fans with graceful and faithful covers of other hit songs from other bands of the same genre. Woodruff, the lead singer, slipped right



*Emo rock band Hawthorne Heights performed with an orchestra at Roxian Theater. (Photos courtesy: Brandon Schuetz)*

into the correct pitch to perform other bands songs as if he had written those songs himself.

It was very clear to everyone in attendance how passionate frontman Woodruff was. He would go on to tell stories in between each and every song that got laughs, cheers and tears from the amped up audience.

Near the end of the show, Woodruff even announced that he would be heading back to the merch stand after the show to greet fans which got lots of cheers from the audience who were eager to see him.

At one point, the orchestra played their rendition of the extremely popular My Chemical Romance song, "Welcome to the Black Parade". However, instead of the

main band performing this song, lyrics were put up on two screens on each end of the stage and the performance was all put on the shoulders of the orchestra.

Needless to say, the orchestra nailed their cover of the song and the conductor would even turn to face the crowd to direct them to sing along to the lyrics which were being displayed. The main band taking five during this had no impact as the crowd sang the words to the song and kept the high energy of the night rolling.

The Roxian Theatre, which is a small venue, was perfect for this show as it provided a more personable and intimate experience for concert goers. One of the songs performed, a cover of

"Misery Business" by the popular band Paramore, had a guest singer as the vocals needed for it were female. The singer, Kay Enagonio, was actually the person responsible for running the team's social media pages. She shocked the audience with her stunning vocals and received a standing ovation for her performance of the hit song.

Later on, she could even be spotted in the aisles of the small, but quaint theatre taking photos with her camera and talking to fans.

Hawthorne Heights and the 'Emo' Orchestra did not hold back one bit with their performance. They even made sure that each song on the set list was a "staple" of the genre, explained Woodruff. This was very evident as throughout the show you could hear fans from all across the theatre — even the ones on the balcony, passionately singing along to each and every single song.

Overall the show was stunning. Fans could be seen leaving the venue smiling in delight and many did not leave as they planned to stick around to meet with the frontman at the merch stand after the show had ended.



NOAH HILL Staff Writer | [nph5300@psu.edu](mailto:nph5300@psu.edu)

**“Is Covid still a relevant problem and concern?”**

**What are you doing to protect yourself from Covid, if anything?”**



**Donald Garwood, Adjunct Instructor - Biology**

“I think that Covid remains a relevant and significant problem. It has not disappeared, it can still be very dangerous. The good news has been that we have developed some very good ways to address the dangers and minimize them for the majority of people. Some members of our population, sadly though, are still at risk. Myself, I believe in continuing to get the new Covid boosters as they become available. Complacency by thinking that Covid is gone is dangerous in that it will allow it to continue to have more of an impact than it should.”

**Elijah Barnes, Third Year - Electrical Engineering**

“I think it is a relevant problem depending on the person, like their age or health condition. However, for most people it isn't a dangerous problem, just sometimes an inconvenience like a common cold. I'm not doing anything different to protect myself.”



**Jaylin Wescott, Fourth Year - Criminal Justice**

“Covid is still an issue because there are people who get sick from its effects and as a result they have to stay away from family, friends, and work just to quarantine themselves. I try to stay away from larger crowds of people because I don't want it.”

**Christopher Klinger, Third Year, Business - Marketing/Management**

“No Covid isn't still a problem, we have vaccinations for it and it has been contained pretty well especially when compared to when Covid was first present. I'm doing nothing different, I'm young and don't feel like I need to protect myself from it, as even if I got it, my immune system could handle it. I also have a vaccination against it.”





# Choosing Light over Darkness

## Suggestions from the Editor

**Melanie McGinniss**  
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The holiday season often means candles being lit and lights creating a wonderland in the cold and quiet winter. This year, things might seem a little different. Reaching almost three months into the Israel-Gaza conflict, America has seen a spike in fear and discourse within communities over the ongoing terror.

Walking through Squirrel Hill or East Liberty in Pittsburgh, there are plenty of literal signs emphasizing what communities are going through. Whether it's a poster for Israeli-hostages or a poem written by a Palestinian, these messages from either side act as a reminder to consider these people and communities.



**Posters in Squirrel Hill are taped up for the Israeli-hostages.**

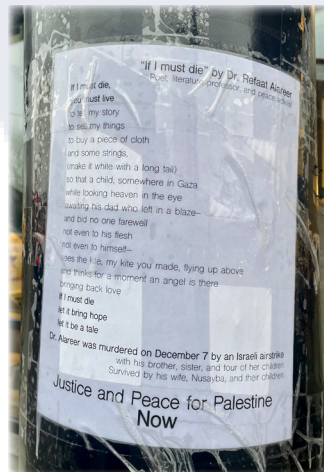
From Dec. 7 to 15, the Jewish community celebrated Hanukkah. Christmas is approaching on the 25th and Kwanzaa comes the day after until Jan. 1. The Hindu community celebrated Diwali, a celebration of light, in November.

Coming from different religions and cultures, these holidays all share one thing in common and that is the idea of bringing people together and having something to look forward to.

To use this holiday season to bring joy and hope amidst the darkness, here a few things for everyone to keep in mind during the break.

### *Be Thoughtful*

As someone who is neither Arab nor Jewish, I find myself wondering



**The poem, "If I Must Die," by Dr. Refaat Alareer was posted in East Liberty.**



**A Menorah displayed at Market Square during Hanukkah.**

how the communities more directly involved in the traumatizing events are feeling during the season full of celebrations. For those who are not a part of the involved communities, it's important to remain sensitive and aware.

Learning and seeing more about the situation can leave a dark and sad feeling in the heart, but Diwali was a reminder of the power of love and light.

Following Diwali, families and friends packed the streets in Downtown Pittsburgh to celebrate Light Up Night. In Market Square, Jewish people played music and displayed a menorah. Knowing the tensions that Jewish communities are experiencing, I was hopeful after seeing happy faces spreading joy.

Like laughter, the happiness and love in another can be contagious.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that "darkness cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Spreading kindness through words, acts or just simple consideration can go a long way.

### *Be Grateful*

The season also calls for family gatherings, but not everyone has a family or home to go to. There are certainly Arab and Jewish people in America that fear the safety of their friends and families who are stuck in a state of war.

For those who have families to be with during the holiday seasons, make sure to be appreciative of what and who is around.

**(Continued on next page)**



*Painting displayed in the hall at Penn State Greater Allegheny's Student Community Center.  
(Photos courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)*

Sometimes friends and families can be torn apart by differences in discussions at gatherings.

There have been times where I have strongly disagreed with family members on how they perceive things.

People should, and have the right, to speak their minds or remove themselves from a situation when it might escalate. At the end of the day, we choose how we react.

However, take time to remember that we are more than our differences. While there are a lot of things that have caused discourse within the small collective of five and now four in my family, there have also been many hardships that we were only able to face together.

This attitude can also go a long way when you step outside of your family where strangers are carrying different weights of the world with them.

### *Live in the Moment*

As heard before, today is a gift and that's why it's called the present.

The gift of life should be appreciated, but also experienced. Without taking care of your health and happiness, it's much harder to accomplish this and anything mentioned before.

Being aware of what is happening around us also does not mean that it's not okay to be happy. In fact, it's important not to fall into crippling guilt or nihilistic attitudes.

Like Albert Camus might say, in the depth of winter you can find an invincible summer.

**Happy  
Kwanzaa!**

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# Paris 2024 Olympic Games

## B-Boys and Girls Join the Competitions

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Sports enthusiasts rejoice!

Next year, the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France will feature four sports that are not typically part of the grand event. Skateboarding, surfing, sport climbing, and 'breaking' (break dancing) will all be getting the spotlight as part of the Olympic program. Skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing were all featured at the 2020 Olympic Games, but it is still worth noting their inclusion since they are all still fairly new.

The inclusion of these sports came about at the 134th International Olympic Committee (IOC) that was held all the way back in 2019. The organization committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games proposed the idea of skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing making a return in 2024. Additionally, they pitched the idea of adding breaking to the program and on Dec. 7, all four sports that were pitched were formally confirmed by the IOC for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Breaking is a style of street dancing that is athletic in nature and



*B-boy Atomic Goofball, seen on "So You Think You Can Dance", performing for students at Penn State Behrend.*

offers a variety in the dances that are performed.

Breaking originated from African American and Puerto Rican communities in New York City and it had an appearance at the 2018 Summer Youth Games, but now it is ready for the world stage with the hopes of bringing more younger people into the fold as well as being a much more accessible sport.

IOC President Tom

Bach is ecstatic about the new sports being added to the program as he believes that these new events will make the Paris 2024 Summer Games "more gender balanced, more youthful and more urban."

"We have had a clear priority, and this is to introduce sports which are particularly popular among the younger generations...and to also take into account the urbanization of sport."



*B-boys and b-girls practice at Penn State Behrend. (Photos courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)*

Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) Athletic Director and Soccer Coach, Jason Broadwater agrees.

"I think the Olympics will probably look at the popularity of sports in different parts of the world and see if they can translate to the world stage," Broadwater said.

At an event held this past July, the IOC's Bach would even take the stage to try and breakdance with other dancers.

The newly added breaking sport will be composed of two medal events. There will be one medal event for boys and another medal event for girls. For each event, 16 "b-boys" or "b-girls" will compete.

The 2024 Summer Olympic Games will take place from July 26 to Aug. 11 with breaking set to make its first ever Olympics debut on Aug 9.



*"Paris 2024"*

*(Photo courtesy: Nicolaus Michaud, Creative Commons Licenses)*

# Steelers Concede Three Crucial Turnovers to Lose Third Straight Game

**Carlin Whalen**  
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The Pittsburgh Steelers faced a pair of back-to-back losses and had hopes to end that streak as they traveled to Indiana in search of a much-needed win.

The Black and Gold has a strong start, but quickly fell apart shortly after the game began. The Indianapolis Colts scored 30 unanswered points in their 30 – 13 win over the Steelers. This loss likely removes Pittsburgh from playoff contention.

The Steelers struck first. A missed field goal by Colts Kicker, Matt Gay, gave the Black and Gold great field position and they were able to capitalize with a touchdown. Quarterback, Mitch Trubisky, led the offense 53 yards down the field to the 1-yard line where he was able to sneak into the end zone. Kicker, Chris Boswell, missed the extra point.

Moments later, the Steelers defense stepped up big with a blocked punt that put them at the 1-yard line. They were able to build their lead with their second touchdown of the day.

This time, Trubisky found Wide Receiver,



*The Pittsburgh Steelers defense attempts to block a field goal against the Indianapolis Colts during a regular season game on Dec. 16, 2023  
(Photo courtesy: Karl Roser/Pittsburgh Steelers)*

Diontae Johnson, who ran uncontested past the pylons to build a 13 – 0 lead. But that was the end of Pittsburgh's luck, which allowed the Colts to fight their way back into the game.

Indianapolis put together a quick 75-yard drive which ended with a touchdown. The very next drive, Trubisky was intercepted by Defensive Back, Nick Cross. The Colts appeared to have another touchdown in the works, but the Steelers defense stuffed them at the 1-yard line.

However, that didn't matter. The Colts got the ball to take the lead right

before half. Their three-play, 22-second-touchdown-drive put them ahead, 14 – 13.

After the half, Steelers Running Back, Najee Harris, fumbled in their own red zone and was recovered by Indy Colts Quarterback, Gardner Minshew, who threw his third touchdown pass of the game to mount a 21 – 13 lead.

The Colts added to their lead with a pair of field goals from Gay.

Late in the fourth, Trubisky threw his second pick of the game which gave third string QB, Mason Rudolph, a chance to play. The Colts tallied

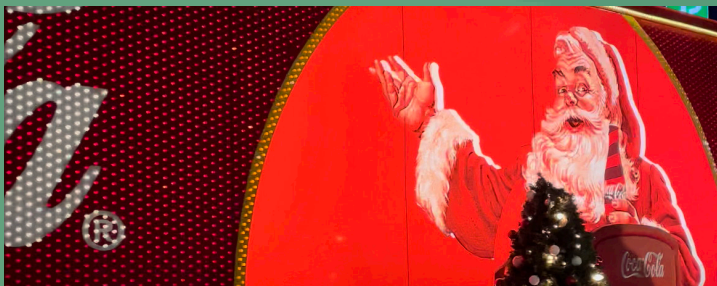
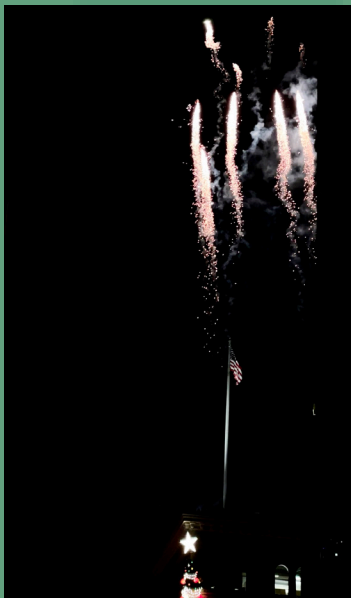
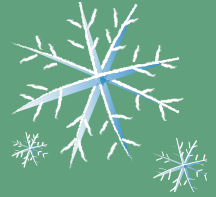
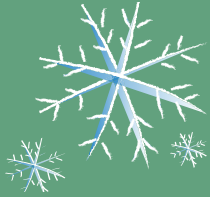
one more field goal at the end of the game to emerge victorious.

"We aren't going to keep doing the same things that we're doing and expect or hope for a different result," Steelers Head Coach, Mike Tomlin, said in a post-game press conference. "I'm acknowledging right now that we are playing losing football and I own that."

Many fans thought the Steelers had an easy path to the playoffs, but the past few games put that into question. Will this be Tomlin's first "losing" season?



# Pittsburgh 2023 Light Up Night



(Photo montage and cover photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)