



Mountain Musings

by Kate Evans

Snapshots of summer

Remembering a lifetime of summers from childhood till now and all the images that come to mind:

Fields and yards of glittering fireflies, blue chicory lining roadsides, camping out in a back yard tent, watching 4th of July fireworks over the Pittsburgh skyline from our front porch, picnics with family and friends.

Games of tag, catch, softball, frisbee, badminton, volleyball, kickball, hopscotch and hide and seek.

Sandbox castles, swinging on Tarzan swings, climbing trees, riding bicycles, hiking in the woods, picking wildflowers and fresh wild berries.

Backyard pool parties, nighttime swims, shooting hoops, jump rope, blowing bubbles, sidewalk chalk pictures, sailing down a yellow slip and slide and shooting archery into a bale of straw.

Sweltering heat waves and the dog days of August, the welcome cooling of a swimming pool, lake or river, boat rides, barbecues, potato salad, hamburgers, corn on the cob, iced tea and lemonade.

Roller-skating, miniature golf, carnival rides, summer camp, horseback riding, dance contests and arts and crafts.

Shorts, tank tops, sandals, tennis shoes, swimsuits, beach towels, straw hats and white clothes.

Lawn chairs, porch sitting, the whirring of fans and the welcome summer breeze wafting through open windows. Cooling off with popsicles, fudgsicles and ice cream cones.

Pirate baseball games at Forbes Field and Three Rivers Stadium, the aroma of popcorn and peanuts, cheering crowds, dancing to "We are Family."

Family excursions to Kennywood, West Park, White Swan and King's Dominion Amusement Parks, hurtling through the steep downhill tunnel on Kennywood's Thunderbolt roller-coaster, the view from the very top of their Ferris wheel.

Summer vacation trips-visiting the Washington Monument and the Capitol, the somber stillness of Arlington National Cemetery and Gettysburg Battlefield, picnicking on the shores of Lake Erie, wandering the beach at Chesapeake Bay and seeing the wild horses on Assateague Island.

Rafting on the Youghiogheny River rapids, going to the Highland Park Zoo, trips to Wildwood and Ocean City, boardwalks of busy shops, salt water taffy, fudge, spectacular ocean sunrises, seashells in the sand and the rolling, hypnotic waves.

So many summer memories from Morgan County, too --camping by the river, playing music around the campfire, swimming, fishing, and canoeing, performing at Cacapon State Park Homecoming and Patsy Cline Day at the Troubadour, enjoying the Morgan Arts Council's summer music concerts at Berkeley Springs State Park and the fun and entertainment at the Morgan County Fair.

Harvesting summer's garden bounty -- homegrown tomatoes, beans, cantaloupes and watermelon -- making macaroni salad, grilling outdoors, hummingbirds zooming by the feeders and monarch butterflies landing on the lilac bush.

The birds sing sweetly in summertime, rainbow-colored flowers dazzle and the world is lush with green. Deer and squirrels raise their young and scamper through the fields and woods. As you stroll through your memories of summer, you'll find many special times and places that surface.

Make new summer memories by exploring what Morgan County and the surrounding area have to offer. You can hike or golf at Cacapon State Park, swim at the Berkeley Springs State Park pool, walk and bike the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, tour the Museum of the Berkeley Springs and the Ice House art gallery, fish the Cacapon and Potomac Rivers and Sleepy Creek Lake and check out local concerts and music happenings for some seasonal fun.

Summer offers a mix of music and art happenings

by Kate Evans

Summertime always brings some exceptional local music and art events for everyone to enjoy. Here's a list of concerts and special events and places to explore this season:

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The annual Morgan Arts Council Summer Concerts in the Park series feature regional and national performers. Concerts take place at Berkeley Springs State Park on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. The rain location is the Ice House on the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in Berkeley Springs.

Concerts are Danika and the Jeb-dynamic acoustic duo- Americana and soul-July 6; The Players Band-Jamaican ska, rock and reggae-July 13; The Carpenter Ants-blues, rhythm and blues, gospel and country-soul-July 20; Rick Whitehead Trio-jazz, ballads, blues, bop, Latin and high-energy fusion-July 27; violinist Deni Bonet-pop, alternative, rock and roots music-August 3; The Nighthawks-blues, soul and roots rock-August 10; and the April Verch Band-old time music and bluegrass-August 17. 304-258-2300.

The Flashbacks will also be performing a mix of oldies, classics, rock and country from the 50s to the 80s on Saturday, August 31 as a benefit for the Berkeley Springs State Park Foundation. The rain location for the Flashbacks is the Berkeley Springs High School auditorium.

MORGAN COUNTY EXPO

The Morgan County Expo will take place this year on July 26-27. Saturday Expo activities will be held at the Senior Life Services Berkeley Springs Senior Center and grounds at the former U.S. Silica corporate headquarters off U.S. Route 522.

The Expo runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 27 and features a fiddle contest at 1:00 p.m., a d.j. and musical performances from the BlackCat

School of Rock and the Tri-State Ukelectics Orchestra.

Saturday's Expo activities include contests, 4-H activities and exhibits, games, crafts, demonstrations, handmade quilts, speakers, robots, refreshments and the 4-H cake auction. A pet show is scheduled for Saturday morning where people can bring pets in a cage or aquarium such as cats, rabbits, hamsters, turtles and reptiles.

Irish Road Bowling is scheduled for Saturday, July 20 at 11:00 a.m. at Cacapon State Park.

The Expo's Art in the Park event is Friday, July 26 at Berkeley Springs State Park from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It includes the youth art market, the dog show, refreshments and free swimming. Call 304-258-8400 for more information.

STATE PARK HOMECOMING

The annual Cacapon State Park Homecoming will be Sunday, September 1. The event features all-day entertainment by local musicians and bands starting at 12:30 p.m., along with boating and swimming, refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and the silent auction park fundraiser. 304-258-1022.

ART

The Morgan Arts Council offers gallery art shows and exhibits at the Ice House, which is located at 138 Independence St. The gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A Pocket Full of Posies gallery show began Friday May 31 and runs through July 21. Curated by Cat Hutton, the show explores how artists use images of flowers in their works.

The Ice House also has summer classes and workshops for adults and youth. A June 17-June 28 youth theater camp for ages 5-14, a July 8-12 visual arts camp for youth 6-14 and a July 8-12 filmmaking camp for ages 14-18 are planned. 304-258-2300.

MOOSE LODGE 1483



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Monday-Thursday • 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday • 10 a.m.-Midnight
Sunday • 1-9 p.m.

522 North • Berkeley Springs