GREEN TREE TIMES

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Everyone loves a taco!

The mere mention of September and my mind is filled with images of school buses, football games, leaves changing, fall festivals and cooler, crisper days. However, in actuality, the forecast next week is 80+ degrees with mostly sunny skies and last September, the average daily temperature was 79 degrees. We still have plenty of warm, sunny days left and with that, many outdoor events are scheduled around the area.

Kick off the month at the Pittsburgh Taco Festival which will be held at The Stacks at 3 Crossings on Sept. 6, 12:30 - 7 p.m. There will be tacos, of course, and also games, face painting and fun! Info at pghtacofest.com.

Each year, Oktoberfest events are held in September and offer a variety of German foods, activities, entertainment, kids' fun, crafts, vendors, drinks and much more.

Oktoberfest is celebrated in almost every neighborhood around the area and downtown as well.

Green Tree will have their 25th Annual Octoberfest on Sept. 16 at 11 a.m. and will feature a car cruise, and of course food, live music and end of evening fireworks. Info at greentreeboro.org.

Canonsburg will have their PA Bavarian Oktoberfest on Pike Street, Sept. 19-21 and will feature amusement rides, live music, German food and beer, games and much more!

Hofbrauhaus Pittsburgh Oktoberfest is Sept. 12-14, 19-21 & 26-28 at the Southside Works. Three weekends of fun, music, food and more!

Collier Twp. will be celebrating Collierfest on Sept. 20 from 3-10 p.m. at Collier Park. The Friday Cruisin' Collier Park Kick-off event on Sept. 19 is for your best ride, 2 wheels or 4! Saturday will feature live music, food, drinks, inflatables, fireworks and more!



German dancing at Oktoberfest.

Penn Brewery has an annual Oktoberfest that spans two weekends, Sept. 19-21 and 26-28. This event will offer different VIP packages to cut wait time in lines, reserve seating and more. Enjoy German

dishes like schnitzel, potato pancakes, apple strudel and more! There will be plenty of fun, live music, and German beer! Info pennbrew.com.

If I missed a location close to you, try calling your local borough to find out if there is an Oktoberfest event near you.

The 3rd Annual Crafton Fall Festival will be on Sept. 27, 1-6 p.m. at Crafton Park on Main St. This free event will feature crafters, vendors, live entertainment, kids crafts, Pup Fest Parade and Contest, food and drinks and much more! Info at craftonborough.com.

Another local neighborhood event is the Carnegie Arts Walk on Sept. 13, 11 - 5 p.m. Stroll the streets and enjoy live art demonstrations, local music, performances, food, drinks and more! Info at visitcarnegie.com.

Enjoy the I made it Market on Sept. 27, 6 - 10 p.m. on Murray Ave. in Squirrel Hill. This is an awesome pop-up offering a great way to shop local and discover new handmade products from over 100+ artists. Event includes live music, food trucks and more. Info at imadeitmarket.com.

Celebrate the fine artisans of Pittsburgh at A Fair in the Park in Shadyside on Sept. 5 - 7 on 5th and Shady Ave. in Mellon Park. Info at craftsmenguild.org..

The Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival will be held every Sat. and Sun. in September through the 28th from 10:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m., rain or shine! Each weekend has a different theme and no matter when you choose to go, you will feel as if you stepped back in time. Info at pittsburghrenfest.com.

The Washington & Greene Counties Annual Covered Bridge Festival is Sept. 20-21 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This is a road trip filled with picturesque landscaping and of course 10 historic bridges that will serve as festival sites with food, crafts, demonstrations, live music, and activities.

Information can be found at visitwashingtoncountypa.com.



The Ebenezer Bridge ~photo courtesy visitwashingtoncountypa.com

Delicious food can be enjoyed at the 14th Annual Ukrainian Food Festival on Sept. 12-13, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. at The Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie. This event features delicious homemade Ukrainian foods and pastries as well as entertainment throughout the day. Info at orthodoxcarnegie.org.

Have fun at the Mattress Factory for the last \$14.99 Friday Night Special of the season, on Sept. 19 from 5-8 p.m. in their one-of-a-kind Garden. Event features live music, immersive outdoor exhibition, Muns Pizza and Lo Bar Cocktail Services. Info at mattress.org.

The Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival is being held Sept. 5-7 at the Carrie Blast Furnaces. This event is for the entire family and offers an Irish marketplace, an Irish dog area featuring dogs native to Ireland, Irish games, a children's area with stories, fun, and so much more! Information at pghirishfest.org.



Matching kilts to celebrate the Irish Festival.

(Continued on page 3)

MUSINGS...THE POWER OF PLAY AND ART



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.

The truly great advances of this generation will be made by those who can make outrageous connections, and only a mind which knows how to play can do that.

~Nagle Jackson

Play is important

Play is vital. Those of us who are silly at heart have always known it,

but researchers now confirm its importance: play fuels survival, creativity, and even civilization itself. Stuart Brown, M.D., founder of the National Institute for Play, shares a remarkable story in his book Play: How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul.

A hungry polar bear once approached Hudson, a sled dog in the Arctic. Observers feared the worst. But instead of fleeing, Hudson wagged his tail and bowed in invitation. То everyone's astonishment, the polar bear responded, and the two romped in the snow for fifteen minutes. The bear returned daily for five days to play until the ice froze and hunting became possible again. Brown concluded that sometimes play is even more important than food.

Play as a State of Mind

Brown defines play not as an activity but as a state of mind: "an absorbing, apparently purposeless activity that provides enjoyment, suspension of self-consciousness, and a sense of time. It is self-motivating and makes you want to do it again."

For one person, play may be writing; for another, painting, walking, or making music. What matters is that we each discover what play means for us. When we do, our brains work better, and we become more optimistic and creative.

Play is essential for learning and connection. Young animals and children practice social cues, boundaries, and bonds through play. Brown first became interested in the subject after studying Charles Whitman, the Texas mass murderer, whose childhood was stripped of play by an abusive father. He later found similar histories among many violent offenders, highlighting the deep human cost of a playless life.

My Play Journey

I am fortunate to come from a playful family—full of games, music, laughter, nature walks, and creative messes. None of us are professional artists or musicians, but we know how to goof off and the joy is real. Recently I've begun "slow drawing," which has become a calming, playful practice of its own. (See the book Draw Yourself Calm: Draw Slow, Stress Less by Amy Maricle.)

Playing with others brings more joy. With my good friend Susan, I have been working on a large paper bead wall hanging for over a year. We got the idea from an Ugandan artist's exhibit at the Carnegie Museum. From there we've been figuring it out as we go. Pure pleasure!

Bottom Line

Dr. Brown puts it simply: "Play can save your life. Life without play is a grinding, mechanical existence... Play is the basis of all art, games, books, sports, movies, fashion, fun, and wonder—in short, the basis of civilization. Play is the vital essence of life. It is what makes life lively."

COACHING QUESTIONS:

- 1. What does your favorite play look like?
- 2. How can you open yourself to be more playful?
- 3. What might more play awaken in you?
- 4. How can you share play or make art with others?

Note from the Publisher: If you enjoy reading Musings, Sharon has gathered them together in a book, titled "Fresh Views on Resilient Living." It would make a great holiday gift! It's available on Amazon or you can scan the QR code to go to the link.



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Community News and Events

The Association of University People (AUP) invites singles 50+, who are 4-year college graduates, to join them for activities and to meet new people. Activities include spring/summer picnics, monthly dinners, a book group, Scrabble, meeting up at local outside concerts and wineries. Those interested can attend three activities as guests before joining. To obtain more information about AUP or become an AUP member, call and leave a message at 412-353-9088 or email Aupsingles@gmail.com

Hawthorne Presbyterian Church, 90 Hawthorne Ave., Crafton, will be having their Annual Rummage Sale on September 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will have a variety of household items, collectibles, Christmas items, baked goods and lunch is available for purchase.

The Catholic Singles of Greater Pittsburgh invites singles 21+ who are looking for a new way to meet people and have some fun. They offer a variety of different activities including dinners, cultural, mini golf, hikes, biking, community service, volleyball, sports leagues, trips, and many other great events. For more information, visit their website at cacpittsburgh.org or email CACPittsburgh@gmail.com or call 412-341-4070, option 1.

On Thurs., Sept. 4, the **Green Tree Garden Club** will have an 11 am Lunch and Meeting with a 12:15 presentation on Hydrangeas for the Home Garden. This will take place at the Green Tree Municipal Center. Guests are welcome. Registration needed at gardenclubgt@gmail.com.

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Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall

September is also the month to accept the great gift of RADical Days. This is the annual 'thank you' to taxpayers, offering a chance to see the best of Allegheny County's top cultural destinations free of charge!

RADical Days is now offering RAD Pass, an online ticket lending system that gives access to library card holders to free and discounted regional attractions. Go to radpass.org to find out how to sign up.

The pass lets you enjoy the museums, theaters, the zoo and more at discounted or even free admission rates. Other info at radworkshere.org.

Something unique this year is a walking tour of the historic ALCOA building on Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. This building was constructed of all aluminum and has experienced some



The ALCOA building ~photo courtesy of Father Pitt

changes since 1963. There are now both offices and apartments that will be exciting to see in comparison to the original building. Info at phlf.org.

The ReelAbilities Film Festival will present award winning films by, about and for people with disabilities. There is an in person and also a virtual option. Each in person screening will be followed by receptions for filmmakers and guests to mingle. The event will be held from Sept. 4 - 11 and you can watch trailers, buy tickets and more at filmpittsburgh.org.

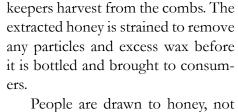
The Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival will be back for their 15th year on Sept. 18-21 at the August Wilson African American Cultural

(continued from front page)

Center and along Liberty Ave. Event will feature free outdoor concerts, Taste of Jazz Party with gourmet bites, craft beer bars, food trucks, and a KidZone. Info at pittsburghjazzfest.org. Running at the same time is the International StrEAT Festival on Sept. 20-21 on Smithfield by 7th and will feature Global flavors and more family fun!

I like to think of summer as both, a season and a state of mind. Summer, as the season, may technically be on it's way out but the state of mind summer is with you all year to get you through the snow and freezing temps that are coming our way. Keep your sun shining!

Health Benefits of Honey



only for its sweet taste, but because of the health benefits it provides.

Honey is rich in health-promoting plant compounds known as polyphenols. Healthline says regular consumption of polyphenols is thought to boost digestion and brain health, and protect against certain diseases.

Antioxidants found in honey might be associated with a reduced risk of heart disease.

The Mayo Clinic says studies suggest that honey might offer antidepressant, anticonvulsant and antianxiety benefits.

Both the flavonoids and polyphenols in honey have been shown to be anti-inflammatory, which means they can help tame inflammation in the body that comes from illnesses and eating ultra-processed foods. As a natural sweetener, the Cleveland Clinic says honey is a less inflammatory choice than regular sugar.

The World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics both endorse honey as a natural cough remedy. However, honey should not be given to children under the age of one.

Manuka honey can be applied topically to treat cuts and sores. This specific type of honey is found to be both antibacterial and antifungal. Raw honey of other types has been used to treat burns and wounds for centuries.

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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

I will turn sixty years old this month. That seems absolutely crazy to me! The thing is, I am still learning every day, about life, and about fishing. All of my previous fifty-nine years, I was pretty sure that by the time I reached sixty I'd have most of this stuff on lock down. One big thing I've learned is that, I still have a lot to learn!

I think there is a difference between things you "know" and things you "learn." I've always "known" that it is better to move around, be active and eat healthy, but I only recently "learned" when my doctor told me, that I had to do something about my high blood pressure. I've always "known" that taking care of your tomato plants is the best way to get tomatoes, but this summer I've "learned" about phosphate and nitrogen and full sun, all to get a couple really good tomato sandwiches. Similarly, I have always "known" it was a bad idea to irritate or aggravate your wife, but I've "learned" that, well, I guess I am still in the "learning" portion of that. Updates will follow, I am sure.

When it comes to fishing I've always "known" that I fish with mostly size four and size six hooks. I also knew that a size four was, for some unknown reason to me, bigger than a size six hook. That seemed counterintuitive to me but I did not really care until this past year when my curiosity finally drove me to look into why fish hook sizes run in the opposite direction. The bigger the number on the size, the smaller the hook is. I did a deep dive and I still don't really have an answer to the "why" part, but here is what I "learned."

There are two different sizing systems when it comes to fish hooks. There is the "standard sizing" and the "aught" sizing. In "standard sizing" the smallest hook you can buy is a size thirty-two. It is teeny tiny. From that tiny hook you can go all the way down to size one, which is pretty large. I sometimes use size one hooks for casting plastic grubs or worms for largemouth bass. That is the largest hook I have ever purchased and it was only because they were out of the size two. But, here is where things get strange again. That is obviously not the largest hook you can buy and now, as the hooks get bigger from a standard one, the sizing changes to the "aught" system. That just means they add a /0 after the size. It also means that the whole thing switches and now the hooks get bigger as the number gets bigger. So, in the "aught" system, a size four is bigger than a size two. Now that I have thoroughly confused you, I will drop this little nugget on you as well. There is NO standard of actual measurement across hook making companies. That's right! A "standard" size two hook made by Eagle Claw, is not necessarily the exact same size as a "standard" size two hook made by Mustad or by Gamakatsu. They will be similar from company to company but that's all. They are just close to the same size. That is crazy to me!

So, if you are still with me, you now know more about fishing hook sizes than anyone on your street. You are going to be a rock-star at the next neighborhood block party because of that knowledge. Now fall is here and the fishing in our area is about to get dramatically better, so get out there and set some hooks. Choose the size you like and keep that line tight. Send your picture and stories to samdhall@comcast.net .



Standard 2 on left/ standard





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Fun and Games for Kids



Page created by Matthew Hall

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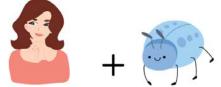


Check out the newest Big Kit Lil' Kaboodle issue! Find the 10 differences between the pictures below.



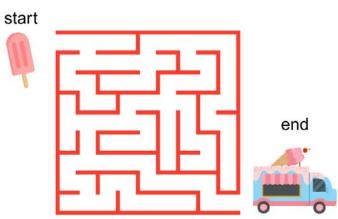
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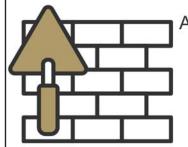
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GREENTREE AESTHETIC MEDICINE

Superior results for face, body, skin and women's wellness 412-922-6828 or www.gtaesthetic.com



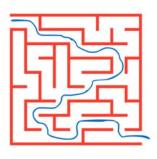
Accepting New Patients with most insurance plans including: Community Blue, Highmark, UPMC

- ~ Same Day Appointments Available
- ~ On-site Diagnostic Testing and Imaging Services
- ~ Urgent Care Immunizations and Physicals

"Visit Us in the High Field Building, 995 Greentree Road, Next to the BP Fueling Station."

412-920-1700 / www.greentreemc.com

Answers for Kids' Puzzles



LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTHOUSE BLUEBERRY CAMPFIRE

Puzzle Fun

Instagram: lexi.paints

NCUA

clock bird flag bus window soccer ball dashes on road banner color bus wheel jump rope

Ten Differences: welcome sign



Suth West Communities

Federal Credit Union

213 Pine Street, Carnegie, PA 15106 | 412-276-5379 last year, or a new money home equity loan of Must be a SWCFCU Member to Qualify.

