

GREEN TREE TIMES

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Ah... Spring is on our Minds, in the Air and on the Way!



Spring and bubbles are in the air!

This year, March and the anticipation of spring seem to mean much more than usual. I hear people saying, "It's been a long winter," "I'm so over the cold weather," "Oh, we have had so much snow!" I researched it and apparently this winter has been categorized as *Extreme* by the Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index (AWSSI) due to the very cold temperatures and the many inches of snow received. That's all I need to hear to feel that my desire for spring is completely validated! I'm counting down the days!

Kids seem to know how to bring excitement and enthusiasm to every season and we should follow their lead this spring and soak it in!

A childlike sweet treat that's perfect for adults too are the maple syrup events around the area.

The Maple Taste and Tour Weekends will be held Mar. 7-8 and 14-15 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Somerset County at 23 different locations. Each place offers something different so go to the website at somersetcountymaple.org and look at the brochure to pick your spots. There will be everything from syrup samples to maple milkshakes!

A Stroll through Maple History is being held at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Mar. 8. This is free but register by March 6.

Event includes introduction, guided walk to see working evaporator and tasting some syrup.

Maple Madness at Beechwood will be held on Mar. 14, 10 - 1 p.m. and features an outdoor tour of a maple sugar demo trail.

Beechwood is also having an adults only Maple Drink Tasting on March 12 and 26 from 7-9 p.m. Learn the history of sugaring and try some drinks and snacks. Info at aswp.org.



Maple sugar making.

Raccoon Creek State Park is holding an all day Maple Sugaring Workshop on March 14 from 10 - 5 p.m. The event will cover everything from collecting the sap to processing syrup into candies. The day will conclude with a pancake dinner sampling. Cost is \$20. Info at paadams@pa.gov. They will be hold-

ing a free Basics of Maple Sugaring on Mar. 15 at 10 - 12:30 p.m. The event will mostly be walking outdoors and include learning the process of turning maple sap into syrup and sugars.

You could head north for the Northwest PA Maple Association Annual Taste and Tour Weekend of 20 maple sugaring operations. This event will be Mar. 14-15 and offer tours, demonstrations, kids' activities, wagon rides, samples and products for sale. Info at pamaple.org.

In addition to seeing the green sprouts of the spring flowers, you are sure to see green during the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Each year Pittsburgh has a parade on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day.

This year the parade is on March 14 at 10 a.m. and is perfect for the entire family! There will be no shortage of festivities following the parade downtown.



A celebration for all!

There are Irish pubs all around the Pittsburgh area so check with your borough to see if there are events near you.

Starting March 28 and lasting for four weeks, you can enjoy the *Spring Flower Show: True Colors* at Phipps Conservatory. Bursts of color and fragrance will be throughout. Each room will feature photography and information about a display from an historic time along with stunning flowers, a rainbow living plant wall and kites. Information at phippconservatory.org.

Getting in the mood for spring is easy but it's especially so while attending the Annual Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The dates this year are March 6-15.

Browse the largest home event in America with over 1,500 exhibits! You can save time and get tickets online at pghhome.com.

The Farm to Table Expo: Buy Fresh, Buy Local is a part of the show and will feature speakers and seasonal cooking demonstrations. Info at pghhome.com or farmtotablepa.com.

History Uncorked: LEGENDARY, will be held at the Heinz History Center on Fri., Mar. 6 will be filled with entertainment and activities that are inspired by the iconic people, places and moments that define the City of Champions. MVP swagger and post-game party glow-ups encouraged! Information available at heinzhistorycenter.org.

Launching in March 2026, Handmade Arcade's new Modern Craft Market, a juried shopping event, will be held Mar. 27-29 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. This market will connect shoppers, craft collectors, and retail and industry partners with some of the best contemporary craft makers and artists from around the country. Info at handmadearcade.org.

Every Friday this month you will find delicious fish fries at various places throughout the area. Page three has the details.

When we think of food, we need to always be aware that it's a blessing not a guarantee, although it should be. Help fight hunger by attending the *Empty Bowls* community meal on Mar. 15, 1-8 p.m. at Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland. Support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Just Harvest by enjoying a simple meal of soup and bread from local chefs in a hand crafted bowl. Purchase tickets and get info at pittsburghfoodbank.org.

Spring forward on March 8 and welcome those longer days!



MUSINGS... LAUGH WITH ME

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone.

Excuse me, does this bus go to Duluth?

No, this bus goes beep beep. (From A Prairie Home Companion Pretty Good Joke Book)

My Laughter History

I come from a family that laughs a lot. When I was 8, we got a record player. We played two old 78 records over and over — one with Irish songs like Who Threw The Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder? The other, Gos-samer Wump; it gave us contagious laughter. My parents and siblings and I would listen and laugh uncontrollably. (Amazingly, you can hear it here. Let me know how you like it!) youtube.com/watch?v=KvVOUa_tZOA

Years later, someone invited me to a Laughter Club inspired by the movement begun in India by Dr. Madan Kataria. His premise was simple: laughter is powerful medicine. Research supports that laughter boosts mood, reduces stress, eases pain, strengthens immunity, and connects people.

For me, laughter has truly been therapy. A few months after my hus-

band Gene died, I was deep in grief. Then one day a friend made me laugh — a full, surprised belly laugh. I felt myself rejoin the living.

Wisdom about Laughter

Across the ages, people have recognized laughter's strength:

· *The human race has only one really effective weapon and that is laughter* — Mark Twain

· *Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.* — Victor Borge

· *Laughter is poison to fear.* — George R.R. Martin

· *Laughter has no foreign accent.* — Paul Lowney

· *A smile starts on the lips, a grin spreads to the eyes, a chuckle comes from the belly; but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul, overflows, and bubbles all around* — Carolyn Birmingham

Laughter and the Elderly

When my dad was in his 90's, I called him nightly. Conversation sometimes lagged, so I began reading him jokes from the Pretty Good Joke Book. He often responded with a hearty laugh and then, "That felt good." Years later, I did the same with my brother-in-law who had dementia.

Though many things slipped away, simple humor still reached him.

Start Laughing

If humor feels scarce, seek it out. Google "adult jokes," get a joke book or watch comedies. Share laughter with friends. Try the Three Rivers Laugh, honoring Pittsburgh, where I live.

Monongahela hahahahahahaa
Allegheny hehehehehehehehe
Ohio hohohohohohohohoo

Let it build until it bubbles up from the soul. As Dr. Seuss wrote, "From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere."

COACHING QUESTIONS/TIPS:

1. Notice humor in everyday life.
2. Keep a joke book handy and share freely.
3. Call an older person and brighten their day with a laugh.
4. Laugh at little things, even alone, simply because it feels good.



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.

"We don't laugh because we're happy,
We are happy because we laugh."
~William James

Have a laugh!

I'm reading a terrifically interesting book about anti-gravity — I just can't put it down.

If corn oil comes from corn, where does baby oil come from?

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Community News and Events

The Green Tree Woman's Civic Club is hosting the Scholarship Luncheon, *Seeds of Success* on Mar. 22 at 12 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton, Green Tree. Event includes food, drinks, basket raffles and a fashion show by Amarah Boutique Fashion. Tickets by calling Donna at 412-592-3325.

Green Tree Rotary is offering a **2026 \$2,500 scholarship** to two deserving high school seniors. Applicants must be a Green Tree resident. Applications available at the Guidance Counselors' offices, or by downloading from the greentreerotary.org.

Survive the chilly winter with **The Association of University People. AUP** welcomes singles 50+, who are 4-year college graduates, to join them for activities and to meet new friends. Events include happy hour, brunches, lunches, dinners, meet ups at live music venues, unique book group, day trips and Scrabble. Those interested can attend three activities as guests before deciding to join. Info. by email to groupaupsingles@gmail.com.

The **College Club of Carnegie**, welcomes members and guests to enjoy our "Hello Spring" meeting on Sat., Mar. 7, at Olive Garden, 971 Green Tree Rd. Social at 11:30 with lunch to follow. A 50/50 Raffle will be offered. Local artist, Eva Trout, of Firebox will be featured. Women with post-secondary educations call Therese Condit for info at 412-279-4458.

Lenten Fish Fry Fridays

- Corpus Christi Parish**, Saint Barbara Church Hall
45 Prestley Rd., Bridgeville, 15017
March 6 and 20, 11 a.m. - 1p.m.; dinner 4-7pm
Eat in or takeout, Orders: 412-914-346, corpuschristiPGH.org
- Rennerdale Volunteer Fire Department**
30 Suburban Ave., Carnegie
412-276-9652 or rennerdalevfd.net
- Saint Michael the Archangel Parish**, Saint Bernard Church
311 Washington Rd., Mt. Lebanon, 15216
Fridays, not Good Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30pm, 4:30-7 p.m.
Dine in or take out, Order: 412-440-2697, Info: smapgh.org
- Archangel Gabriel Parish**, Saint Malachy Church
343 Forest Grove Rd., Coraopolis, 15108
Fridays noon-7 p.m.; Good Friday 3-6 p.m.
Except Good Friday, phone orders start at 10 a.m.: 412-771-0848
Info: 412-787-2140, ArchangelGabrielParish.org/FishFry
- Saint Philip Parish**, Ascension Church, Conner Hall
114 Berry St., Crafton, 15205, Fridays, Good Friday, 4-7 p.m.
Dine in or takeout, Info: saintphilipparishpggh.com
- Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish**, Sts. Simon and Jude Church
1607 Greentree Rd., Green Tree, 15220
Fridays, not Good Friday, 4:30-7 p.m.,
Eat in or takeout, Orders: straphaelcgs.org
- Presto Volunteer Fire Department**
5228 Thoms Run Road, Presto, PA 15142
Fridays March 6th & 20, April 3, 3:30-7 p.m.
Take out only, View menu and order online: prestovfd.org
Order over the phone by calling 412.221.5677
- South Fayette VFW Post 586**
637 Miller's Run Rd., Cuddy 15031
Fridays during Lent, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- South Side Kids Fish Fry Food Truck Palooza at Velum**
2120 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
March 13, 5-7 p.m. Fun and games for all! facebook.com/southsidekidspggh

Getting Kids Back into Free Play



One of the endearing components of the Netflix series “Stranger Things,” which reached its conclusion at the end of 2025, is how the show harkened viewers back to the unencumbered days of being a kid in the 1980s - that is, until those kids had to fight for their survival against otherworldly foes. Demogorgons and mind flayers aside, the Hawkins kids would hop on their bikes and traverse their town, or engage their imaginations during game play in a wood-paneled basement. Baby Boomers, Generation Xers and even Millennials can likely recall youthful days when they had plenty of free time on their hands to pursue various adventures.

Fast forward to 2026, and today’s children lead much more structured lives. “Free play,” defined as child-initiated, unstructured activity, has largely been phased out.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that free play is not simply a break from learning, but the “primary vehicle through which children develop the brain architecture necessary for adult success.” They say, free play should be encouraged and not lambasted. Here’s a look at how free play is a helpful tool for healthy child development.

Improves executive functioning: Research published in The Journal of Pediatrics says children who have more time for unstructured play have better self-regulation and executive function. These elements can predict academic success better than IQ, say health experts.

Greater brain development: Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine have found that children who don’t play much develop brains 20 to 30 percent smaller than is normal for their age.

Stress reduction: In their clinical report, “The Power of Play,” the AAP suggests that when play and safe, stable, nurturing relationships are missing in a child’s life, stress hormones can elevate to harmful levels. Play is so essential to kids that the AAP suggests pediatricians recommend more of it at each child well visit.

Promotes conflict resolution: Children who engage in free play learn on their own how to keep the game going through compromise, rather than relying on a parent or referee.

It is thought that free play is an important component of a child’s well-being, and one that is not stressed nearly as much as it should be for good health and future success. Kids can enjoy self-directed play that is nature-based and unplugged from digital distractions.

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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

Spring makes you feel younger and fishing can have the same effect. The benefits of fishing are vast both psychologically and physically.

It's a scientific fact that the time you spend around water lowers both your blood pressure and the stress hormone in your body called cortisol. It's true, scientists call rivers, lakes, and the ocean "Blue Spaces" and studies show that being in these spaces leads to "Blue Mind." In this state our brains more readily and easily recover from the over stimulation and stress of everyday life. That's just the benefit from seeing the water. Hearing it is also super helpful. The sounds of water also lower stress but additionally they trigger neurochemicals in your body like dopamine and oxytocin which promote relaxation and pleasure. It truly is amazing what just being around the water can do for you.

But that's just the psychological side of things. Fishing is very physically beneficial as well. It's a tremendous low impact workout walking to your spot, or wading against the current in the stream. Being in the sun-

shine, while fishing, triggers your body to produce vitamin D. We all know that leads to strong bones. Going fishing is practically like going to the gym, the doctor, and a therapist all rolled into one inexpensive, easily accessible day on the water.

I feel like I should go fishing right this second. Alas, I will wait for the weekend. Those weekends will continue to get warmer as they come along now. Only five weeks remain until the opening day of Trout Season in Pennsylvania. If you are chasing the pellet eaters this spring, it's time to get ready. But, in non-trout approved waters the walleye and striper will be strapping on the feed bags very soon, awaking from a long winter where food has been scarce. Hopefully, they will be angry. I like them angry. Plus, in colder water, like this spring time water in Pittsburgh, the fish seem to fight much better. I feel fifteen years younger just writing this fishing hole. Send stories and pictures to samdhall@comcast.net and keep those lines tight. Now, let's go get some "fishical therapy." That part is not scientific. I made that part up out of thin air.



A beautiful springtime Striper

Scan to watch my fishing videos



Free Throw Championship Winners

"On Sunday, Feb. 1, the Knights of Columbus, St. Raphael the Archangel Council #11143, hosted a Free Throw contest in the Green Tree Municipal Center Gym. This contest was open to students ages 9-14. There were a total of 30 participants in the event. There were eight students who advanced to the District competition conducted on February 22, at the Green Tree Municipal Center Gym against the Archangel Gabriel Knights of Columbus Council #11279.

The eight winners were:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Age 9 - Dana Furnace | Age 12- Alaina Piaggese |
| Age 9- Zachary McGovern | Age 10- Nino Salvucci |
| Age 11- Thomas McGovern | Age 12- Sabastian Wadowsky |
| Age 13- Nicholas Bays | Age 14- Grady Molinero |

Then six winners evolved from the District competition:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Age 9 - Dana Furnace | Age 12- Alaina Piaggese |
| Age 9- Zachary McGovern | Age 10- Nino Salvucci |
| Age 11- Thomas McGovern | |
| Age 13- Nicholas Bays | Most noteworthy is Nicholas Bays, who achieved 22 successful free throws out of 25 chances. |

They will be moving on to the Regional Competition on Saturday, March 7th in Natrona Heights.

Wish them luck!

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Ask a Librarian!

Check out the many programs for all ages offered at most libraries!

- | | |
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greentreepubliclibrary.org, 412-921-9292</p> | <p>SCOTT TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
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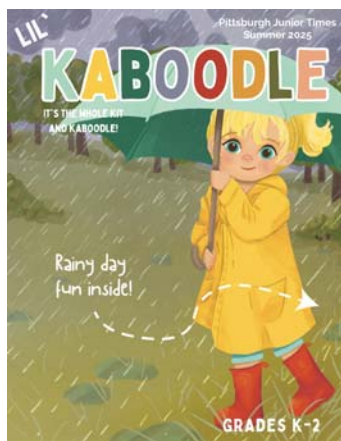
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Page created by Matthew Hall

Find the 10 differences between the pictures below.

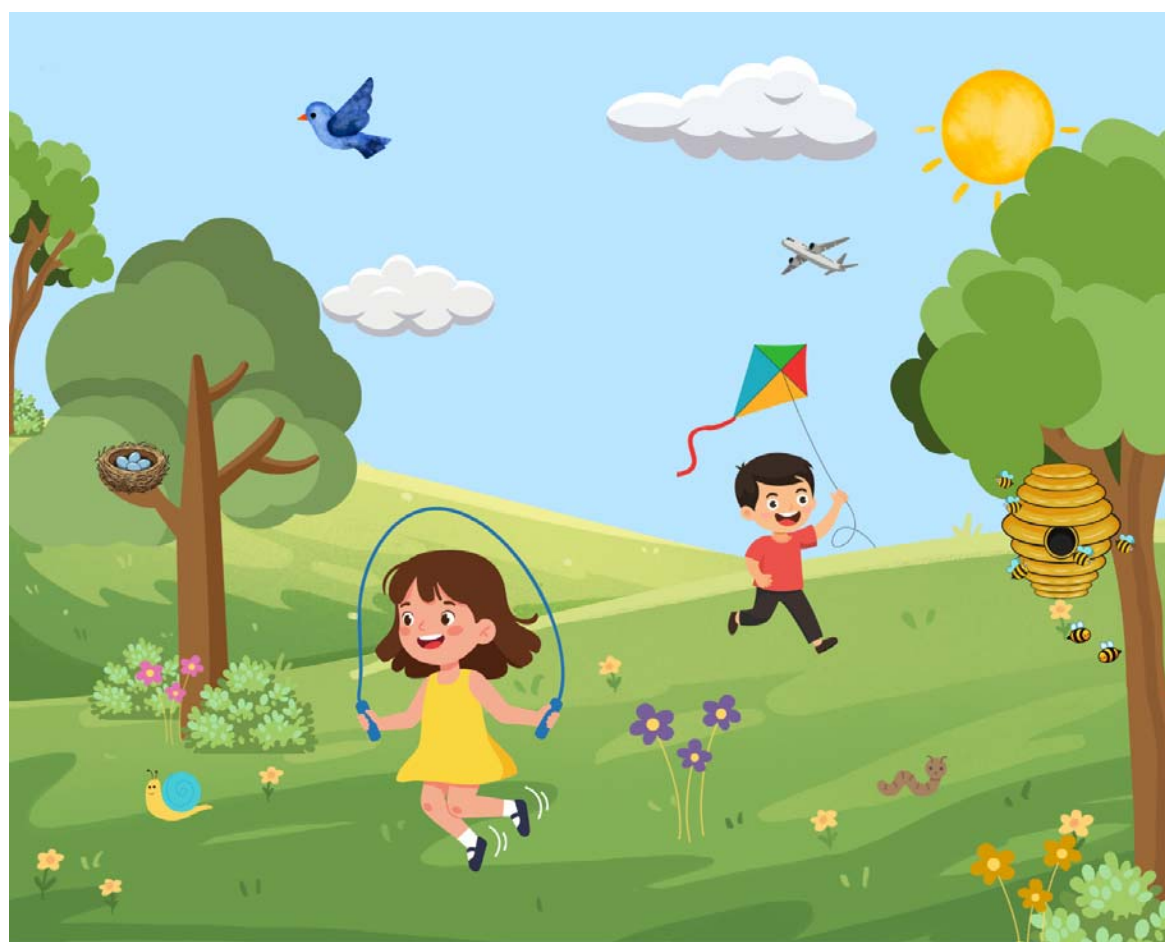
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Pastor Maurice C. Frontz III, STS
Facebook.com/ststephenpittsburgh

First Christian Church at Carnegie

Teaching From God's Word
Anthony and Lydia Streets
Carnegie, PA 15106
Minister Robert W. Hale,
412-279-5030
carnegiechristianchurch@gmail.com

Saint Philip Parish

St. Philip Church, 50 W. Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Ascension Church, 114 Berry St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
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(Corner of Fountain St. & Dow Ave.)
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carnegiepm.com
412-207-2233
Todd Pastorius, Pastor

Church of the Atonement (Episcopal)

618 Washington Avenue, Carnegie,
PA 15106
412-279-1944
The Rev. Ben Wright
www.atonementcarnegie.org
www.facebook.com/atonementcarnegie

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80 Bradford Avenue
412-921-2293 Fax: 412-921-0348
Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.
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Jin Kyung Ko, Pastor

Hawthorne Avenue Presbyterian Church

90 Hawthorne Ave.,
Crafton, PA 15205
412-921-2504
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Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Paul Nigra
www.hawthornechurch.org

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Pastoral Office Hrs. by Appointment
Jin Kyung Ko, Pastor

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www.carnegiepresby.org

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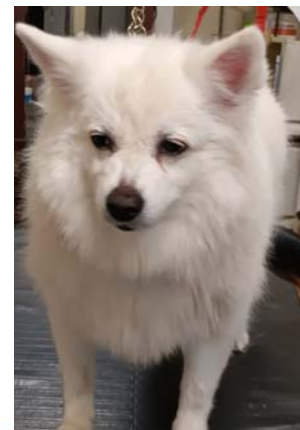
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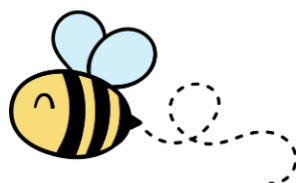
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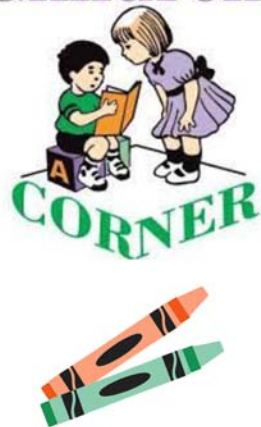


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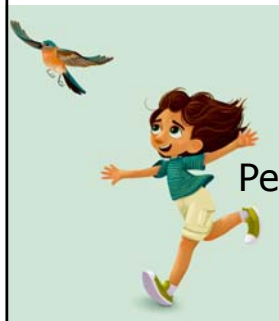
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