

#Pennsylvania

Instagram showcases Keystone State's beauty



TRAVELS WITH JIM

Whether you love traveling in Pennsylvania or want to peruse photos of the state's most beautiful and interesting places, Instagram is a fantastic social network to join. There are two easy ways to find great photos of places to visit: You can search for Pennsylvania-based hashtags such as #UncoveringPA, #visitPA, #LancasterGram #SteelCityGrammers and #WhyILovePhilly. Or you can follow Instagram accounts

that showcase the Keystone State. From a Bigfoot that takes pictures in the woods to the farms of Lancaster County, here are 12 Instagram accounts that represent our state's beauty.



@jpdiroll

If you're looking for fantastic photos of Pittsburgh, you can't do much better than the Instagram account of J.P. Diroll. He has been taking photos since 2007 and has been a professional photographer since 2013. "I prefer to work at the edge of light, highlighting depth, texture and, most importantly, color," Diroll says. Shown above is the Pittsburgh skyline.

@photolope

Loren Berckey took his first shots in 2001 of the Trubble of the World Trade Center. Since then, he has spent his time photographing moments in time, as no two are ever the same. "I've taken more than 60 shots over the last three years from the same windows at a hotel in Philly, and not one of them is the same," Berckey said. Shown below is the Pagoda atop Mount Penn overlooking Reading.



MORE PHOTOS ON **PAGES D4-5**

JUSTIN WM. MOYER | THE WASHINGTON POST

Did 'American Idol' end on racist note?

Less than two months after the curtain went down on #OscarsSoWhite — at least until 2017 — it seems that "American Idol" might be too white, as well. Or, more specifically, too deferential to "generic" white guys, often wielding guitars.

This was the consensus

This was the consensus on social media after Trent Harmon, a self-described white "dude from Mississippi," defeated La'Porsha Renae, a black single mother from the same state. Renae, citing the first "American Idol" winner,

Kelly Clarkson, said "a woman started it and a woman's goin' finish it."

She was wrong. It was not the outcome some were hoping for. As one Twitter user put it: "ANOTHER basic white boy" has triumphed.

To be clear: Though

To be clear: Though it passed over Jennifer Hudson, "American Idol" has idol-ized people of color. The list of winners includes Ruben Studdard

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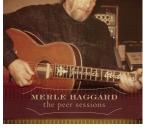
5 essential albums

BY ANTHONY VENUTOLO | NJ.com

The death of country legend Merle Haggard at his California home on his 79th birthday left the entire country-music-loving nation saddened.

Known as "the poet of the common man," his music often would display a trademark grit and gruff. Haggard, along with Buck Owens, helped define the West Coast brand of country music in the 1960s and '70s.

During his lifetime, he produced 38 chart-topping



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