

GREEN TREE TIMES

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Fall Brings Cooler Temps, Colorful Foliage and Fun Festivals



Fun for everyone at the Fall Festivals around the area.

As much as I love summer, there's nothing quite as beautiful as the bright blue, cloudless sky of an October day. Couple that with colorful leaves and it's a postcard. The leaves haven't changed much yet here in Pittsburgh, but if you drive a little to the north, you'll see the reds, yellows and oranges of the season. The colors will be in your backyard by month's end.

There are many parks to visit to see the foliage such as Raccoon Creek State Park, Hillman State Park, Point State Park, Allegheny Islands State Park, Moraine State Park, McConnells Mill State Park, and Ohiopyle State Park. There are walking trails at the parks to allow for a stroll or hike while enjoying the colors! You could also just drive or walk around your local neighborhoods.



Take a drive to see the colorful foliage.

Combine colorful leaves with fun at Franklin's Applefest on Oct. 3-5

featuring over 350 vendors, antique and classic cars, apple pie baking contests, live entertainment, delicious food, and music. Info at franklinapplefest.com.

See the kaleidoscope of color indoors at The Fall Flower Show, Visions of Japan, that begins on Oct. 4 and will run until the 26th. This chrysanthemum themed show will offer vibrant autumnal displays and will feature a 113 foot dragon, a pagoda,



The amazing colors of The Fall Flower Show
~photo courtesy Phipps Conservatory

amazing fans in jewel tones and more. The Garden Railroad: The Age of Dinosaurs opens on the same day as well. Information available at phipps.conservatory.org.

Festivals, of all kinds, go hand and hand with fall, so there's always plenty to do.

Oktoberfest is returning to downtown Pittsburgh Oct. 2-12 at Ft. Duquesne Blvd. (between Stanwix and 7th St.) and Sixth Street Bridge

from 12 - 8 p.m. S-Th, and Fri & Sat, 12 - 10 p.m. This event includes fun activities for all ages and also includes German fare food vendors, carnival games and the 60 foot Ferris wheel on the Roberto Clemente Bridge. Info at oktpgh.com.

The Houston Pumpkin Festival will be going strong on Oct. 10-12 with the annual scarecrow contest, fall fun, food, games, a parade, music, entertainment and pumpkin activities.

The Confluence PumpkinFest will be held Oct. 3-5 and feature arts, crafts, food vendors, pumpkin contests, an auto show, a parade, live music and more! Info at confluencepumpkinfest.com.

Janoski's Pumpkinland in Clinton is held each weekend in October and features a corn maze, straw jump, pony rides, pumpkin patch, food, garden and more. Info at janoskis.com.

The Spring House in Eighty Four, PA is having Fall Fun on the Farm every weekend throughout October including hayrides, corn maze, giant pipe slide, yummy food and fun games! More information at springhousemarket.com.

Simmons Farm is having fun all of October and will feature an apple labyrinth, hayrides, rubber duck races, hay maze and corn maze, butterfly house, apple picking, apple sling shot and more! Info at simmonsfarm.com.

Trax Farms, in the South Hills area, is having a fall festival every Sat. and Sun. in October that is full of activities for the entire family including music, food trucks and vendors, games, and it's free admission. Info at traxfarms.com.

The Pittsburgh Monster Pumpkins Fall Festival will be on Oct. 18-19, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. at the 3 Crossings Campus between 28th and 29th streets. There will be free family fun including food, crafts, hay rides, a very high pumpkin drop and much more. Info at monsterpumpkin.com.

A unique event is the Festival of Combustion presented by US Steel on

Oct. 4, 1-9 p.m. at the Carrie Blast Furnaces. There will be the usual festival activities like food, music, and fireworks but then add in workshops in ceramics, metals, and glass and demonstrations in iron casting, welding, blacksmithing, glass blowing and more! Info at riversofsteel.com



Festival of Combustion demonstrations.

Another different kind of pumpkin event is the Magic Pumpkin Trolley on Oct. 10-12 and 17-19 from 10 - 5 p.m. at the PA Trolley Museum in Washington, PA. Ride on the decorated trolley. Kids can pick out a pumpkin and decorate it. There will be a fall themed LEGO display, games and complimentary refreshments. There will also be a Trick or Trolley on Oct. 25, 10- 4 p.m. Info at pa-trolley.org.

About one hour from Pittsburgh, Seven Springs has a variety of weekend activities at Autumnfest. Each weekend has a different theme. There will be great food, music, artisans and crafts, novelty acts, and the beautiful fall leaves! Info at 7springs.com.

October is also synonymous with Halloween. That can mean heading to a haunted trail, carving pumpkins or just passing out candy to the young trick-or-treaters. They are coming, so be prepared with the treats!



MUSINGS... “Ain’t It Awful?”



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.

Complaining does not work as a strategy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals, and won’t make us happier.

~Randy Pausch

The phrase “Ain’t it Awful?” may sound quaint, but it names a very modern trap. In the 1960s, psychiatrist Eric Berne popularized it in Games People Play to describe a familiar psychological pattern: people gathering to complain about how bad things are.

Here’s how the game works:

Someone starts with a gripe politics, kids on their phones, the price of groceries.

Others chime in, trading stories that confirm how terrible everything is.

The payoffs? Feeling morally superior (“At least we see the truth”) and bonding over shared grievance.

Psychologists now call this co-rumination: dwelling on problems without moving toward options or solutions. It may feel connecting, but it also magnifies negativity, fuels anxiety, and leaves us stuck. Thanks to our brain’s negativity bias, complaints feel compelling—but they also keep us circling the drain.

The Catch:

It’s Not Entirely Wrong

The trouble is, right now things really are awful, on many fronts. So the

question is: how do we face hard realities without drowning in them?

A Story

Over lunch, a friend launched into how bad the news is on every front. I suggested turning off the news. He countered that he had to stay informed. I raised my hand gently, like a stop sign, and said, “I love you, and I don’t agree with you—and I’m not going down this path. Let’s change the subject.” We did. The rest of our lunch was warm and enjoyable.

**Breaking the Cycle
Instead of playing “Ain’t it Awful?”:**

-Become aware: Notice when you’re about to jump into a negative spiral.

-Acknowledge: Things are bad.

-Move to action. Ask, “Is there anything we can we do about it?” Be prepared for “No.” If some small action is suggested, commit to it.

-Redirect. Shift the conversation to something positive or different.

-Decline the bait. Refuse to add your own “awful” story.

-Practical antidotes help, too. A daily gratitude or joy journal—writing down three things you’re thankful for—gradually shifts attention from problems to blessings. Even more powerful is service: doing something kind for someone else. Helping others not only lifts them—it strengthens us and builds the kind of community that makes life bearable, even joyful, in hard times.

COACHING QUESTIONS:

1. How can you keep yourself from starting an “Ain’t it awful?” conversation?
2. What’s your best way to step out of a conversation spiraling down?

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 **United Presbyterian Church in Ingram**, 30 W. Prospect Ave., will be hosting a flea market on Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Multiple tables, something for everyone! Hotdogs, refreshments & chips available for purchase.

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 happy hour, monthly brunches, lunches and dinners, a book group, day trips, Scrabble, meeting up at local concerts and wineries and the annual festive Haoliday Party.. 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

St. Raphael the Archangel Holiday Craft Show, Sat., Nov. 15, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., SS. Simon & Jude Parish Life Center (gymnasium). 75 tables of crafts, Chinese Auction of items donated by the participants, 50/50, bake sale and food available for purchase. Plenty of parking.

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 activities including dinners, cultural, mini golf, hikes, biking, community service, volleyball, sports leagues, trips, and more. For more info, visit website at caccpittsburgh.org, email CACPittsburgh@gmail.com or call 412-341-4070, #1.

The **College Club of Carnegie**, in our 92nd year, welcomes members and guests to enjoy our “October Autumn Harvest” meeting and luncheon Sat., Oct. 4, at Scoglio’s Restaurant, Pinebridge Mall, 1580 McLaughlin Run Rd, #102, 15241 at 11:30 a.m. A 50/50 Raffle. Women with post-secondary educations are invited to call Therese Condit, for information at 412-279-4458.

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Shelly Davis
pittsburghjuniortimes.com



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Source: American Cancer Society

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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

Fall is finally here and brings with it some much needed rain, along with some cooler temperatures. Before you ask, yes there are fish staging at the mouths of the tributaries in Erie. If you don't mind the crowds, they are catching fish off the mouths of the creeks casting spoons out into the lake. Some cooler nights and some heavier rains and there will certainly be Steelhead in the creeks as well, if you are willing to fish elbow-to-elbow with a thousand other anglers. Wait another month and a half and there will be more fish and fewer anglers. That's my advice.

Reports in September, closer to home, were that a lot of fish were being caught around the dams along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. That would make some sense as the water there gets oxygenated coming over the dam. I found the rivers to be too warm for nearly the entire month of September but was pleasantly surprised to have great success in some nearby creeks including Chartiers Creek and Montour Run.

Much of the success I had this September was with, for me, a new plastic that I would like to tell you about this month. When I first fell in

love with plastics, it was a soft rubber nightcrawler that got me going. But in the last couple of years as my target fish changed from the Largemouth Bass to the Smallmouth Bass and walleye, my favorite plastic also changed. It went from a "Texas-rigged" plastic nightcrawler to a soft plastic fat grub that really mimicked a large minnow when fished in a current.

This summer, I was picking up some trash and getting ready to leave at the end of a fishing morning. In some of the trash I was bagging up, I found a nearly full package of soft plastic scented Berkeley Gulp minnows. I was intrigued, and decided to give them a quick try. I was stunned by immediate success. I have been as hooked on them, as the Smallmouth and walleye seem to be, for a couple months now. Be forewarned, a package of these will not last as long as many other plastics. They are super soft and get shredded quite easily when the fish are biting. For example, a good plastic grub or plastic nightcrawler will last through five or six fish before it really becomes not viable as a bait because it will no longer stay on the hook. These plastic minnows (the three inch version is my preference) will never make it more than two fish before they just fall off the hook. While that is a downfall, it is also part of why I think they work so very well. They are just incredibly soft and lifelike. The softness makes them very "wiggly", for lack of a better term, in water that has any kind of current. "Wiggly" translates to lifelike, and when combined with the Gulp scent, the result is a lot of bites. Speaking of the scent, it is strong so make sure before you

put the package into your vest or tackle box that you have sealed both of the zippers or you will be regretting the scent for a while. The manufacturers know about the scent and that is why, I assume, they included two zippers per package to help keep that scent on the minnow and in the package, the only place it should ever be. I recall some years ago writing in these pages that a certain garlic-scented rubber worm should be made into a candle. That is definitely not the case for these minnows.

The rain should be cooling the rivers and getting the fish fired up to start eating a lot to store up for the coming winter, so now is the time to

get out on the water and try that new minnow, or whatever your choice of bait might be. Just get out on the water, and keep that line tight. Send your stories and pictures to samdhall@comcast.net.



Walleye caught on soft plastic minnow.

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my fishing videos



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Schedule subject to change. Please visit greentreeboro.com for an updated list of vendors and weekly food trucks.



Fun and Games for Kids

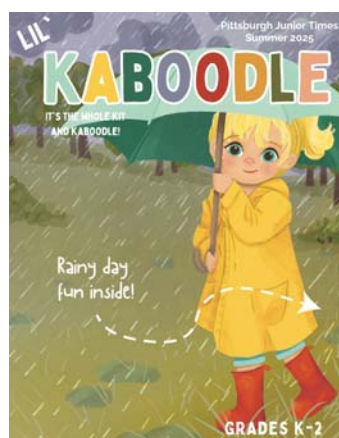
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Page created by Matthew Hall

More puzzles and fun!

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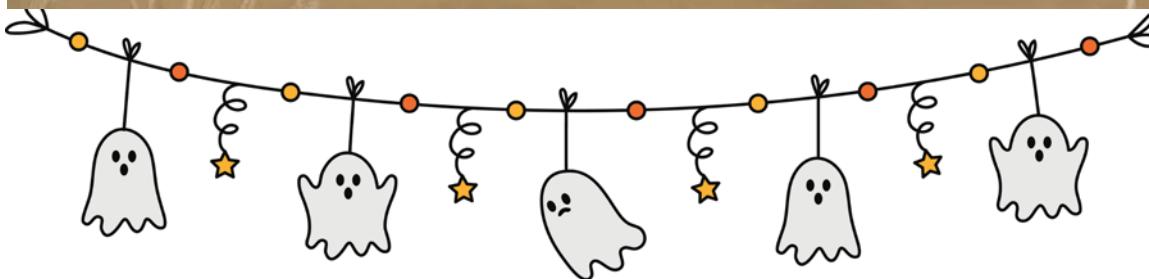


Check out the newest
Big Kit Lil' Kaboodle issue!

Find the 10 differences between the pictures below.



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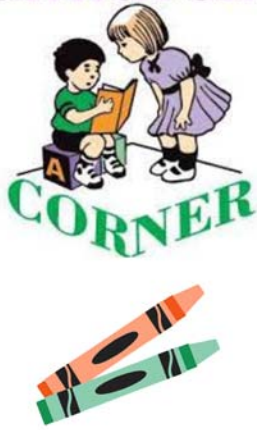
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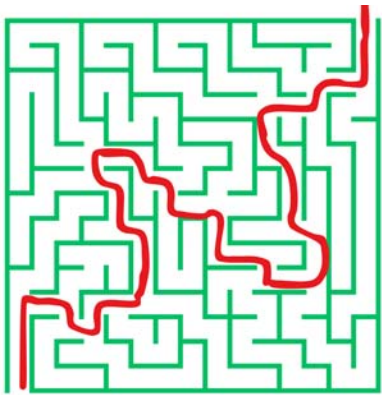
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