

GREEN TREE TIMES

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The Last Days of the Season Offer Festivals, Food, Fairs and Fun



Fun for all at the Washington & Greene County Covered Bridge Festival.

~photo courtesy Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Every September I have a melancholy feeling of time passing to quickly. It's hard for me to ignore the years going by when I have kids going off to their third years of college and high school. I always need to slowly adjust and I will, but it takes me a minute.

September is actually a great transition month giving us a few hot days thrown in with the cooler days and a lot of outdoor activities and festival fun. That helps ease us into fall. Pittsburgh is a great place to be all year long but is pretty exceptional in September.

The Washington & Greene County 50th Annual Covered Bridge Festival is being held this year on Sept. 19 & 20. There are 10 different locations that will offer activities, food, children's games, historic reenactments and live entertainment in addition to the historical environment itself. Info at www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com.

The 30th Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival is being held Sept. 10-11 at The Lots at Sandcastle. This outdoor event is for the entire family and offers an Irish dog area featuring dogs native to Ireland, Irish games, comedy, food and drinks, an Irish Marketplace, a children's area with stories and fun, whiskey tasting for the over 21 and Five Farms Fireworks.

Masks are strongly recommended. Information at pghirishfest.org.

A Fair in the Park is holding its event Sept. 10-12 at Pittsburgh's Mellon Park. The event is presented by the Craftsmen's Guild of Pittsburgh and features over 100 artists working with a variety of mediums including clay, wood, glass, fiber, fun food and music, children's activities



Having fun at a Fair in the Park

~photo courtesy Craftsmens Guild

including a scavenger hunt and more. Information at craftsmensguild.org.

It wouldn't be September without Oktoberfest activities but this year looks a little different because of COVID-19. Some events have been postponed but there are still events to attend throughout the area.

Canonsburg's Oktoberfest will be Sept. 17-19 and will include lots of German foods, live entertainment, amusement rides, games and fun for all!

Penn Brewery's Oktoberfest is back again for Sept. 17-19 and 24-26. Enjoy every type of German food

you can think of along with German beers in a very German atmosphere and most of the fun is held outdoors and masks are highly recommended. Info at pennbrew.com.

Hofbrauhaus Oktoberfest will be Sept. 17-18 and 24-25 on the South Side. Enjoy food, drinks and live entertainment.

Sound Series: Block Party will be held on Sat., Sept. 18, 2-10 p.m. on Isabella Street block (from Sandusky to Federal Street) and will feature live, in-person performances with internationally touring artists. Food and beverages will be available to purchase on site, along with hands-on t-shirt, tote bag, or poster making. Presented by The Warhol's Sound Series, the varied roster of artists will perform on a stage adjacent to the museum. The Sound Series Block Party is rain or shine. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Wristbands will be provided for re-entry.

Another local festival is Collierfest on Sept. 25 being kicked off with Bike Night on Fri., Sept. 24 at Collier Park. This is a family event with music, crafts, games and more!

The 10th Annual Ukrainian Food Festival will be held on Oct. 1-2, 11 am - 7 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie. The event will offer homemade Ukrainian foods and ethnic entertainment. Info at orthodoxcarnegie.org.

Head to Neighborhood Flea, an open air flea marketplace, on Sept. 12 and Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. They are located in the strip at 26th and Railroad Streets. Info neighborhoodflea.com.

Lights On!, a three day celebration of Pittsburgh's Cultural District will be held Sept. 9-11. This free event of live performances, exhibitions and more are set to take place outdoors, at Allegheny Overlook Park on Ft. Duquesne Boulevard, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Mobile Stage at the 8th Street Parking Lot at Penn Avenue, and the Trust Oasis on 7th Street.

This special celebration of the arts in the Cultural District is the official kick-off to RADical Days, an annual thank you to the public with

free admission, tours, performances, and family activities offered by the organizations and attractions that are funded by the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD).

RADical Days will continue through Oct. 10. Due to Covid-19, most organizations are requiring advanced reservations and/or have capacity limits. Info at radworkshere.org.

A nice thing to do to enjoy the outdoors but have the option of staying inside as well is taking the Wine Tasting Cruise on the Gateway Clipper Fleet on Sept. 23, 5:30-9 p.m. Enjoy a selection of eight wines from France and deliciously prepared hors d'oeuvres featured on the buffet while viewing the beautiful city lights. There will be a full service bar featuring various brands of liquor, beer, wine, and soda. Info at www.gatewayclipper.com.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still present in our lives and we have to do our best to stay safe and keep our families, friends and communities safe by following the best safety guidelines we can.

Vaccinations are now readily available to all who want them at most pharmacies and boosters are available to people with compromised immune systems.

Most events have protocols in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 but check with each venue for specifics.



So many things to shop for at Neighborhood Flea.

~photo courtesy Neighborhood Flea

MUSINGS...HIT A WALL



Editor's Note: Sharon Eakes is a personal and executive coach, who is a regular columnist for our paper as well as for the Huffington Post. She is the author of Fresh Views on Resilient Living. She may be reached by calling 412-741-1709 or email Sharon @hopellc.com.

"There is a desire, a longing, in each of us for a world that works." Martin Rutte

Unsustainable

We've hit a wall. The convergence of the pandemic, climate change and the recognition of engrained racial prejudice is overwhelming! The message is clear: the way we're living isn't sustainable.

Sarah McCrum, who has studied healing and energy for 3 decades, says "Enough is enough." Her suggestion for us is to open a hole in the wall we've hit by writing a new story for our future.

We need to realize, she cautions, that if we don't start fresh, we're going to get more of the same. Thoughts of what we don't want to happen + fear = a formula for spiraling negative momentum.

Instead of focusing on what's wrong, a habit we've cultivated and the news media has nurtured, let's launch this new story from a place of openness and curiosity. Let's stop pretending to be sure about things, to have all the answers, because we don't.

My Healing

A healing story from my own life helps me understand this. Nine years ago I was diagnosed with a "rare and aggressive" form of endometrial cancer. The diagnosis stopped me in my tracks. I was healthy. I didn't think that death was in my near future. But I was forced to come face to face with that reality. I recognized I might die. But I didn't dwell there. Instead I noted everything good that happened as I went through chemo and radiation, and focused on growing healthy habits. I started practicing qigong, which taught me about the healing power of energy. People were amazed at how well I came through that time,

called me resilient. For me it was a way to jumpstart the next chapter of my life.

Appreciate

Sarah McCrum suggests an exercise to tap into our neutral energy, a much better launching place for our new individual and collective stories.

Please actually take a few minutes to do this exercise...to experience an energy shift and know what that feels like. This exercise is about appreciating. Growing. Read each line and spend just a few minutes inviting appreciation into your head and heart.

Appreciate:

- Your gifts and talents (actually think of what they are, then appreciate them.)
- Your skills and capabilities
- Your experiences – personal and professional
- Your love and enthusiasm and motivation for life
- Whatever you really care about
- All of the important people in your life
- All the people in the world
- Networks you're part of
- Material resources – roads, land, technology, homes, money
- All the mistakes you've made

Maybe you can think of other things to appreciate. Go for it! Appreciation appreciates, so keep the

exercise going. This exercise won't give us a new story, only put us in a place of noticing and appreciating things newly, not being know-it-alls, so that we can begin the new story authentically.

We've run into a wall and it's time to open ourselves to new ways of living, new assumptions, new realizations, so that the new story we write is more what we really want.

Martin Rutte says,

We want a world that is life affirming, ennobling, energizing, engaging and hopeful.

This kind of world IS possible.

Now is the time to begin the next chapter in the collective story of Humanity's evolution, a positive chapter we've been waiting and longing for.

The time is now; the place is here the person is you.

COACHING TIPS/QUESTIONS

1. Do the appreciation exercise above.
2. Keeping appreciating the world inside and outside of you.
3. Check out Sarah McCrum <https://sarahmccrum.com/> and Martin Rutte <https://martinrutte.com/>
4. Begin writing a new story for yourself and for Humanity.

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The Fishin' Hole



Sam Hall

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has determined that it was a fungicide that caused the large fish kill on Chartiers Creek in mid-July of this year. They have not determined the source of the fungicide but they do continue to investigate. A fungicide is just what it sounds like, a chemical used to destroy fungus, most times in agricultural situations. The good news is the fish are already starting to rebound. The message here is that recreational water people can help this recovery by avoiding Chartiers Creek for another month or so.

It has been a soggy last couple of weeks and as we go to press with this September version of the Fishin'

Hole, the low pressure system that used to be Hurricane Ida is bearing down on our region and will in all likelihood bring several more inches of rain to local waterways. The means, for the long Labor Day weekend, fishing on the rivers and streams could range between difficult and dangerous. Use caution if wading or boating in high-water. It can be both powerful and surprising at the same time and it only takes a moment for what is supposed to be a fun time to turn into a nightmare. Lake fishing might be the way to go. Perhaps a pontoon for you and the family?

This month the extended trout season will begin on September 7th. From then, until the end of the calendar year you may keep only three trout caught in any approved trout waters. The minimum length remains seven inches. Approved trout waters include both North Park Lake and Raccoon Lake.

Reports are that the night time walleye bite is pretty good on the Allegheny River. Catfish of all varieties are hitting at night as well as on all three rivers for local anglers.

Bass fishing at Cross Creek and Dutch Fork Dam in Washington

County is reported as being hit and miss. I think this will improve over the next couple of weeks after the heat and humidity start to fall off a little bit.

Once we do get some cooler weather later in the month, I strongly recommend some small mouth bass fishing in the rivers and local streams. Fish in the fast moving water, letting your bait drift as naturally as possible. Small mouth bass are tremendous fighters and very clever fish. They will sometimes take the bait and swim back against the current, unlike almost any other game fish. They do this because, unlike many game fish, they are not just looking for a morsel

of food and then to rest somewhere while they are enjoying their dinner. They are aggressively feeding and looking to ingest as many calories as possible to stock up for winter. It is about 85 degrees as I finish typing these last sentences, and it is hard to believe how fast the summer is flying by. Yes, there is football in the air and soon there will be a chill as well. That chill will trigger the small mouth bass to start piling on the calories. I don't need a chill to tell me to pile on the calories so I am heading to the grill. Keep those lines tight and send me your pictures and stories to samdhall@comcast.net.



A beautiful small mouth bass.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Most libraries throughout the area are now open and offering the ability to borrow books. Some activities are in person and some are still remote. Summer Reading programs are starting at most branches in June. Check with the library near you for the details.



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10 Manilla Ave., Pittsburgh, 15220
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FYI

Green Tree Garden Club

On September 9 local bee keepers will present "The A Bee Cs of Bee Keeping." Lunch is served at 11 a.m., followed by a meeting at noon and the program at 12:30 at the Carlisle Social Hall in the fire hall. Guests are welcome to attend the program or the entire event, but please check on the status by calling President Karen Maurer at 412-922-8816.

Nutcracker Auditions

Auditions for dancers, boys and girls, are being held for the annual performance of the Nutcracker..

Auditions on Sat., Oct. 2
Ages 5- 12 years old - 2 p.m.
Ages 13 and up - 3 p.m.

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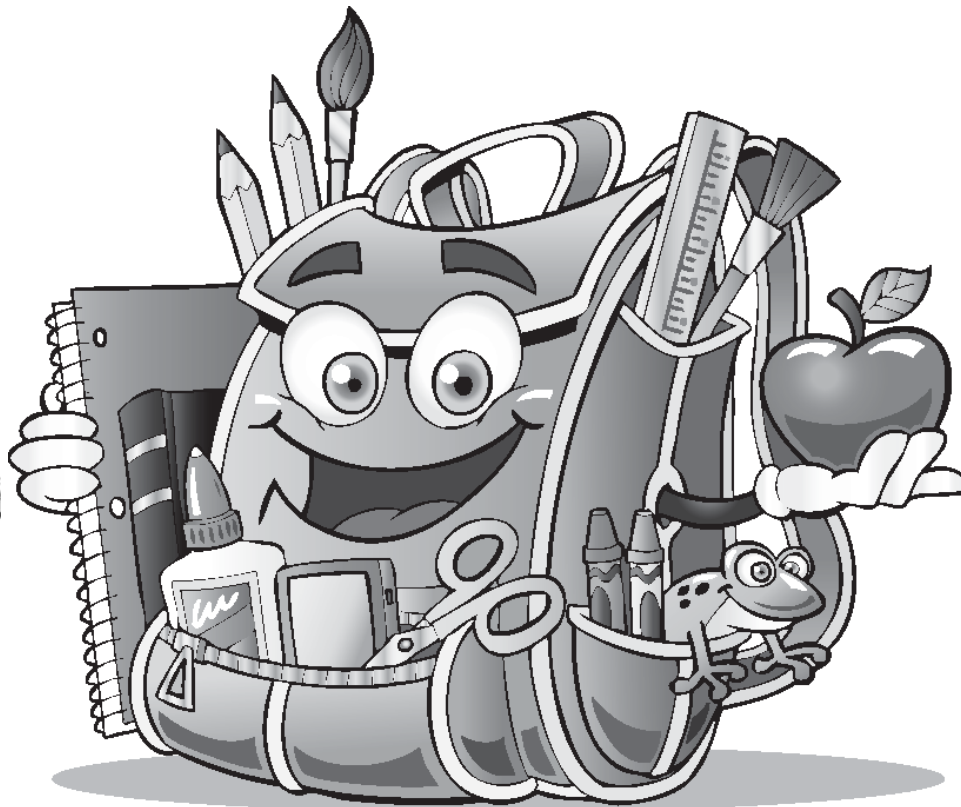
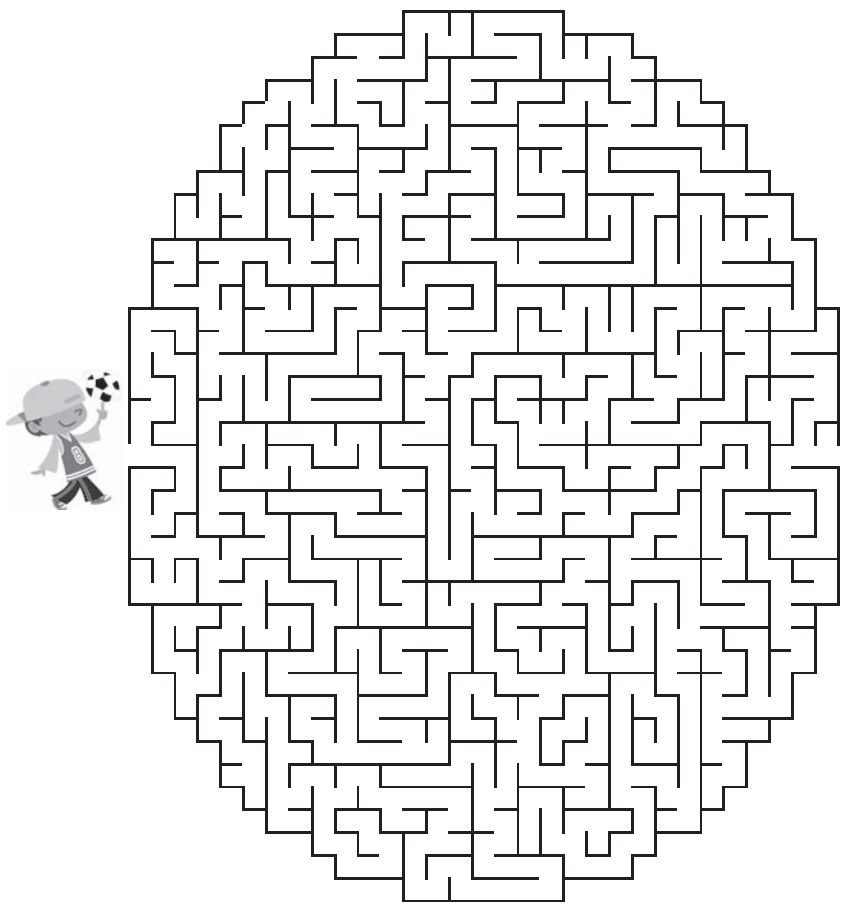
Fun and Games for Kids

(Answers on back page)



Help the student get on the bus!

Find the 11 differences between the pictures below.



Analogy Fun

Solve the analogies. Example: dog is to bark as cat is to meow.

1. Nurse is to patient as teacher is to _____.
2. Yellow is to banana as red is to _____.
3. DVD is to movie as CD is to _____.
4. Big is to ocean as small is to _____.
5. Necklace is to neck as bracelet is to _____.

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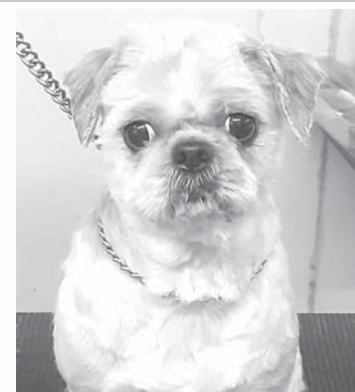
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