

GREEN TREE TIMES

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Smile, Summer is Coming!



Eating a delicious strawberry is the perfect picture of summer.

We may not have an ocean nearby, but the next best place to be is Pittsburgh in June. We celebrate with festivals, community events, great food, music, art, and of course, fireworks.

You can't mention June in Pittsburgh without mentioning the Annual Dollar Bank Three Rivers Arts Festival. This year, the event is being held from June 5-8 and the location will be on the riverfront lots at the 15th Street Plaza in the Strip District. The event offers a diverse lineup of performing and visual arts attractions. This free four day event will again welcome hundreds of artists from throughout the region and around the globe and will feature live music, dance, theater, gallery exhibitions, public art, creative activities, and the Artist Market. Info at traf.trustarts.org.

Another fun Pittsburgh favorite is WYEP's Summer Music Festival which will be held June 21, 4 -9 p.m. at Schenley Plaza. This free full day concert event is for the entire family and features a variety of music styles and more. Info at wyep.org.

Jam on Walnut is back this year for three Saturdays. The first is June 21 at 7 p.m. featuring The Delaneys. These outdoor block party concerts are family friendly and proceeds ben-

efit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Info at thinkshadyside.com.

The Shadyside Presbyterian Church Strawberry Festival will be held June 6, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Join for fun, games, live music and delicious food including strawberry shortcake and more!

A little drive north can take you to the Grove City Strawberry Days festival on June 6-8. This is a three day event that attracts thousands of people to enjoy artisans' displays, vendors, entertainment and food.

The Allegheny Parks have a Free Summer Concert Series at both Hartwood Acres and South Park all summer long and for all ages. All concerts are FREE and begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Food trucks (Black Dog Winery and Hop Farm Brewing Company craft beer) will be on-site at all concerts starting at 6:00 p.m. You can get the details at alleghenycounty.us.

Feel like a movie but don't want to go inside? Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park offers outdoor movies throughout the area in various Pittsburgh Parks. Get the complete schedule at pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/cinema-in-the-park.

Many local communities will offer outdoor movies and various activities at their pools or parks, so be

sure to check the borough website near you to see what's happening.

OpenStreetsPgh has returned for the 2025 season. It will be held June 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. This is a free community event, filled with walking, biking, running, yoga, skating, dancing, eating, and just having fun. The event closes miles of city streets to traffic and opens them to all of us to enjoy. Info at openstreetspgh.org.



Fun at Open Streets Pgh.

Southside Works is having *Music on the Lawn* starting Friday June 13, 6- 9 p.m. at Town Square, 27th & Sidney Streets. Each week will feature different live concerts along with vendors and artisans. Also, on June 7, Southside Works will be the featured location of Best Bites Pittsburgh. You can tour the area tasting delicious foods and drinks from the most popular places in the neighborhood. Tickets and info at madeinpgh.com.



Music on the Lawn.

~photo courtesy southsideworks.com

Bakery Square will be having *Live DJ on the Lawn* on Fridays from 6-9 p.m. and *Live Music on the Lawn* every Saturday from 6-9 p.m. throughout the summer. Enjoy the food and drinks from the local restaurants while at the live entertainment events. Info at bakery-square.com.

Acoustics in the Parks will be held on Wed., June 25, 7 p.m. at North Park featuring Tucker Muetzel. Info at alleghenycounty.us.

Lastly, the Squirrel Hill Night Markets will be held June 28, August 23 and Sept. 27, 6-10 p.m. on Murray Ave. from Forbes to Beacon St. Event features 75+ "I Made It!" Market artists, local live bands, performers, food trucks, activities for children and more! Info at uncoversquirrelhill.com.

Midsummer Sips, a 21+ event will be held at Trax Farms on Sat., June 28, 12 - 4 p.m. Enjoy unlimited sampling, live music, food trucks, and a wine glass. Advanced tickets encouraged at traxfarms.com.

There are various outdoor activities to try as the warm weather arrives.

Venture Outdoors offers hiking, paddleboarding, fishing and more. Info at ventureoutdoors.org.

There are walking tours available through freetourspittsburgh.com, phlf.org, visitpittsburgh.com (public art tour) and more.

Enjoy a Pirates game in the sun or under the lights.

All of these fun events are there for the taking but try mixing in some days of no plans. The phrase, "lazy days of summer" really says it all. You can just relax and enjoy the season without obligation by reading a book in the shade or sun, lounging by a river or lake, taking a country drive or many other things that need no plan or reservation.



Reading a book on a summer day.

Happy Summering!

MUSINGS...BLAME



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.

What If You're the Problem?
"Everything that irritates us about others
can lead us to an understanding of ourselves."
~Carl Jung

Story

I was talking with my son Gordon on the phone. There was an annoying beeping sound. I wished he'd turn it off. Finally, my patience running thin, I asked him what the beep-

ing noise was. He didn't hear it. Turns out it was MY phone!

Blame is Not a Strategy

Blame is a seductive impulse. When something goes wrong, our reflex is to point the finger—at a person, a system, the weather, our childhood. But blame is not a strategy. It may offer a momentary sense of relief, but it rarely solves things. Instead, it delays solutions, sows resentment, and keeps us stuck. What if, instead of blaming others, we paused and asked, "What if I'm the problem?"

This question is not meant to provoke shame or self-blame. Rather, it invites us into the realm of responsibility. When we ask, "What's my part in this?" we shift from victimhood to agency. Blame looks outward, but wisdom begins with looking inward.

Blame assumes someone must be wrong, and someone must be right. This duality may feel satisfying, but it oversimplifies. Relationships, teams, and systems rarely function on a single cause. By blaming, we not only avoid discomfort, we also give away our power to change.

Taking Ownership

Taking ownership, on the other hand, is empowering. It's the difference between saying, "They're impos-

sible," and asking, "How can I communicate better with them?" One approach builds a wall; the other opens a door. When we see ourselves as part of the problem, we also become part of the solution.

Blame also damages trust. No one wants to work with or be close to someone who is quick to accuse and slow to self-reflect. In contrast, when we admit fault, people respect us.

Spiritual Guidance

Blame has long been seen as a barrier to peace in spiritual traditions. The Bible asks, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own?" (Matthew 7:3). The Baha'i Writings encourage us to "Bring thyself to account each day," highlighting the value of self-examination over accusation. These teachings all echo a common truth: progress begins with me.

None of this means we accept abuse or ignore harm. Accountability is different from blame. Naming injustice is necessary, but even then, we ask, "What is mine to do?" That question keeps us grounded.

What if I'm the Problem?

Ultimately, blame is a dead-end street. It delays healing and post-

pones learning. But responsibility—facing our part with courage and curiosity—is a path to real change. So next time you're tempted to blame, instead: pause, breathe, and ask, "What if I'm the problem?" The answer might surprise you—and transform everything.

When I realized it was MY phone that was beeping while I talked to Gordon, I laughed out loud, relaxed, and knew I could take care of it. Irritation gone.

COACHING TIPS/QUESTIONS:

1. Is there something you're avoiding by focusing on what others did wrong?
2. What would happen if you stopped blaming and started owning your part?
3. What might change if you approached this with curiosity instead of judgment?
4. How would your best self handle this?

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

In our 91st year, the **College Club of Carnegie** will meet on Sat., June 7, at Gianna Via's Restaurant in "The Shoppes at Caste Village", Grove Road, Pittsburgh, PA. There will be a Social at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at noon. "The Scholar's Luncheon" will be the theme of the meeting. A 50/50 Raffle will be offered to benefit our scholarship fund program. Women with post-secondary educations are invited to call Therese Condit, Membership Chairperson, for further information, at 412-279-4458.

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

The **Rotary Club of Green Tree** invites you to attend the Annual Green Tree Rotary Charity Golf Outing at Chartiers Country Club Mon., August 11, 2025. Tee time 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Dinner provided as well as beverages on the course. Skill prizes will be awarded at Dinner. Chances for Auction Baskets and 50/50 will be sold as well. \$185 per Golfer. Proceeds to benefit various charities. Contact: Rick Canello 412- 996-0021 or rcanello@fedmc.com.

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.

What's the Buzz About Pollinators?



Protecting pollinators help the health of the ecosystem.

Many people live busy lives, but when they stop to smell the roses they might see a pollinator balanced on the petals. It's easy to think of pollen only in terms of what it does to those suffering from seasonal allergies, but pollen is essential for plant and animal life.

The Ecological Society of America says pollen is a plant's male sex cells that must be transferred from one flower to the stigma of the same flower or another for the plant to produce fruit and seed. Although some of this pollination occurs naturally, such as that aided by the wind or among plants that are self-pollinating, the vast majority of plants cannot move pollen without helpers, or pollinators. Check out these facts about pollinators and pollination to learn why they're important to ecological health.

Insects are the primary pollinators, although birds, bats and other creatures also can spread pollen around. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation credit honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, moths,

wasps, flies, and beetles with pollinating the most plants. However, the ESA says between 200,000 and 300,000 invertebrate species are estimated to serve globally as pollinators.

Bees and other pollinators play critical roles in food production. The United States Department of Agriculture says more than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators.

About 75 percent of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators.

Pollinator.org says blueberries, chocolate, coffee, vanilla, almonds, pumpkins, and peaches are just some of the foods and beverages that are produced with the help of pollinators.

Most bee species native to North America are "solitary bees." They don't live in colonies and rarely sting unless physically threatened or injured. Bees largely can be left alone to do their thing and people can cohabitate comfortably nearby.

Honeybees have different jobs than other species. A honeybee colony is made up of one reproductive queen, sexually undeveloped fe-

male workers and male drones. Drones mate with the queen so she can lay eggs, and the workers are responsible for caring for eggs, cleaning the hive and collecting nectar, pollen and other resources for the colony.

Pollinators have been on the decline for a number of reasons. The Pollinator Partnership says threats to pollinators include pollution, pests, pathogens, changes in land use that degrades their habitats, and climate change. Honeybees, monarch butterflies and native bumblebees have all exhibited declines in recent years, according to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

People can help protect pollinators by creating pollinator-friendly garden habitats with native plants best suited to local areas. Individuals also can select old fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible, since breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose the nectar/pollen needed to feed pollinators. Also, install houses for bats and native bees to encourage them to take up residence, and avoid the use of pesticides around the landscape.

Pollinators are vital to the health of the ecosystem. Without pollinators, food supplies would dwindle and the planet's plant life would suffer.



Butterflies are beautiful and important pollinators.

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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

May was a tough month for many of us in Pittsburgh. The weather was, at times, not just unpleasant but annoying, and even sometimes, dangerous. Thousands of Pittsburghers spent several days without power in the middle of the month due to a particularly brutal storm. The water on the rivers was very high and muddy for much of the month. Even now, none of the three rivers is anywhere near approaching “summer pool” levels of water. One spot I regularly fish on the Ohio, almost all year round, has been completely unreachable by wading for the entire spring. Not being able to get to your favorite spots, or not having what appears to be fishable water if you can get to those spots, can be very aggravating. It can also be an opportunity to find a new spot, learn a dif-

ferent approach, or target a different species.

So let’s talk about changing your approach. Muddy water makes it more difficult for the fish to see your bait, but most fish are not too heavily reliant on sight when it comes to feeding anyway. Larger, darker colored baits, scented baits, and flashier baits that might catch and reflect ambient light will help the fish find your bait. Fish in muddy water still have to eat. They figure it out, and so can you. Muddy water is usually associated with deeper, faster moving water as well. Those things will change where the fish will be, and that means you have to change where you are, or where you are casting, to target the fish. Fish will get closer to structure when the water is fast. They will also seek out shallow water. This past weekend, I caught several nice Smallmouth Bass in a spot on the Ohio River that is completely dry ground 80% of the year. I originally had no intention of fishing that spot, and was really just walking past it with my bait in the water when I caught the first one. I would have never imagined they were there, otherwise. If you normally fish the rivers, you will want to target the mouths of creeks bring-

ing water into the rivers during muddy water outings. The creeks generally clear up faster than the streams. They become a source of clear water pouring into the river along with, as always, being a good source of bait fish.

The fish you are targeting might change as well. High, muddy water will make it much tougher for bass fishing. Both Smallmouth and Large-mouth Bass use their vision for hunting prey a lot of the time and murky conditions can slow down their bite pretty significantly. Walleye use eyesight as well but are blessed with much better vision in low light conditions than the bass. One of the best friends to the angler in muddy water is the catfish, of almost any variety. Catfish use way more of their senses to find food, including a great sense of smell. Making your own stinky catfish bait can be a fun way to get the kids involved in fishing prep as well. There are a million recipes online. Get creative and think up more stinky items to add to the reci-

pes you find. Maybe make those in the garage! Keep those lines tight and send your stories and pictures to samdhall@comcast.net. Next month we will get a report on Atlantic shore fishing for the summer of 2025.



Smallmouth Bass from the muddy Ohio River.

~photo courtesy Sam Hall

Fish for Free Day July 4, 2025

Anyone (resident or non-resident) can legally fish on Pennsylvania waterways on this designated day with NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED (Trout/Salmon and Lake Erie permits are also NOT required). All other fishing regulations still apply.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Ask a Librarian!

Check out the Summer Reading Programs offered at most libraries!

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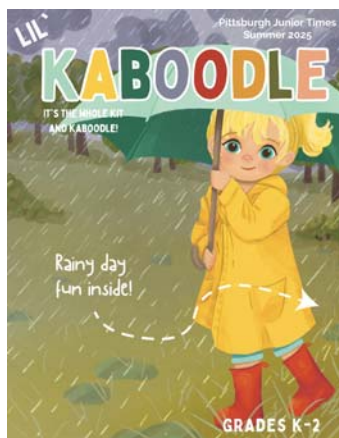
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Page created by Matthew Hall

More puzzles and fun!

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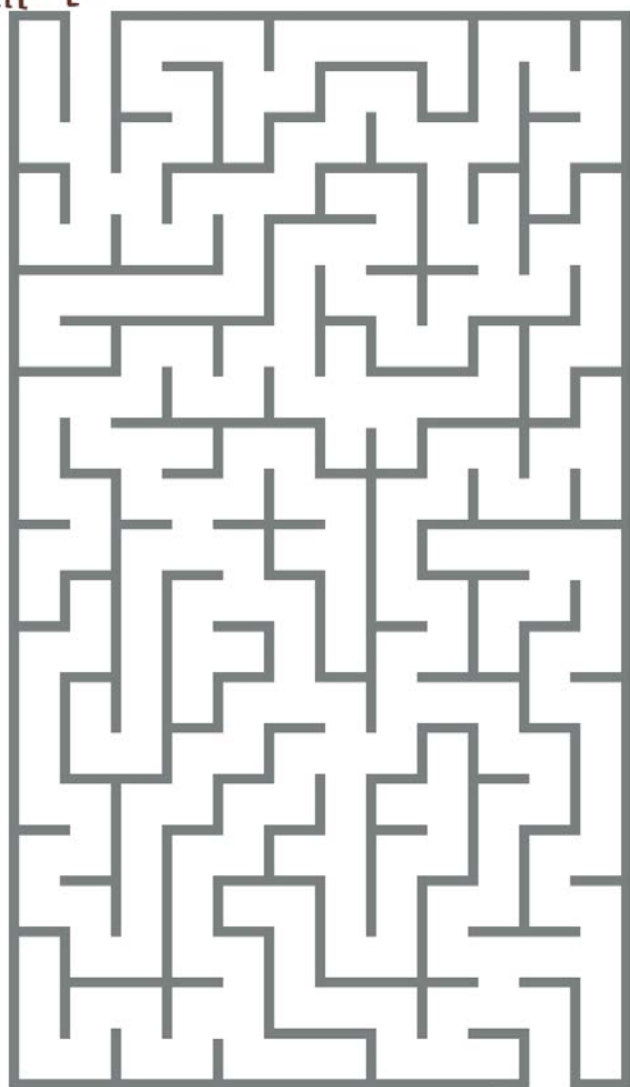


Sneak Peek!

Newest Big Kit Lil' Kaboodle issue!



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Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-922-6300
Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
Call church for any service updates.

**Church of the Nativity
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www.nativitychurch.org
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**Carnegie Primitive
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Todd Pastorius, Pastor

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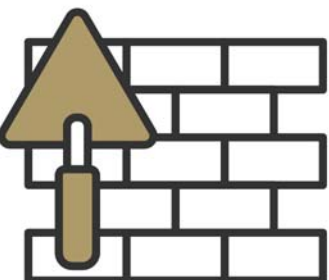
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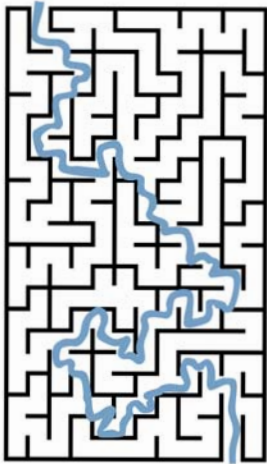
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