



## When it Snows . . .



**Scores of fun seekers showed up at Delaware Park last weekend to take advantage of the snow.**

Neighborhood parks were filled with activity over the weekend when temperatures rose above the freezing mark.

When it snows in Buffalo, the people who live here know how to make the best of it. Up to a foot of fresh snow came in for the weekend and the temperature was bearable enough to enjoy it.

Whether you ski, skate

or slide down a hill, there always seems to be a way to have fun in the snow.

Last weekend in Delaware Park, behind the rose garden, several hundred people showed up on the hill to take their turn to slide down the snow covered hill on a sled, inner tube or toboggans.

Kids were making snowmen, snow castles and throwing an occasional

snowball.

In other parts of the park, cross country skiers were visible as well as walkers and runners trekking around the golf course.

Parks in and around the city were filled with people looking for a way to enjoy being outdoors and in the snow.

When it snows . . . have some fun!

## Mail Carriers Challenged by Snow and Ice

Whether it falls in inches or feet, snow and ice create a challenge for mail carriers as they attempt to safely deliver to western New York homes and businesses.

That's why the U.S. Postal Service is once again asking customers



**Please help clear the way to your mailbox.**

ers for their assistance by clearing snow and ice from walkways, driveways, porches and areas around the mailbox.

"Slips, trips and falls continue to be most frequent type of injury sustained by our carriers,"

said Western NY District Safety Manager Julieann Morgan. "And it's no surprise these type of injuries

increase drastically during the winter months."

Please help mail carriers provide the best delivery service possible, as safely as possible.

Mail carriers will thank you, every step of the way!

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## Eight Tips for Safe Snow Shoveling

A study published in the Clinical Research in Cardiology revealed that shoveling snow actually does increase the risk of a having a heart attack. The study looked at 500 people and found that 7% started experiencing symptoms of heart problems while shoveling snow. The cardiologists conducting the Canadian study felt that while 7% is significant, there could be as many as double that number given the fact that the patients may not have connected their heart problems with snow shov-

eling.

Today, the Snow & Ice Management Association (SIMA), the national non-profit organization representing the snow removal industry, is suggesting seven tips for safe snow shoveling.

"While heart attacks may be the most serious consequence of shoveling snow, there are other even more common health risks including dehydration, back injuries, pulled muscles, broken bones and frostbite. But the good news is there (con't on page 6)

## Free Help with Tax Preparation for Income Eligible Residents

North Buffalo residents have several options available to them to help with this year's tax preparations.

Erie County Legislator Lynn M. Marinelli (D-Buffalo, Tonawanda) will host the Income TAXi, a free tax preparation service offered through Daemen College, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Saturday, February 16, at her district office at 1701

Hertel Avenue, near Starin Avenue, in Buffalo.

Three accounting stu-



**Free tax help is available to you.**

dents who are certified basic and intermediate tax preparers will be present to conduct the tax preparation.

Taxpayers wishing to take advantage of this free service must call Daemen College's Center directly at 839-8524 to make appointments and must ask for the Income TAXi.

The Buffalo Federation of (con't on page 4)

**Buffalo Rocket Coupon Page! Pg. 5**

## Local Weather

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Rain/Snow Showers  
High 40°  
Low 30°

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Few Snow Showers  
High 31°  
Low 21°

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Snow Showers  
High 22°  
Low 12°

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Partly Cloudy  
High 19°  
Low 14°

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Mostly Cloudy  
High 31°  
Low 29°

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Snow Showers  
High 32°  
Low 20°

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Partly Cloudy  
High 24°  
Low 18°



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The Adventures of...

# Rocket Man

by Doug Smith



## ‘Mr. Benny’

Here’s a penny Valentine for “Mister Benny,” resuming tonight at the Jewish Center in Getzville. Rocket Man, a Bennyphile since boyhood, was blessed to attend last Thursday’s opening when Tim Newell, as another commentator admired, simply “disappeared” into the character of this universally cherished comedian who reluctantly ruled the airwaves through the middle of the 20th Century.

Full disclosure: In January, the Center invited Rocket Man to relate his own Jack Benny experiences. He noted then, that while he can’t remember one episode of “The Lone Ranger” or “Jack Armstrong, All-American Boy,” he knows where he was (screened porch, Montclair, NJ) when Benny complained to chauffeur Rochester, “It’s so slow behind this trolley car,” to which Rochester responded, “OK, boss, you want me to cast off and hitch onto a bus?”

Rocket Man has reached the realization that his Cheap Gourmet adventures

in the Courier-Express and on Ch. 4 were inspired by Benny’s formula. “I owe him,” Rocket Man told the throng, “And when I meet him, I’m sure he’ll try to collect.”

So clearly, he has a sharp bias toward Benny, but this would militate against Newell were he in any way to exploit or disrespect him. There’s more to reincarnating Jack Benny than putting your hand to your chin and exhaling “Whellll!” In that regard, some patrons may at times think they don’t quite recognize this occasionally halting, self-effacing, slightly stage-frightened man speaking from his dressing room before his first, and then final, TV appearances.

But the porridge was proven later when Rocket Man recounted for his First Mate – she’d stayed behind, indisposed – the evening’s events. At Thursday’s talk-back, he could not differentiate what had been said by Actor Newell and what had been said by Comedian

Benny.

Unlike the other commentator (this may generation-al), Rocket Man felt the best came after intermission, when Mark Humphrey’s script explored the science of comedy, the specialists in “footsteps and doors,” as he writes, who gave radio its cachet. The audience hung on every silence.

More than 10 years have passed since Newell and playwright Humphrey first dared dedicate their energies to a man, however beloved, who was beginning to fade from memory even then. In the interim, “Mister Benny” has been tightened (no pun intended) and toned. It seemed funnier the first time; this time, wiser.

For the record, the tightwad Benny was a façade. As either Newell or Benny said, “He made a LOT of money, and it meant nothing to him, writing a check was like giving away paper.” So were the vanity and the violineptitude. What WAS true about “The Jack Benny Show” was that his friends loved him, and by final curtain March 3 at 2640 North Forest Rd., may their numbers multiply. NINE ROCKETS (out of 10). On Thursdays, he recommends kosher supper at Tel Aviv Café in the lobby, at prices any Benny would endorse.

Fire back to Rocket Man via pollyndoug@hotmail.com.

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## Northwest Buffalo Beat

by Joe Bortz

### "Huge Ja"

The saying goes, "Imitation is the greatest form of flattery". Attorney William Mattar either is basking in flattery or does not particularly like it. If you watch television at all you have to be aware of his advertisement. "Hurt in a car, call William Mattar, 444-4444. Notice the phone number. Kind of catchy and real easy to remember. Guess it worked pretty well as one of his biggest competitors actually changed their phone number to 888-8888. Sometimes if you lead the way, you find your competition has no choice but to follow.

Used to be, here is Southwest Florida, when I mentioned I was from Buffalo, the usual comment was "Oh, that is where it snows all the time!" Or "Isn't that where they have two seasons, winter and the fourth of July?"

That has all changed now thanks to Big Billy the car dealer. You may or may not know that Fucillo has a car dealership in Cape Coral, near Ft. Myers. If you think he inundates the airwaves up north, I have to believe it is twice as much down here. He even has a half hour set aside just for him and his Huge ja commercials. Can you imagine someone sitting there for a half hour watching him and Caroline sell cars? Needless

to say, he is well known by now and although they do not copy his hugja remarks directly, I find other commercials using the term in a different way.

He usually ends his commercials with "It is Huge ja southwest Florida, Huggge ja". Due to his success, we see other merchant's advertisements mimicking his style and I get a kick out of it. The other day I heard one where they said "It is big southwest Florida. Bigggggg." Or others injecting the word huge in the verbiage as far as savings and deals.

So now when I say I am from Buffalo, snow is not even mentioned. "Oh, you come from the same area as that obnoxious car dealer in Cape Coral". I even heard some say they would never buy a car from him. Yet, he sells more cars in a month than some dealers do in a year, according to him. And it seems commercials are going for louder and using more obnoxious antics to attract customers. They want to be huge ja.

Who knows, maybe one of these days you are going to see Celino and Barnes end their commercials with "Your settlements will be huge ja, Buffalo, Huge ja". They would have to put on a little weight first and not tuck in their shirts.

### Used Car

Sold my Florida car up in Buffalo over the summer, so had to buy a replacement to use in my stay down here. The car I sold was ten years old but had almost no mileage and little use as it was a snowbird vehicle. Only driven for four winter months every year. Even so, it was time to get something a little newer. Probably was the oldest car in the complex I live in down here.

Since I had no car when I arrived I had to rent a vehicle until I could find my replacement. The car I rented was a Toyota Yaris. I found it to be big enough for what I needed and fuel-wise better than normal. So when I went to buy a used car, I looked into doing just that, buying a Yaris. The only foreign made car I had even owned was a 64 Volkswagen. Always bought American but even now, things have changed.

Ended up getting what I thought was a great deal on a 2012 Yaris. Signed the contract and was about to leave when the salesman brought up the car. Found out it had no power. You had to crank the windows, use the key to open and lock the doors, no cruise, and no power anything! Now I had not bought a car in a long time and dumb me assumed that they did not even make cars where you had to crank the windows to open them. I think the last car that we owned that was that powerless was a 1935 Ford and you even had to crank it to start it. But that was back in the day when you had to get out of your car to open the garage door. No clickers, no buttons to push, you just did

everything by muscle power.

I do not have to tell you I did not keep that car. They told me I had signed the contract and it was mine. No way Jose! Sometimes I tend to get a little excited and even though it was my fault as I should not assume anything, I think I got a little out of line. The salesman was over apologetic and tried to calm me down. I drove the car home and fumed all night. The next day I called the manager and expressed my displeasure over my recent purchase. Guess the business manager was in error in telling me once I sign it is mine. It became mine when I drove it off the lot. I did have the right to refuse it.

In any case they righted the wrong and I ended with a 2010 Toyota Corolla, my second foreign car ever. So far the gas mileage is huggge ja and that makes me real happy.

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*The Buffalo Rocket*

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**Superintendent Dr. Pamela C. Brown  
and the District Parent Coordinating Council**

**invite the community to participate in the following roundtable meetings:**

**"PATHWAYS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS, GRADUATION, & COLLEGE:**

**Academic Recovery Center, GED, and the District Summer School Program"**

Thursday, February 21st, 6 – 7:30pm: Lovejoy Discovery School #43, 161 Benzinger St.

**"SAY YES TO EDUCATION: COUNTDOWN TO THE APRIL 1ST TUITION APPLICATION DEADLINE"**

Thursday, March 21st, 6 – 7:30pm: Discovery School #67, 911 Abbott Rd.



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# The Grapevine

**Baseball & Softball Sign-ups for Boys and Girls.** - West Side Ponytail Softball for Girls and the West Side Boys Baseball announces their registration dates for Girls 8-18 years old and Boys from 8-15 years old. Also, T-Ball Boys and Girls 6 and 7 years old. Saturdays, March 2nd, 9th and 16th, 2013 at Our Lady of Hope Parish Hall, Lafayette and Grant Street from 1:30 until 3:30 pm. All games played at LaSalle Park. Visit our website at [www.west-sideplayarea.com](http://www.west-sideplayarea.com)

**The Parkside Community Association** is having a Contractor's Fair and is looking for Contractor's. The Fair is Saturday, March 9th from 10 am - 2 pm in Jewett Hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Contractor's can rent a table for \$25. Please call the PCA office at 838-1240 to rent a table.

The PCA is looking for a variety of trades and craftsmen to be on hand to answer questions regarding home improvement, weatherization, or just some projects residents have been consid-

ering. This event is free and open to the public, and will include how to make a home more energy efficient, and other related topics.

For more information, please contact Ben Johnson at 716-838-1240 or visit the PCA on the web at [www.parksidebuffalo.org](http://www.parksidebuffalo.org).

**The Towne Players present the WNY premier of "Drinking Habits"** at the Sheridan-Parkside Community Theatre at 169 Sheridan-Parkside Drive in Tonawanda on February 15th, 16th, 17th and on February 22nd, 23rd and 24th. For more information call 693-9641 or 877-4996 or visit [www.towneplayers.com](http://www.towneplayers.com).

**Buffalo Stamp Club** will mark the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address when they present BUFPEX 2013 on March 2nd and 3rd at the VFW Post, 2450 Walden Ave. in Cheektowaga.

Hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on March 2nd and 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on March 3rd. There will be no admission or parking charge. Hourly door prizes will be offered. There will be free stamps for children. For more information, contact George Gates at 633-8358.

## Free Help with Tax Preparation

(con't from front page)

Tax Preparation Network, is offering free tax preparation of Federal and State Income Tax returns for income-eligible residents of Buffalo. The service includes electronic filing and is available at the BFNC HOPE Center in the Tri-Main Building, 2495 Main St., Ste 260 on Mon & Wed 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Tues & Thurs 11:30 am - 3:30 pm and sat 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Services available until April 17. For more information call 362-0744.

IRS-certified accounting students from the University at Buffalo School of Management will provide free tax preparation services to individuals and families with annual incomes below \$50,000.

Free tax preparation will be offered from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm on a first-come, first-served basis in 100 Allen Hall, South Campus, on Feb. 16, 17, 23 and 24. Services also will be offered in 106 Jacobs Management Center (The John H. Shellen Room), North Campus, on March 2, 3, 30 and 31, and April 6, 7, 13 and 14.

Frequently asked questions as well as maps and directions can be found online at <http://mgt.buffalo.edu/freetaxprep>. Additional questions can be directed to [mgt-freetaxprep@buffalo.edu](mailto:mgt-freetaxprep@buffalo.edu) and a student volunteer will reply within 48 hours.

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## The Blotter Felonies

From "D" District

### North Buffalo

#### February 5, 2013

Delaware Ave. - Complainant states that while shopping in his neighborhood, his ex-girlfriend approached him and asked if he saw his windows yet. The complainant states that when her told her no the suspect told him that she had "busted them out" and added "that's what happens when you make me mad." When the complainant arrived home he found that one of his screens had been torn out of the frame.

#### February 5, 2013

Elmwood Ave. - The complainants state that the defendant and co-defendant did beep at them as they were walking through a parking lot and that defendant #1 did jump out of the car and start a verbal altercation.

The parties did separate and the co-defendants did then start the altercation again in a different location, it escalated into a physical altercation where the defendant did strike complainant with purse. co-defendants did then jump on complainants and punch them about the body causing injury to each.

#### February 6, 2013

Hertel Ave. - Complainant reports for a grocery store that defendant did take, without permission, beef steaks valued at \$42.98.

#### February 8, 2013

Hertel/Elmwood Aves. - Complainant states that while at the fitness center his cell phone and wallet were taken from his pants pocket in the locker room. Phone and wallet contents valued over \$1,800.

### West Side

#### February 5, 2013

Arnold St. - Complainant states that unknown person(s) did break rear, lower window and did enter house without permission. Complainant states that taken, without permission, was Playstation with 3 games, 200 music CDs, and camera. Value of theft is over \$2,000.

#### February 7, 2013

Potomac Ave. - Complainant states that two young, slim males wearing red hoodies and sneakers were in her house when she arrived home. Suspects broke the front porch window, entered the residence and did

take, without permission, 57 inch television, 32 inch television, Xbox, Xbox camera and video games valued over \$2,000. Suspects ran out the back door of apartment and fled on foot running through yards.

#### February 10, 2013

Columbus Pkwy - Complainant states that while his vehicle was parked, unknown person(s) did break the back window by unknown means.

### Riverside

#### February 5, 2013

Amherst St. - Complainant states for a grocery store that defendant did, over a three day period, take beef steaks and assorted groceries without paying for same. said value is over \$1,000.

#### February 6, 2013

Amherst St. - Complainant reports for convenience store that a black male dressed in dark clothing entered and took a 12 pack of beer without paying for same. Complainant reports he attempted to recover said property and suspect did strike the complainant in the left cheek, eye area. Stolen beer valued at \$16.99.

#### February 6, 2013

Ontario St. - Complainant states that defendant did enter the store and pass a note demanding money. Complainant recognizes defendant as being the same person who robbed the store the previous day. As defendant tried to flee, he was forcibly apprehended.

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# BUFFALO ROCKET COUPON PAGE

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Limit one coupon per order.  
exp. 3/31/13  
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## Eight Tips for Safe Snow Shoveling

(con't from front page)

are ways to safely shovel snow," said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, Executive Director, SIMA.

Here are safe snow shoveling tips:

**TIP #1:** Stay on top of the snow. No we aren't suggesting that you make snow angels but when there's a heavy snow, the best advice is to stay ahead of the storm. SIMA recommends that to prevent snow and ice from adhering to the

sidewalk or street, clear the snow every few inches instead of waiting for the snow to stop falling before you head outdoors.

**TIP #2:** Wear breathable layers. Layering is typical cold winter weather advice. Wear layers of loose clothing so you can peel a layer off if you get hot. Avoid wearing heavy wools, man made materials or other materials that don't allow perspiration to evaporate.

Better choices are cotton and silk.

**TIP #3:** Watch your feet. No you aren't on Dancing with the Stars, but nonetheless, you need to pay attention to what's on your feet when heading outdoors to shovel snow. Wear quality outdoor winter wear such as waterproof boots with good traction. Good traction is critical to ensuring that you don't slip and fall.

**TIP #4:** Take a few minutes to stretch. Shoveling snow is a workout so you need to stretch to warm up your muscles particularly because you are shoveling

snow in the cold weather. Stretching before you start shoveling will help prevent injury and fatigue.

**TIP #5:** Push don't lift. Sounds like something a high school wrestling coach may say but if you push the snow to the side rather than trying to lift the snow to remove it, you exert less energy thereby placing less stress on your body.

**TIP #6:** Drink up! Water that is. Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated. You should drink water as if you were enduring a tough workout at the gym or running five miles.

**TIP #7:** Don't play in

traffic. Sometimes people get so focused on the task at hand they don't pay attention to their surroundings. When shoveling snow near streets, pay attention to the traffic since vehicles may not have good traction in the snow and ice.

**TIP #8:** Call and text. We're not suggesting that you make calls and text while shoveling snow, but it is important to have your cell phone on you so you can make a call in the event of an emergency.

Following these tips will help ensure that you survive and thrive through winter 2012-2013.

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Some children who had employer-based health insurance coverage within the past six months may be subject to a waiting period before they can enroll in Child Health Plus. This will depend on your household income and the reason your children lost employer-based coverage.

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