



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the staff at Gallagher Printing and The Buffalo Rocket. Pictured from left to right: Front row - David Gallagher, President and founder of Gallagher Printing and The Buffalo Rocket, Megan De Nardin, Renee Kline, Kathy Kraft, Barbara Gilboy, William Rappold, Daryl Gallagher and Dennis Gallagher. Back row - Terek Barger, Robert Wright, Craig Sander-son, Charles Wilson, Vincent Philippone, Geoffrey Mohring, Nicolas DeFato and Michael Nowak.

29th Annual First Night Buffalo

Join the Independent Health Foundation as they present First Night® Buffalo, the ultimate drug- and alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration. The event will be held from 5 pm to 10 pm, Sunday, Dec. 31st, at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center.

The annual holiday family tradition, now in its 29th year in downtown Buffalo, offers safe, family-friendly activities for all ages to ring in the New Year with rides and amusements.

As part of its 25th anniversary, the Independent Health Foundation will be launching its Future is Bright Project at First Night Buffalo, which will

focus on remarkable children and their ability to successfully adapt and overcome life's challenges to lead healthy and happy lives.

"Independent Health is pleased to again support First Night Buffalo, a mainstay event in our region, which engages our community in healthy, fun and safe activities to ring in the New Year," said Michael W. Cropp, M.D., president and chief executive officer, Independent Health. "It is my hope First Night Buffalo will continue reminding families they are strong, resilient and able to overcome barriers to make the choice to live their healthiest lives,

one of the best decisions they can make as we enter a new year. Thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers who make this outstanding event possible."

"It's almost time to wave goodbye to 2017 and say hello to 2018 and First Night Buffalo is a great, responsible way for revelers to ring in the new year," said Mayor Byron W. Brown. "I thank the Independent Health Foundation for its continued commitment to this alcohol- and drug-free New Year's Eve celebration that has become a memorable tradition for so many families, providing city resi-

Continued on page four.

Christmas Services

Holy Spirit - 85 Dakota St,
St. Margaret - 1395 Hertel Ave

Sunday December 24th,
Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm Holy Spirit
5:30 pm St. Margaret
11:00 pm Holy Spirit (with Living Nativity)

Monday December 25th,
Christmas Day:

9:00 am St. Margaret
11:00 am Holy Spirit (Children's Mass)
St. Mark - 401 Woodward Ave.

St. Rose of Lima - 500 Parker Ave.

Sunday, December 24th,
Christmas Eve:

4:00 pm St. Mark (Christmas Vigil)

4:00 pm St. Rose of

Lima (Christmas Vigil)
10:00 pm St. Rose of Lima

Monday, December 25th,
Christmas Day:

9 am St. Mark
10:30 am St. Rose of Lima

St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St.

Sunday, December 24th,
Christmas Eve:

8 am - Mass 10:30 am - Mass,

4:30 pm - Vigil Mass of the Nativity

11:30 pm - Music - Choir & Brass

Monday, December 25th,
Christmas Day:

Midnight - Mass of the Nativity

10:30 am - Mass of Christmas Day

Local Weather

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

PM Snow Showers
High 30°
Low 27°

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Snow to Rain
High 34°
Low 32°

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Rain to Snow
High 39°
Low 24°

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Mostly Cloudy
High 29°
Low 21°

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Snow Showers
High 25°
Low 11°

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Mostly Cloudy
High 16°
Low 9°

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Partly Cloudy
High 17°
Low 12°



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ROCKET COMMUNICATIONS

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Five Thoughts About The Sabres

1. Jack Eichel's hat trick during last weeks 5-4 OT loss to the Carolina Hurricanes last Friday December 15th, was the highlight of his NHL career so far. It wasn't just that he scored three goals but consider that he had 11 shots on goal on 13 attempted shots. In today's defensive oriented NHL, blocking shots has become an essential skill as important as skating, passing and shooting. In every game shot attempts repeatedly clang off opponents shin pads like raindrops of a cars windshield. The likelihood of any player getting 11 shots through to the goaltender is seemingly impossible. Yet Jack kept driving wide trying to outflank the defenders and find that open shot lane. It was truly a transcendent effort of offensive zone brilliance. It reflected of an attitude that he was going to get the job done that night and nothing was going to stop him.

It is unfortunate that his teammates didn't chip in a bit more to help avoid another loss. It's also unfortunate that Eichel appeared to be screening goalie Chad Johnson on the OT winner by Carolina's Jacob Slavin. While his defensive game is still evolving it seems clear that with the proper mindset Eichel still has the tools to be a dominant player in the league. He has now climbed into 46th place in individual scoring with 28 points in 33

games on 11 goals and 17 assists.

2. The Sabres had some good scoring chances against the Boston Bruins at Keybank Center Tuesday night but Boston's Jake DeBrusk with his eighth was the only player to put the puck past a goaltender as the Bruins won 3-0 with a pair of empty net goals. This was the fifth time the Sabres have been shutout in their last 12 games with a pair of one goal games during that streak.

Buffalo's water pistol offense has scored more than once only five times in their last 12 games. But fans erupted on social media after the game blaming Robin Lehner for being beat by a sizzling shot under the crossbar. Lehner stopped 30 of 31 shots in the game for a 0.968 save % and a 1.03 GAA but that's still not good enough for a large number of disgruntled fans.

3. Here is some perspective for you on the Carolina Hurricanes team that Buffalo couldn't handle despite Jack Eichel's three goal game. The Canes were 4-5 in December heading into Tuesday night's 8-1 drubbing by the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Air Canada Center.

The Leafs had been 3-4 for December with only eight goals in their previous five games before lighting it up against a well rested Carolina team that hadn't played since Saturday. Boston ranking seventh in GAPG at 2.69 obviously presented a more difficult challenge for Buffalo's attack than Carolina which ranks 20th with a 3.12 GAPG.

4. The Bruins were a tired team having beaten the Columbus Blue Jackets 7-2 on Monday then traveling overnight to Buffalo for Tuesday's game. With those heavy legs and backup goalie Anton Khudobin in the nets Boston was ripe for an upset loss. But Buffalo has shown a penchant for making backup goalies look like Vezina Trophy winners and that trend continued with Khudobin stopping all 33 shots he faced.

5. The highlight of the week was not Eichel's hat trick though. It was Nia Hollaway's rendition of the National Anthem last Friday before the Sabres played Ottawa. Hollaway is in town as a cast member of the national touring production of The Lion King. Hollaway at age 22 is the youngest member ever to play the female lead as Nala. She was cast at age 17 as a high school junior. Her singing voice would fairly be described as world class and her performance drew a thunderous applause from the crowd. This may go down as the highlight of the season.

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First Niagara Bank.....	1726 Hertel Avenue
Frank's Sunny Italy.....	2491 Delaware Avenue
Ginnane Funeral Home.....	3215 Delaware Avenue
Gloria J. Parks Community Ctr.....	3242 Main Street
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Imagine Salon.....	1527 Hertel Avenue
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Kenmore Bowling.....	1691 Kenmore Avenue
Kenmore Seafood.....	3279 Delaware Avenue
Knights of Columbus.....	1530 Kenmore Avenue
Korona Jewelers.....	1588 Hertel Avenue
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Lonestar fajita Grill.....	1857 Hertel Avenue
Marco's Deli.....	1744 Hertel Avenue
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North Buffalo Dental.....	1600 Hertel Avenue
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Realty USA.....	2427 Sheridan Drive
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Shadow Lounge.....	1504 Hertel Avenue
Taste of Thai.....	1460 Hertel Avenue
TC Jr's.....	2941 Delaware Avenue
Terries Workout Center.....	1473 Hertel Avenue
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Wellington Pub.....	1541 Hertel Avenue

WEST SIDE

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Bavarian Nut Company.....	822 Elmwood Avenue
Between Yesterday & Tomorrow.....	88 Grant Street
Buffalo State College.....	1300 Elmwood Avenue
Dibble Hardware.....	262 W Ferry Street
Buffalo Public Library.....	Niagara at Porter
CWJ Lock & Key.....	183 Forest Ave

Concerned Ecumenical Ministry.....	286 Lafayette Avenue
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M&T Bank.....	130 Grant Street
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Timon Towers.....	1015 Delaware Avenue
Trinity Tower Apartments.....	33 Linwood Avenue
West Market.....	1032 West Avenue
West Side Community Center.....	Vermont at Fargo
YWCA.....	Grant Street

RIVERSIDE

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Black Rock Beverage.....	538 Hertel Avenue
Boys & Girls Club.....	54 Riverdale Avenue
D District Police Station.....	669 Hertel Avenue
Gambino's Liquor.....	340 Amherst Street
Fast Stop Food Mart.....	236 Military Road
Wellington Pub.....	201 Amherst Street
M&T Bank.....	788 Tonawanda Street
Nickel City Bottle Return.....	2209 Niagara Street
Northwest Buffalo Community Cr.....	155 Lawn Avenue
Riverside Cafe.....	Tonawanda Street
Riverside Marketplace.....	740 Tonawanda Street
Roland Cannizzaro Insurance Agency.....	432 Amherst Street
Tops Market.....	385 Amherst Street
West Hertel Liquor.....	699 Hertel Avenue



Northwest Buffalo Beat

by Joe Bortz

Christmas 1969, Eight Children

Ever wonder what it was like to celebrate Christmas in 1969 with eight children? Been there and done that and it was a great experience. First, back then we still had many family traditions which were passed on from generation to generation. Let's start with that. The biggest was that we had to have a live tree. It was allowed to be put in the stand in the house the day before. However, Santa decorated the tree when he came on Christmas Eve. That way, when the kiddies came down the stairs on Christmas morning, the room was lit with multi colored lights shining softly upon their new gifts. It was somewhat magical. It was a major chore for poor Santa who had his hands full that night. Especially trying to find the one bulb that did not work as the whole string would not light. Ask Clark Griswold. Santa had to trim the tree, assemble the toys, and sort the distribution of toys and was lucky to get to bed before the little children were standing at the top of the stairs, waiting.

Now raising eight children is a chore enough but Christmas is so special. There must be toys and they must be evenly distributed so each child got

a fair share. They ranged in age from one and a half to 14. Five boys and three girls. Thanks to Barbie and Chatty Kathy, the girls were easier, or easier to please. Games were popular such as Operation, Twister, Parcheesi, Chutes and Ladders. Just to name a few. Slot cars for the boys, plus lots of fake guns that shot ping pong balls.

Each section under the tree was sectioned off according to each child and if there were some that overlapped, they were set in between. Fortunately we had a large second parlor so there was plenty of room and it was filled wall to wall. It was quite a sight when the children came down the stairways after waiting first for the lights to be lit and the last minute fixing. Finally, it was time for the eight to come flying into this toy filled musical room. You could see the happiness on the faces as they saw the things that they asked for. Yes there were times that someone did not get the expensive gift they asked for. That soon passed as there was so much joy in the ten people there.

Ten stocking hanging on the fireplace. This was such an experience that one year, TV Channel Four sent a camera-

man to our house to video the scene for the evening news. He was there for quite a while and spent his Christmas morning at our house. Had to be good and not so good for him as he had to work.

Now you might ask how did we afford to buy toys for all these kids as it was hard enough just to feed and clothe them. Well, besides working more than one job, I did something different at Christmas. I did toy parties. Like Tupperware and the different parties that women have, they had toy parties. I became a demonstrator of toys in front of a gathering of women at a party. Here I was a shy, quiet, young father trying to raise enough money to make sure my children had a great Christmas. Playing with toys in front of a bevy of young and older mothers. The sacrifice was overwhelming. Some of the women thought I was one of the toys that they could bring home. In any case it was worth it as I did end up with a lot of great toys for under the tree.

Another one of the biggest part of Christmas was going out for dinner at Casa Da Pizza. With that many kids we seldom or never went out for dinner. So it was special for us all to be able to spend time together in a real restaurant. My kids were always well behaved so it was no problem taking them out in public. Not like what I see today.

I miss those days and am so happy that I lived through them as it was so amazing. Not may can say that. Kids are all grown and have their own grown kids. Isn't it great to have memories like these? Merry Christmas!

Please send comments or mail to jbortze@aol.com.

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For Christmas, December 25:
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Muse's instrument
- 5 Renders speechless
- 9 Obtain
- 12 Billions of years
- 13 Future stallion
- 14 Multipurpose truck
- 15 Avocado dip
- 17 Top card
- 18 Singles
- 19 Gordon and Ginsburg
- 21 Mad
- 24 It begins at 40
- 25 Toe woe
- 26 Zigzagged on skis
- 30 Eggs
- 31 Actress Witherspoon
- 32 Past
- 33 Clothing
- 35 Story line
- 36 "— She Sweet?"
- 37 Instant
- 38 From then on
- 40 Icelandic epic
- 42 Industrious insect
- 43 Port city of Ecuador
- 48 Eisenhower
- 49 Being, to Brutus
- 50 — Major

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
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		36					37			
38	39				40	41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- 51 Caustic solution
- 52 "— of Our Lives"
- 53 Shade trees

DOWN

- 1 Lower limb
- 2 Thee
- 3 Genetic letters
- 4 Accompany to a party
- 5 Pinnacle
- 6 Courts
- 7 Right angle
- 8 Germ-free
- 9 Central American nation
- 10 Leave an impression
- 11 Golf gadgets
- 16 Whatever number
- 20 Aliens' craft
- 21 Enthusiastic, plus
- 22 PBS science show
- 23 Insure
- 24 Glasgow girl
- 26 Transmitted
- 27 Allow
- 28 Hollywood clashers
- 29 "... — protest too much"
- 31 Went back on an agreement
- 34 Karaoke need, for short
- 35 Award for a dentist?
- 37 Med. approval org.
- 38 Take to the seas
- 39 Black
- 40 Simple
- 41 Coloring agents
- 44 Can. neighbor
- 45 Web address
- 46 Doctrine
- 47 — Vegas

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Answers on page seven

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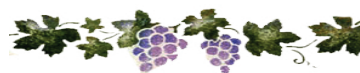
The Grapevine

The Pet Food Pantry is operated by The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 96 Jewett Pkwy., Buffalo. They distribute pet food with no questions asked to those 18 years of age and older. The day of distribution is the first Sunday of every month, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. If it falls on a holiday, they will operate the following Sunday. No paperwork, identification, or proof of income is required.

The pantry is operated solely on donations. While donations of food and treats are always accepted and appreciated, donations of cash allow for the purchase of food in larger quantities. Donations can be made by dropping it off during dis-

tribution time. Or, please contact the parish office to set up a time. Please do not leave bags of food outside of the church. Monetary donations by check should be made out to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Please specify Pet Food Pantry.

If you are interested in volunteering, they would love to have you. Youth and scouting groups looking for a volunteer project are welcome. Please contact the parish office of Good Shepherd at 833.1151 with any questions. For more information please visit their Facebook Page.



Designated Drivers of Buffalo has launched its DDNY App just in time for the holiday season. The app

will allow customers to order professional drivers to drive both them and their vehicle wherever they need to go.

The app is currently available for download. The functionality, much like ride-sharing, will allow customers to order, pay, track and rate drivers right through their mobile device.

New services include Driver-by-the-hour, Shuttle Service, Medical Transportation, Wine Tours, Errand and Concierge Service, Elderly and Child Transportation, and Corporate Use programs.

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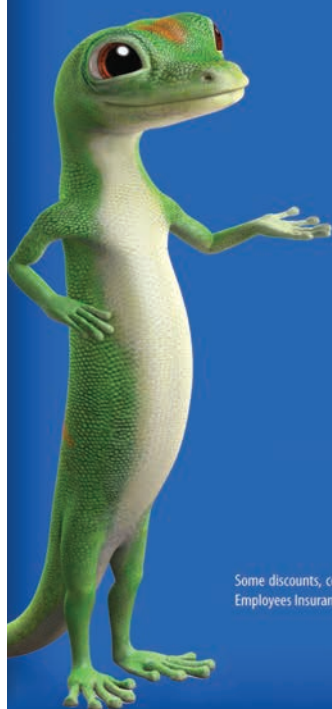
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First Night Buffalo

From page one.

dents and visitors with a wonderful event to help start off the New Year on a good, positive note."

Tickets are now on sale exclusively at www.first-nightbuffalo.org. Tickets will be available at the door the day of event for \$15. Tickets include all rides, attractions and activities. Free parking is available for attendees at the Fernbach and Main Place Mall park-

ing ramps, thanks to the Buffalo Civic Auto Ramps, Buffalo Board of Parking and Mayor Brown.

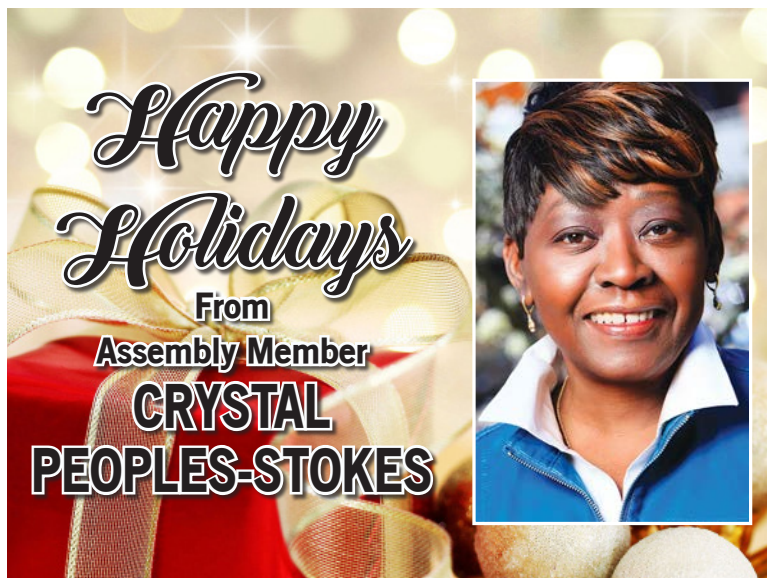
For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit the First Night Buffalo website at www.firstnightbuffalo.org, or call 635-4959. Visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/IndependentHealthFoundation to see frequent updates on this year's lineup.



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The Blotter Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo

December 16, 2017

Elmwood Ave. - Complainant reports for grocery store he manages that the defendant concealed \$197 worth of meat on her person and passed all points of purchase without paying.

December 17, 2017

Ramsdell Ave. - Complainant reports unknown person(s) gained access to the garage and took an assortment of power tools and a bike.

Riverside

December 16, 2017

Riverside Ave. - Com-

plainant reports unknown person(s) entered residence by unknown means. Taken, without permission, a necklace and \$200 cash.

West Side

December 16, 2017

Herkimer St. - Complainant reports unknown person(s) entered residence by unknown means. Taken, without permission, \$400 worth of rings.

December 17, 2017

Grant St. - Complainant reports that unknown person(s) gained entry into residence by kicking down the back door. Once

inside, taken, without permission, a television set, a laptop computer, a gaming system and games and a cell phone.

December 18, 2017

Richmond Ave. - Complainant reports that unknown person(s) broke into her garage by breaking the window on the man door and unlocking door. Taken, without permission, tools valued over \$500.

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MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

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- Natural tree

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A Symphony of Christmas

An evening of joyous holiday caroling is open to all at 7:30 pm on Friday, December 22nd at the historic Westminster Presbyterian Church, 724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. Under the artistic leadership of Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music, this concert experience is a new holiday tradition not to be missed, as we celebrate the music and the spirit of Christmas.

This holiday treat is exceptionally special because it carries on the tradition of the love of choral music for all ages. The audience will be encouraged

to sing along with Christmas favorites such as Joy to the World, O Come All Ye Faithful, Once In Royal David's City, In the Bleak Midwinter, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

The concert features the choirs of Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Westminster Handbell Choir, Westminster's historic Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, and the Buffalo Brass Octet that will combine musically to offer a stunning array of Christmas classics, Rutter's jubilant choral work, Gloria.

"This concert is the beginning of an annual tradition bringing together

hundreds of voices and instruments to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds," says Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church. "The performance of these combined choirs and instruments under the glow of candlelight in the beautiful sanctuary will uplift and renew everyone from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season."

The concert is free. Donations benefit the Westminster Friends of Music. For more information, call 884-9437 or visit www.wp-buffalo.org.



BEDNARZ-LANDSMAN - Dolores C. "Del" (nee Almeida) of Amherst, entered into rest December 16, 2017. Beloved wife; devoted mother; cherished grandmother and great-grandmother; loving daughter; dear sister; dear friend. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

MONTOUR - Wilma I. (nee Gemerek) entered into rest December 13, 2017. Beloved wife; devoted mother; cherished grandmother and great-grandmother; loving daughter; dear sister. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

SOUTHERN - Clifford R. Of Buffalo, entered into rest December 12, 2017. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

RUSO - Josephine (nee Lapiana) of Tonawanda, entered into rest December 11, 2017, age 92. Beloved wife; devoted mother; cherished grandmother; fond

great-grandmother; dear sister. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

MOOTZ - Eileen H. (nee Schutt) of Buffalo, entered into rest December 11, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Eugene K. Mootz; devoted mother. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

BONCORE - Michael C. Entered into rest December 11, 2017. Loving son; dear brother. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

CAMPANELLA - Salvatore of Buffalo, entered into rest December 17, 2017. Beloved husband; devoted father; cherished grandfather; dear brother. Also survived by many relatives and friends. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME(Northtown Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., near Eggert/Sheridan Dr.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)
Name: 716 North, LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on the 31st day of March, 2017. Office location: Erie County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to 716 North, LLC, 30 Inwood Place., Buffalo, 14209. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 3

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): M&M Modern Building Solutions LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on November 6, 2017. Office location is Erie County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon who process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served upon him/her to 5282 Seneca St, W. Seneca, NY 14224 Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 2

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

LYRE	AWES	GET
EONS	COLT	UTE
GUAC	AMOLE	ACE
	ONES	RUTHS
ANGRY		LIFE
GOUT	SLALOMED	
OVA	REESE	AGO
GARMENTS		PLOT
	AIN	FLASH
SINCE	EDDA	
ANT	GUAYAQUIL	
IKE	ESSE	URSA
LYE	DAYS	ELMS

Puzzle on Page 3

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

Most holy apostle St. Jude Thaddeus faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered your beloved Master in to the hands of the enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases and of things despaired of. Pray for me who am so needy; make use, I implore you of that particular privilege accorded to you to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings particularly (here mention your petition) ... and that I may bless God with you and all the elect throughout eternity. I promise you, O blessed Jude to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen.

A.B.

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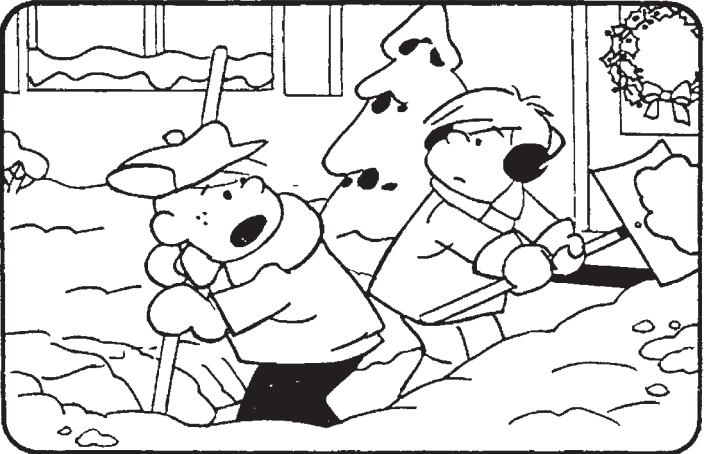
Describe the item in a few words: _____

How much do you want for the item: \$ _____ or FREE (circle) or CALL (circle)

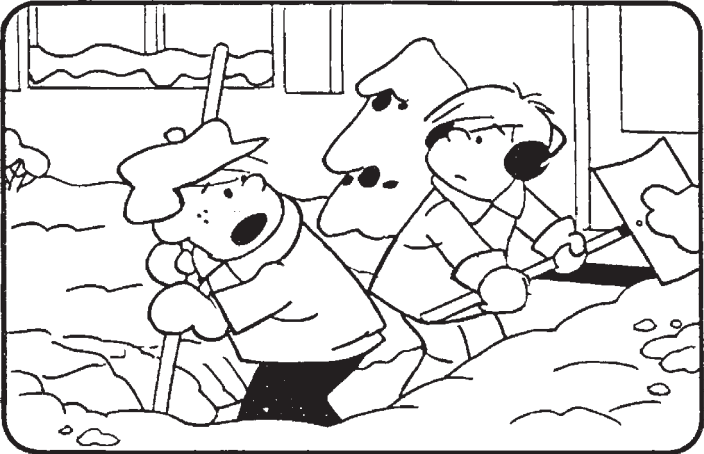
Phone Number where people interested in your item can reach you: _____

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ear flap is missing. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wreath is missing. 6. Shovel full of snow is smaller.

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