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The Shortest Month of the Year Doesn't Fall Short on Fun



Kids find winter fun in the snow no matter how cold it is!

Today was another record breaking low temperature day and we are still looking at a lot of snow on the ground from the last snow storm. It's going nowhere for a while with the forecasted highs! The best thing I am hoping to do, is adapt a child like view and embrace the freezing cold snow covered hills by looking at them in wonder, through the window. While the kids may last a couple of hours skiing and sledding, I'll aim for putting on my coat, boots, hat and gloves, opening the door, getting the mail, and then retreating back inside!

Now, once we start to go above 25 degrees, count me in for some fun!

Regardless of weather, Pittsburgh has many fun activities planned for February!

Sweetwater Center for the Arts is having Folk February and offering two nights of live folk music along with hors d'oeuvres and wine from 6:30 - 9 p.m. on Feb. 6 and 26. Info at sweetwaterartcenter.org.

The Annual Pittsburgh Winter Beerfest is being held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Feb. 21. This event features hundreds of craft beers to sample, live music and entertainment, delicious local food. There are special priced tickets for designated drivers as well. Information at pittsburghbeerfest.com.

Dive into celebrating the winter outside at a fun, cold weather event to the north of Pittsburgh at Franklin On Ice on Sat., Feb. 7, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. This day includes professional ice carvings, indoor sidewalk sales, a chili cook-off and more. Info at franklinpa.gov.

Dress warm and enjoy the cold, crisp weather and some hot soup at the South Side Soup contest on Sat., Feb. 28. This event pairs businesses with restaurants and offers a variety of soups to taste while showcasing the South Side and all there is to offer. Proceeds benefit the Brashear Association Food Pantry. Tickets sell out fast, so go to southsidesoup.com now to get in on the delicious fun!



Hot delicious soup on a cold winter day is amazing!
~photo courtesy southsidesoup.com

The Galentine's Day Fashion Show and Brunch is back and will be held on Feb. 8, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Kimpton Hotel Monaco. Get a drink or two, your food and then enjoy the fashion show that will feature Boutique Blue, Opal Rose, Shop with Julz and Mainstream Boutique. Tickets include two drinks, brunch and coffee, tea and water. Tickets and info at monaco-pittsburgh.com. Proceeds go to Treasure House Fashions - to help support women in transition or crisis.

Monster Jam is back again this year at PPG Paints Arena! These giant custom designed trucks perform amazing stunts and it may not be the event for everybody but it is definitely anything but boring to watch! The event is Feb. 6-8. Info and tickets at monsterjam.com.



Monster Jam stunts thrill!

~photo courtesy Monster Jam

The Pittsburgh Winter Wine Festival will be held at 1 PPG Place on Feb. 28 in two sessions from 12 - 4 p.m. and then 6 - 10 p.m. Expect great wine, beer, ciders, live music, local food and more! Info at pghwinefest.com.

February and Valentine's Day go hand-in-hand and there are many events being held in the area to celebrate the holiday.

The 20th Annual Valentines on Ice will be held at Schenley Park Ice Rink on Feb. 14 for Family Skate at 3 p.m. and Adults Only at 7 p.m. Admission includes roses, raffles, Betsy Anne Chocolates, and more.

There are so many ways to celebrate from Chocolate and Wine Pairing at The PA Market, Charcuterie Workshop at Pair, to a Coffee Date

with an Artist at Perk & Brew.

Pittsburgh Glass Center is having *Date Night Make-It-Now* on Feb. 13 where you work together with a partner to create a piece of glass art by sculpting, blowing or fusing the glass. Enjoy small bites and drinks throughout the event.

Something fun and different for the little ones, *Dolly and Me Valentine Tea Party*, is being held at the historic Bradford House in Washington, PA on Feb. 14, 11 - 12:30 p.m. This event is for grades K-3 and will feature delicious cocoa, sandwiches and treats. It also includes table etiquette, a craft and story. They can dress in their favorite dress up attire but it's not required. Children can be dropped off. Info at bradfordhouse.org

Choose a nice dinner and movie night (at home or out), or a Game Night, or some crafty fun with a significant other, kids, friends or with soon-to-be-made friends at a public Painting with a Twist.



Valentine craft making fun!

Whatever your experience is this month, I hope it is filled with love, friends, family and fun! I am crossing my fingers for Phil to give us some good news and that the daffodils will be peeking through very shortly! Until then, I'll enjoy the sparkling white snow while it's here. Although cold, it is still undeniably beautiful!



A little bit of winter to make you smile.

MUSINGS... ATTENTION

Choosing a Guiding Word

Each year, instead of making resolutions, I choose a single word to live with - a word that becomes a gentle guide rather than a list of demands. Last year's word was **savor**. I thought that savoring had opened the door to **contentment**, so that would be my word this year. But as I sat with it, I wanted something more livelier. So this year, my word is **attention**.

Attention Matters

It's easy to think of attention as concentration or effort. Psychiatrist and philosopher Ian McGilchrist invites us to see it differently. Attention, he suggests, is how we meet the world. The quality of our attention shapes what we notice, what we value, and how we experience meaning.

As McGilchrist writes, "We attend to what we love, and we love what we attend to." Over time, this quiet truth works on us. What we give our attention to grows in importance. What we overlook slowly recedes, even if it once mattered deeply.

Two Ways of Attending

Much of modern life trains us toward a narrow, hurried attention - one that measures, categorizes, and moves quickly on. This mode is efficient and often necessary, but it is incomplete. Left on its own, it can leave us productive yet disconnected, informed yet untouched.

McGilchrist points instead toward a wider, more receptive attention - one that takes in the whole, that listens before judging, that allows meaning to emerge.

Simon Weil's words return here with fresh force: attention is generosity. And I have come to see that generosity must include myself. Without attention, I live on autopilot; with it, I regain the possibility of choice.

Attention as a Daily Practice

To choose **attention** as a word for the year is to practice noticing: myself, others, beauty, pain, and grace. It is to pause long enough to truly see. It is to offer presence as a form of care.

I expect this practice to unfold in small moments: listening without

rushing to respond, lingering over something beautiful, noticing what stirs gratitude, attending kindly to my own inner life. Over the year, I hope these small acts shape a deeper way of living. Stay tuned. I'll let you know.

COACHING QUESTIONS/TIPS:

1. Where might you choose to place your attention this year—and what kind of life might grow from that choice?
2. What word might you choose to guide 2026?

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.



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.

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.

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.

~Simon Weil

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Community News and Events

The fabled children's play, **Sleeping Beauty**, will be presented by the **Carnegie Performing Arts Center** Sat., Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Mar. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Ave. in Carnegie. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for children, students and seniors and are available on ticket link at carnegieperformingartscenter.com and at the door an hour before performances.

The South Hills Women's Club, 80+ years strong, will not be meeting in January and February 2026 due to the unpredictability of the weather. The next meeting will be March 9, 2026. If interested in attending, please contact Diane at 412-965-4714. New members and guests are welcome.

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.

SOFTBALL & TENNIS PLAYERS WANTED for CO-ED Singles' leagues. Must be 21 or over. Softball is played in O'Hara Twp, Tennis at Moore Park in Brookline. **The Catholic Singles Club of Pittsburgh** is looking for players of all abilities. The group also offers dinners, spirituality events, trips, mini golf, canoeing, volleyball, cultural and many other great events. For more information go to cacpittsburgh.org, contact CAC.Softball@yahoo.com, Gary.Urbatis@verizon.net, or leave a message at 412-341-4070, option 4.

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Shelly Davis
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- Which team lost four consecutive Super Bowls in the early 1990s?
 - A. The Detroit Lions B. The Denver Broncos
 - C. The Buffalo Bills D. The Chicago Bears
- This Hall of Fame wide receiver, nicknamed “The Playmaker,” caught two touchdowns in an 18-second span in Super Bowl XXVII on January 31, 1993.
 - A. Jerry Rice B. Andre Reed
 - C. Randy Moss D. Michael Irvin
- True or False: No rookie quarterback has ever started for his team in the Super Bowl.
- This Hall of Fame quarterback out of Stanford University lost three Super Bowls before finally winning his first one on January 25, 1998.
 - A. Joe Montana B. John Elway
 - C. Brett Favre D. Andrew Luck
- Which New York Giants wide receiver helped his team win Super Bowl XLII after making a miraculous catch in which he pressed the ball against his helmet to secure possession while falling to the ground?
 - A. David Tyree B. Plaxico Burress
 - C. Mario Manningham D. Jeremy Shockey
- This famous coach led his team to victory in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl II.
 - A. Bill Parcells B. John Madden
 - C. Vince Lombardi D. Bill Belichick
- Which of these Hall of Fame quarterbacks never won a Super Bowl?
 - A. Terry Bradshaw B. Dan Marino
 - C. Troy Aikman D. Peyton Manning
- This stylish quarterback famously guaranteed his team would win the Super Bowl, even though the team was a heavy underdog.
 - A. Tom Brady B. Jim McMahon
 - C. Joe Namath D. Drew Brees

(answers on page 4)

Green Tree Times Alum to Debut First Published Illustrated Book



Lexi Hall, illustrator of *Enough Elizabeths*.
~photo courtesy of Lexi Hall

Pittsburgh born and raised writer and artist, Lexi Hall, will debut her first published illustrated book, *Enough Elizabeths*, written by Heather Harris Bergevin and coming from Lucky Rabbit Publishing. The story tells of a princess, a dragon, a very tall tower and an embarrassing secret. Find out what happens when it releases on March 24, 2026.

Lexi started writing and creating art from the time she was old enough to hold a crayon and has continued down that path throughout her life. The local library programs were very instrumental in her love of reading, writing and art. As a child and pre-teen, Lexi took local art classes whenever she could in drawing, painting, ceramics, and even film-making at a library program.

She attended Bishop Canevin High School and in addition to academics, pursued art and creative writing in school and out. Once old enough, Lexi participated in the Carnegie Library’s Teen Media Awards and Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contests every year. She won multiple times for 2D Design, her poem was published in the Anthology and her illustration was selected to be the cover for the 2018 Ralph Munn Anthology.

As a Green Tree Times alum, Lexi wrote a monthly column, *LMS :)Let Me Share*, for the Pittsburgh Junior Times from 2nd – 5th grade and she currently illustrates the covers of Big Kit Lil’ Kaboodle kids magazine.

She currently resides in Boston and works as the children’s book seller and newsletter editor at Beacon Hill Books & Cafe while completing her MFA in Children’s Book Writing and Illustration from Hollins University. She won the Margaret Kates award for visual art at the Francelia Butler Conference in 2024 and 2025 and was awarded the 2025 Summer Conference SCBWI Student Illustrator Scholarship.

You can now preorder *Enough Elizabeths* and support your local book store by visiting Woolly Bear Books in Carnegie or directly from luckyrabbitpublishing.com.

Follow Lexi on Instagram @lexi.paints for updates on any upcoming book readings or activities in the Pittsburgh area.

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The Fishin' Hole



by Sam Hall

that would ruin any chance of having fun fishing.

If you do love the hard water, there are certainly many other choices for you heading into February in our area. The state regulations are as follows:

Key PA Ice Fishing Regulations

Device Limit: A maximum of five (5) devices are allowed.

Hole Size: Holes drilled in the ice must be 10 inches or less in diameter.

Line Attendance: All lines, rods, and tip-ups must be under the immediate control of the angler.

Hooks: No restriction on the number of hooks per line, except on Pymatuning Reservoir, which limits to three (3) hooks per line.

Shanties/Shelters: Must be removed when finished for the day on PFBC lakes.

Safety Requirements: While not a strict regulation everywhere, it is highly recommended to wear a life jacket, and use ice picks, and check ice thickness (minimum 4 inches for one person, 7 inches for groups).

I would add these personal safety recommendations to go with the states. Take a partner and always have a whistle or an airhorn you can use to signal for help, if it is needed.

I'd love to see your ice fishing pictures and hear those stories. Send them to samdhall@comcast.net.

If you are like me and prefer open water, I know it has been, and will be, a rough couple of weeks. I am here to offer this ray of hope. As I write this, we are only 64 days away from the statewide opening day of trout season in Pennsylvania for 2026. As you read this, that means that we are less than nine weeks away from trout season. Plus, I am going to have a sit down with Punxsatawney Phil and, suffice to say, I am going to make him an offer he can't refuse with regard to an early spring this year. I cannot promise he will agree but I can promise you he will regret it if he crosses me. March's Fishin' Hole is liable to become a Groundhog Huntin' Hole, if you get my drift.

Also, if you are like me, this is a great couple of weeks to check and

refresh your equipment to get ready for spring fishing. Change that fishing line and above all, check those boots. Keep those lines tight and remember no groundhogs were injured or mistreated by anyone associated with The Fishin' Hole....yet.

Scan to watch my fishing videos



Super Bowl Trivia Answers

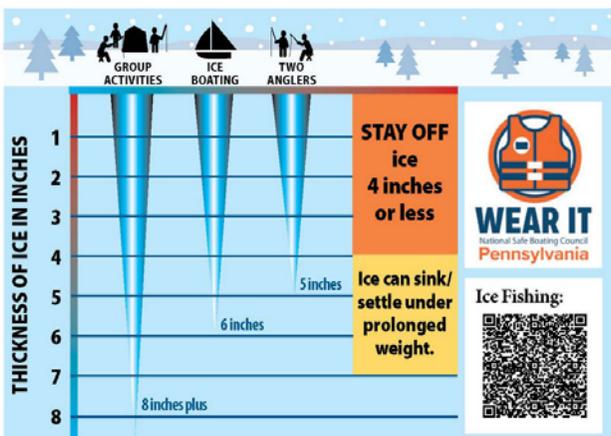
- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. True: Rookie sensation Jayden Daniels of the Washington Commanders came close in the 2024-25 season, but his team ultimately fell one game short of making the Super Bowl.
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. B
- 8. C

LAKE ICE SAFETY GUIDE

Stay off ice on moving water.

Ice is never 100% safe.

Minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice.



LIBRARY INFORMATION

Ask a Librarian!

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

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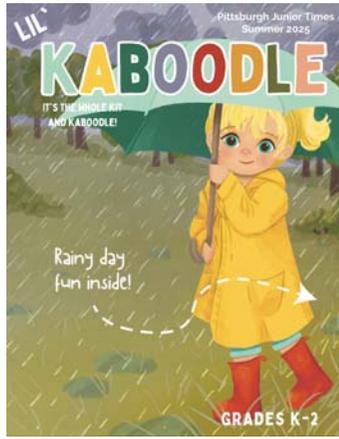


(Answers on back page)

Page created by Matthew Hall

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www.hawthornechurch.org

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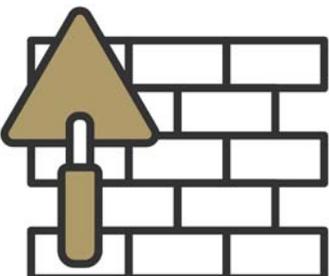
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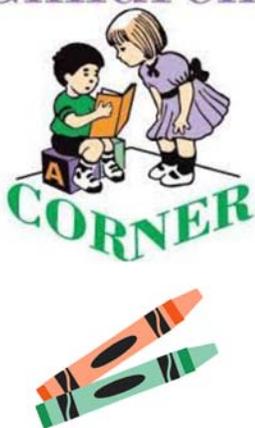


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Count the Chocolate:

- heart on cup
- scarf on frog
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- goose sunglasses
- opossum tail
- sheep switched places
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