GREEN TREE TIMES

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February is "Virtually" a Month Full of Fun Things to Do



Plymouth Point is an interactive virtual experience similar to an escape room where your team solves clues, cracks puzzles and more.

The ground is covered in white and looks really pretty but it makes it hard to get out and about, unless of course your sledding or skiing.

The theme I keep seeing everywhere I turn is that January has been never ending. Well, it's officially over and now we have February, the shortest of all of the months! That's a good thing I guess.

Some things have reopened and people are anxious to get back to some sense of normalcy but we have a ways to go yet. This article is dedicated to all that is offered virtually. That's not to say, if you feel comfortable going out, to not. By all means, do so but wear a mask to protect others and yourself and stay safe!

For those of you heading out, check with the restaurants in advance for their hours. Also, some libraries have opened. Each neighborhood is different so check with your local library if you are interested in stopping by. Most malls, museums, and movie theaters are open as well but, again, be sure to check times. Most everyone is also offering contact free services and activities as well.

If staying in is more appealing then there's no reason you should be bored. So much is available!

Join the National Aviary's newest live online series on Feb. 8, 12 - 2 p.m. Pick up a paint brush and create your own masterpiece! Learn how to paint a portrait via Zoom under the direction of local artist Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas. Each session features a behind-thescenes look into each animal species to help inspire your portrait. February will focus on the Palawan Peacock Pheasant. Book now to ensure you get a virtual seat, as space is limited. Material kits containing all art supplies are available for purchase, or you may provide your own art supplies. More information about the artist at MariasIdeas.com. Book your seat

Plymouth Point is an internet-based immersive experience for 2-6 players. You don't need to be physically together. It's designed to work best with each team member on their own separate laptop or computer, with one person sharing their screen with the team. Everything takes place online, and there's plenty to explore you'll need to hunt for clues, crack codes and discover passwords to piece together the story. Depending on your sleuthing skills, it should last around 60 minutes. It's one ticket per

team, recommended team size 2-6 Broadwaydirect.com is one site that people. USA tickets at lists other musicals that you can plymouthpoint.co.ok. watch from home. Many Broadway

A global pandemic isn't stopping local artists from creating new works. National Choreography Month (NACHMO) challenges choreographers, dancers, and movement enthusiasts to create new dance work each January.

This year the third annual NACHMO PGH showing will be presented virtually on two separate nights featuring five local artists and their new works each night. You can support and learn about local art all from the comfort of your home. Donation-based tickets make this event accessible for supporters of all levels and can be purchased at courdance.com/nachmo.

Join Feb. 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom for showings featuring live feedback from a panel of notable artists from the dance community and an interactive opportunity for audience members to share their thoughts on the new dances!

Tickets are a suggested donation of \$5-\$20 made via Venmo or PayPal to Courdance, the presenting sponsor for NACHMO. Info at courdance.com/nachmo.

With Broadway closed to the public until at least spring, fans of musical theater will have the option of watching from home.

There are a variety of ways to do that. BroadwayHD offers a streaming service consisting of 300 whole, high-quality, professionally filmed live theater performances from Broadway, London's West End and beyond. Subscriptions cost just \$8.99 a month—and for new subscribers, the first week is free. Learn more at broadwayhd.com.

Many of the Broadway plays have been made available on different networks. The original Broadway production of Hamilton is available on Disney+ and Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway is streaming on Amazon Prime. Oh, Hello On Broadway and Shrek the Musical are both streaming on Netflix.

Broadwaydirect.com is one site that lists other musicals that you can watch from home. Many Broadway Musicals have been adapted into films, that are also streaming. Grab some friends and make it a watch party with Zoom or Houseparty.

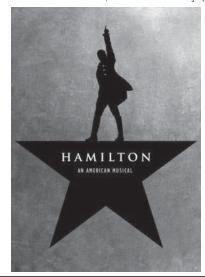
A New York show, Magic After Hours with Noah Levine, is a virtual magic show featuring interactive tricks that occur in your home, elegant sleight-of-hand, and startling optical illusions. From his home, Noah Levine shares his love for his craft while you watch from the best seat in the house. Information at magicafterhours.com.

The Shows Must Go On offers clips of broadway shows and more as well as full shows every week on Youtube.

Another great musical experience is "Love Changes Everything: An Andrew Lloyd Webber Cabaret." Comprised of 19 selections, this event features performance by Elmhurst Theater students doing selections from some of Webber's most iconic shows: Phantom of the Opera, Evita, Cats, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Starlight Express, among others. Watch at elmhurst.edu. Go to the website, then type Love Changes Everything in the search box.

Locally, Pittsburgh Public Theater is proud to launch this year's Shakespeare Monologue & Scene

(continued on back page)



Enjoy the original Broadway Play on Disney+.

MUSINGS...WONDER



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.

Sharon and Nancy Smyth, her business partner in Two Wise Women, together published, "Chocolate or Lunch, How Choices Impact Relationships." If you have tense relationships, this book is for you. Both books are available through Amazon.

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How do the peels get on carrots? Son Gordon, age 4

Instead of making New Year's Resolutions, I like to name my year....a single word that provides focus.

My word for 2020 was Delight. I looked for and found delight in nooks and crannies of that strange, chaotic year.

On March 16, 2020, I wrote in my journal, "Nothing about life as we've known it may ever be the same," and "Feeling the need to stay close to people even as we stay apart." It was a delight to discover novel ways to do that.

Here's another delight: I discovered that the Chinese word for transformation is the same as the word for melt. Think about that – maybe we need to melt in order to transform.

Wonder

For 2021 I feel the need for a super strong word, so I've chosen WONDER. Socrates said,

"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom"

Wonder - Awesome Noun

As a noun, wonder is something strange and surprising or the emotion we feel in the face of such a thing. It can fill us with awe and admiration. I went upstairs to get something, intending to be quick. I glanced out the window and was stopped in my tracks. Sun on the Ohio River glinted in such a way that it sparkled little dancing stars. Trees stood silhouetted on the banks. It took several moments for me to pull my eyes away and get on with my day.

Last week was the 9th anniversary of my husband Hal's death. I marvel at how alive my love still feels for him and other loved ones who have died.

Wonder - Pondering Verb

As a verb, to wonder is to be curious, to be in awe about something. To wonder is the opposite of jumping into action, and it feels like I want that this year. To reflect. To ask questions like,

I wonder:

What are the real challenges here for us now?

How can I be most helpful?

How people I love and respect can see things so differently from me?

What might be possible that I've thought was impossible?

Did You Know? is a Mr. Rogers song about wondering. Listen to Mr. Rogers singing it at misterrogers.org/videos/did-you-know/

Some of the lines are: Did you know that it's all right to wonder? Did you know that it's all right to marvel?

You can ask a lot of questions about the world, And your place in it You can ask about people's feelings; You can learn the sky's the limit. Did you know when you wonder you're learning?

About all kind of wonderful, About all kinds of marvelous, Marvelously wonderful things?

That's the kind of year I want.

Wondering keeps me in love with my life and with this amazing world we share.

Anchor the Word

It's useful to decide on some symbol to anchor the word, to remind you throughout the year. I have two. The first is a very close-up picture of a flower, a true wonder, which I framed and hung right under my bathroom mirror. The second is a delightful bracelet with the word Wonder on it. This was a Christmas gift from my dear friend Sandra. It comes from www.myintent.org

COACHING QUESTIONS:

- 1. Where is there wonder in your life?
- 2. What do you wonder about?
- 3. What is your word for 2021?

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(continued from front page)

Contest online for the first time in history. This time-honored tradition that began over 20 years ago with just 75 students. Now, over 1,000 students participate from nearly 100 schools and groups annually. The Finalist Showcase will be broadcast on YouTube Feb. 22, 7 pm. Winners from the top 20 scene and monologue submissions will be chosen from our Lower Division (Grades 4-7) and Upper Division (Grades 8-12) by an esteemed panel of judges. Register to view this year's Finalist Showcase for FREE by clicking the register button on the website. You can tune in for free from anywhere! Info and registration at ppt.org.

This year, City Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival is going virtual! You're invited to join for one of the live performances happening on Feb. 6 at 7pm and Feb. 7 at 3pm. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Go to citytheater cultural district org.

Experience the awe and wonder of New York's longest-running Off-

Broadway magic show, Monday Night Magic, as its stars bring their unique brand of amazement right into your home – or wherever you happen to be! This live streaming event will take place every Monday at 8 pm and will feature two of your favorite performers, along with an incredible host.

Each week, viewers who've purchased "Front Row Experience Tickets" will be part of the action, interacting as audience volunteers and asking questions during a one-of-akind Q & A segment. Just like the inperson version of the popular stage show, this event will be live, leaving lots of room for surprises, magical and otherwise. More info and tickets at trustarts.org.

Enjoy the latest live comedy show from Arcade Comedy Theater in your living room! All shows are BYOB. Restrooms are located inside your house. Concessions can be found in your fridge or pantry. Every Saturday at 9 p.m. on Youtube, live and Arcade Comedy Theater /live. Tune in anytime at arcadecomedy theater.com.

Steel City Improv (SCIT) Improv Jam Online is held on Zoom, free and open to all adults over 18 to watch and/or participate. It is a great way to try out improv or sharpen your skills. And it just fun! To participate, all you need to do is show up by clicking the zoom link! The Jam will be held from 7 – 8:30 p.m. on every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. A free sample Improv Class will be offered on Feb 15 at 7 p.m. Info at steelcityimprov.com.

This is officially the last month that will mark a year of us dealing with the coronavirus that has rocked all of our worlds a bit. Hopefully, this will be the last February with any COVID worries! Enjoy each day as you can and let's try to stay together even with our differences to help rid the world of this virus! I would love to be mask free as soon as <u>safely</u> possible to see evryone's smiling faces! We've got this!

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The Fishin' Hole



Sam Hall

For nearly six weeks now we have been adding an extra minute of daylight to each passing day. As you read this we are just about as far removed from Christmas Day as we are from the opening day of trout season statewide in Pennsylvania for 2021. As I write this, the first day of spring is less than 50 days away.

The vaccine for the coronavirus is being distributed throughout our nation right at this very moment. Walleye are still hitting well on the Ohio River. Anglers that concentrate on shallow structure near tributary streams are finding great success.

The "Fishin Hole" likes to consider itself a great bastion of optimism and positive thinking, except when it comes to the way the Pittsburgh Steelers' most recent football season ended. We are not ready to talk about that yet. It's going to be a while.

It is certainly time to start thinking about spring and getting ready for





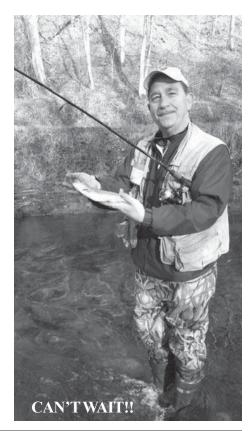


Opening Day 2021. There are changes you need to know about for this coming trout season and what better place to find those than right here? First and foremost, all trout approved streams will now be closed to any and all fishing beginning February 15th. The statewide mentored youth trout fishing day is now slated for Saturday, March 27, at 8:00 am. Thirdly, and very positively, I am delighted to announce that the Opening Day for everyone in the state of Pennsylvania is Saturday April 3, at 8:00 am.

I cannot tell you how happy that makes me. The separate regional opening days were as frustrating for me as, well, as the way the most recent Pittsburgh Steelers' football season ended.

So in keeping with our 'think positive' theme, as I write this we are only 62 days from the opening of trout season 2021. That is less than nine weeks. Aside from the nine week grading periods I had to deal with all through my middle school years, to me, nine weeks doesn't seem to be a very long time at all.

We can do this! What we can't do is think too much about how the most recent Pittsburgh Steelers' football season ended. Is that getting annoying? Well, now you know how I feel when I think about it too much. Fishing in shorts is almost here, send me your pictures and stories to samdhall@comcast.net. Keep those lines tight and try not to think about football.



Counting down the days until Opening Day!

Lenten Fish Fry

Elliott West End Athletic Association (EWEAA) will be holding their Annual Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 and every Friday during Lent.

Please join us!

EWEAA Herschel Candy Stand Herschel St and Hassler. **Take out only** 4PM-7PM Call 412-928-8854 Cash or Credit.

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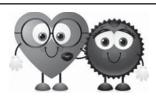
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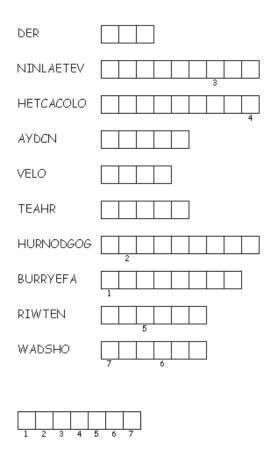
Fun and Games for Kids



February Puzzle Fun!

Find the 8 differences between the pictures below.

Unscramble the letters to make February themed words and then put the letters to match the numbers in the last section for the final word. Have fun!



Hink Pinks

A Hink Pink is a pair of rhyming words that match a silly definition. Example: sky colored hint = blue clue.

- 1. ebony tarter
- 2. smooch my sister
- 3. cow chuckle
- 5. fishing worm box
- 6. girl from Switzerland
- 7. spin female
- 8. believable food
- 4. electric measurement jerk 9. improved A
 - 10. amusing roll





More fun at greentreetimesonline.com





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Ascension Church, 114 Berry St.
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Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor

Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor Call church for any service updates.

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Answers for Kids' puzzles

10. fun bun 5. bait crate 9. better letter 4. volt jolt 8. credible edible 3. calf laugh 2. kiss sis ि रिष्या होमी J. black plaque 6. Swiss miss

added freckle Hink Pinks: girl's ear tinal word: friends HOWer PVOI moprys X on braid csndy winter shadow under girl chocolate **Гертиагу** bocket on pants valentine groundhog sweat drop pol, a foudue req



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