

Buffalo Rocket

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COMMUNITY NEWS

www.buffalorocket.com

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Vol. LIV ISSUE No.26 • Thursday, June 29th, 2023

Independence Day 2023



Courtesy of the Buffalo Bisons

Coming up on Monday, July 3rd is the 3rd Annual KeyBank Independence Eve Celebration at the Buffalo Bisons. Below are some other for the annual patriotic celebration.

As our Independence day rounds the corner once again, we celebrate our patriotism through the upcoming events Western New York has to offer. Here is a sample of some of the events to look forward to:

The "Independence Day Eve Fundraiser: Flipside and Fireworks" kicks off at River Fest Park, 249 Ohio Street, Buffalo on Monday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Come to listen to music, watch a fireworks display, meet up with friends, and enjoy a nice night out. Admission is free.



Beverages, food and snacks are available for purchase.

On Monday, July 3rd the 27th Annual KeyBank Independence Night Celebration with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Largest Fireworks Show of the Season as the Bisons host the Worcester Red Sox (6:05 p.m.). The Bisons are thrilled to welcome the United States Army's Jazz Ambassadors to this year's postgame concert. Known as 'America's Big Band,' the 19-member ensemble have received critical acclaim while performing in all 50 states and throughout the world. The Jazz Ambassadors will play alongside the BPO in this year's show!

The "Holiday Valley July 4th Fireworks With the BPO" on July 2nd is set for a booming fourth! There's plenty of room to park across from the Holiday Valley Lodge to enjoy the fireworks from your car and still maintain social distancing. Sunday, July 4th will feature the Buffalo Philharmonic at 8PM followed by a spectacular fireworks show - right over your head! For tickets and more info go to the Ellicottville Chamber website.

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Celebrate July 4th Early At The Great Pumpkin Farm

The "4th of July Carnival at the Great Pumpkin Farm" premieres at The Great Pumpkin Farm, 11199 Main St., Clarence on Friday, June 30th, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm and goes till Sunday, July 2nd. A full itenariy of each day can be read as follows:



12-9pm Ride all rides, play family friendly games, enjoy lots of great food, FREE face painting & balloon art 1-5pm. Hula hoop and Juggling demonstrations 2-6pm. The bar is open with bands playing throughout the day \$10pp non riders & \$25pp for wristband to ride all rides

(All riders must have wristband/ kids 2 and under are free)

SAT/ July 1st - Open 12-9pm Ride all rides, family friendly games, lots of great food. FREE face painting & balloon art 1-5pm. Bar is open with bands throughout the day.

\$10pp non riders & \$25pp for wristband to ride all rides (All riders

Continued on page five.

Safety Tips For Backyard Grilling

Grilling is a popular way to enjoy the nice summer weather, but grill fires can start easily and spread quickly when the gas or charcoal grill is placed too close to any fire hazards.

Learn how you can help keep your home and family safe by following our grill safety tips.

1. Only use grills outside. It may be tempting to set up your barbecue grill inside of your open garage or under a covered balcony, but propane and gas, charcoal grills are strictly designed for outdoor use where there is plenty of ventilation. Any combustible materials that surround or

hang over the grill when it's in use can catch fire easily and quickly. Make sure that the area over top and around your grill is clear and unobstructed.

2. Place your grill away from your home

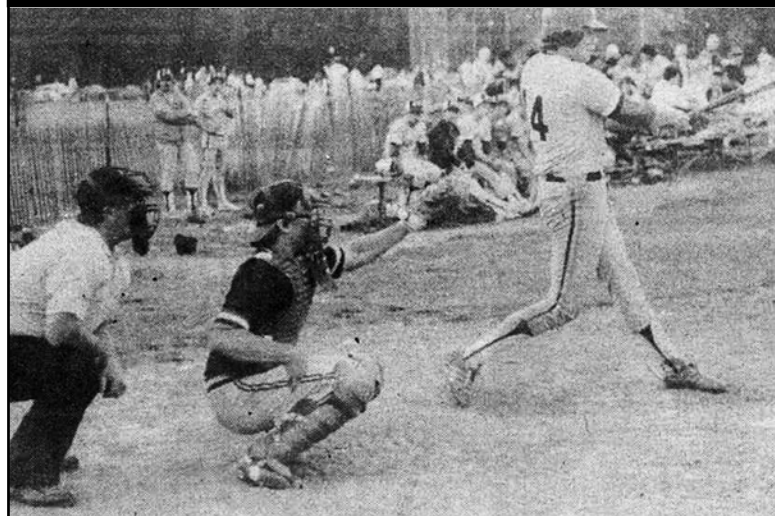
Barbeque grills are often placed just outside the back door or on the back deck against a railing. You should avoid placing your grill in these areas because it can pose a potential fire hazard. Grills that are placed too close to the house or other wood structures can heat up adjacent materials and cause a fire to start. Be sure to keep

Continued on page four.



Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



July, 1984. GONE!...What a weekend for baseball! Delaware Park was busy Saturday Night as teams from various leagues occupied the diamonds. Above a batter for Jack Atkins' team in the TBC League hit a high one, caught shortly in the far right field.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH

Mostly Sunny
High 68°
Low 54°

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH

Partly Cloudy
High 74°
Low 58°

SATURDAY, JULY 1ST

Rain
High 64°
Low 50°

SUNDAY, JULY 2ND

Mostly Sunny
High 67°
Low 45°

MONDAY, JULY 3RD

Sunny
High 63°
Low 42°

TUESDAY, JULY 4TH

Sunny
High 71°
Low 50°

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5TH

Mostly Sunny
High 74°
Low 53°

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(11:30am), (2:00), (4:30), 7:00, 9:30 Mon 7/3: (2:00),
(4:30), 7:00, 9:30 Tue 7/4: (2:00), (4:30),
7:00, 9:30 Wed 7/5: (2:00), (4:30), 7:00,
9:30 Thur 7/6: (2:00), (4:30), 7:00, 9:30

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If your name is found in the BUFFALO ROCKET to win a FREE PIZZA, take proof of identification to BOB & JOHN'S LA HACIENDA at 1545 Hertel Avenue to pick up your FREE PIZZA (Takeout only, must be redeemed within one week). If your name is listed for NORTH PARK THEATRE PASSES, you will have two free passes mailed out to you.

ROCKET COMMUNICATIONS

9195 Main St. • Clarence, NY 14031 • (716) 632-0808

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SPORTS

By Bill Snyder

ALL-STARS And NEW STARS!



The 2023 T-Ball Orioles team in the HNPYBL. Pictured top row L-R Dominic Linseman, Emmett Trotter, Huxley Lane, Liam Roehl, Jack Hawes. Bottom row Connor Murphy, Peter Zepper, Leo Krysztof, Finn Stambach, Edward Hepper all with team manager Charles Trotter.

They were starry nights for everyone last Wednesday and Thursday evening in Shoshone Park last week. Starry as in All-Stars for the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball and Softball League. The annual All-Star games for both Softball and Baseball for girls and boys determined by their age in all levels of house team play at the halfway point of the regular season. Who won? Who lost? Who cares! It was a night of fun for everyone.

The Girls had Shoshone Park all to themselves last Wednesday. Rookie Girls were on Diamond #6 as Sylvie Fyda of the Rebels and teammate Ainsley Roehl helped lead the Shamrocks, Stars and Wolfpack girls to a big win over Girls from the Angels, Comets, Devils and Diamonds in a great game. Fyda and Roehl both went three for three at the plate and had three RBIs for the 16-4 victory.

The Triple A game was a slugfest over on Diamond 7. Morgan DeLaPlante of the Spartans blasted a solo homerun over the fence early in their game against the Bulldogs, Purple Eagles and Wolverines as the team built an early lead and tried to hang on. But Carly Pacholek of the Purple Eagles knocked in

Nora Jordan of the Bulldogs for a 18-17, come from behind victory over the Crimson Tide and Gators in the bottom of the sixth.

The Tigers and Wolverines battled the Bears and Razorbacks over on Diamond #4 while the Major Girls Griffs and Huskies defeated the Bruins and Ducks, 17-16 on Diamond #2.

Congratulations to all of the All-Stars picked for the Girls teams. Each girl received a red, white and blue medallion from Division coaches after all games were played. Thursday night, the Boys had their chance to shine as All-Stars with two Rookie Boys games being played on Diamonds # 2 and #7. The 12 team division was split in half for both six and seven year olds and the little guys didn't fail to disappoint. Daniel Hannon knocked in Connor Dean with the winning run in the extra seventh inning for the Double AA All-Stars, a 4-3 victory for the Cardinals, Brewers and Dodgers over the Braves, Mets and Pirates.

The Major Boys team made up of players from the Giants, Reds, Cubs, Phillies and Nationals defeated the Padres, Mets, Cardinals, Braves and

Dodgers 6-5 and the Triple AAA game ended in a real slugfest, 23-21. In Senior Boys, the Mets, Pirates, Phillies and DBacks defeated the A's, Dodgers, Mariners and Tigers 8-5.

In regular season play this past week, Christopher Nance hit two homeruns and teammate Luca Fanara went three for three to lead the Mariners to victory over the Astros in Rookie Boys, 10-7. Finn McGowan had two big hits while teammates Declan McCabe and Crawford Gardner played good defense for the Guardians in a win over the A's. Sisters Zoey and Keira Zaccarine helped lead the Devils in Rookie Girls over the Stars, 9-4. In Triple AAA, the Yankees defeated the Orioles, 11-3 while the Twins won their first game, a 6-2 victory over the A's on a three run homerun by Jack Kleeh.

Saturday, Lucas Smith, Darryl Gaiter and Gabe Timms combined for a no-hitter on the mound for the Braves victory over the Dodgers. Lilly Filadore and Braylyn Gaiter helped give the Gators a win over the Volunteers and later Danica Chimera hit her first triple as the Wolfpack defeated the Diamonds, 8-2.

Mary Claire Sullivan threw shut-out ball on the mound and teammate Noelle Zaffram-Carey had two hits and two RBI's to lead the Tigers to an 8-1 victory over the Razorbacks. Giovanna Vallery of the Bears singled in two runs to lead the Bears to a 4-1 victory.

The Future of the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League is now seen every night and on Saturdays when boys and girls all gather on Diamond #8 in the Center of the Park and play t-ball with all their young friends. There are 16 boys teams and just six girls squads but the excitement is real and we caught the passion one night in the Park with the Orioles team led by Manager Charles Trotter. Besides the Orioles, here's a quick list. Athletics, Braves, Cardinals, Cubs, Dodgers, Guardians, Phillies, Pirates, Reds, Red Sox, Tigers, Yankees, Nationals and Twins. The Girls teams are Lil Bisons, Lil Jaguars, Lil Hornets, Lil Bandits, Grasshoppers and Tigerettes. If you've never watched these kids play while learning the game, you're missing something. They are just four and five years old.



The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo
June 24, 2023
Amherst Street – Victim and defendant did have a verbal altercation over victim not hanging up the towel in the bathroom. Defendant did raise his hand to victim, making victim fearful.

June 23, 2023
Delaware Avenue – Victim reports that while her and defendant were at Kelly's Korner they got into a verbal altercation. Suspect then slapped victim in the face several times.

June 20, 2023
Delaware Avenue – Defendant got into a verbal argument with victim, then started slapping victim throughout this face. Defendant then grabbed victim and threw her to the floor kicking her throughout her body. Defendant did then grab a knife and stated, "I'm going to stab you", victim was then able to leave attack and stated she had pain in the face/head, pain and redness to back and scrapes and bruises.

West Side
June 23, 2023
West Delavan Avenue – Victim stated defendant refused to leave her house and was aggressive and belligerent towards her, causing her to feel alarmed.

June 22, 2023
Niagara Street – Defendant was a back passenger in New York registered vehicle, a stolen Hyundai Sonata. Damage to vehicle, back passenger window and steering column, over \$250.00. Defendant did flee from officers one scene and was apprehended shortly after.

June 21, 2023
Breckenridge Street – Suspect did break window/door with a rock, suspect did take merchandise without permission, suspect did enter unlawfully into the business. Approximately \$1200.00.

Riverside
June 26, 2023
Elmwood Avenue – The defendant while at 807 Elmwood (the Lexington Co-op) did criminally trespass on said property after being told numerous times by employees and by having knowledge of a served order of protection by other employees to stay away from said business/property when he continued to stay on property and aggressively panhandled, threatening to "shoot and bash their heads in" while standing extremely annoyed and alarmed and afraid for their lives. The defendant after being told he was being arrested while sitting outside of 810 Elmwood, stood up from his seat, fist clenched, becoming combative, using verbally aggressive language and in a fighting stance, did tell officers that he wasn't going to jail while grabbing his hot coffee and throwing it directly onto an officer's right leg/foot in attempts to evade arrest. Defendant continued flailing his arms, pushing off of officers when officers attempted to place handcuffs on defendant. Defendant did continue in the rear of officers patrol vehicle, while under arrest. Upon

doing property inventory at central booking. (1) burnt charboy with residue and (1) broken glass crack pipe with residue was recovered and submitted to the lab by patrol officer.

June 24, 2023
Elmwood Avenue – Defendant did take without permission miscellaneous merchandise (\$83.37) and did pass all points of purchase.

June 23, 2023
Oregon Street – Complainant reports that after a verbal altercation defendant did pick up a knife around 5" and threaten to use a knife on complainant and her property.

June 23, 2023
Vulcan Street – Officers observed defendant operating New York registered vehicle on Vulcan Street when he crossed the center line jumping the curb, striking a pole, he then fled on foot disobeying all verbal commands. Defendant was tased and taken into custody.

June 22, 2023
Great Arrow Street – Complainant states that as he walked by known defendant did strike him in his back by means of hand holding a knife. Victim did suffer a puncture wound to lower/mid back near spine. Victim transported to ECMC via AMR. Knife black handle and copper blade found near defendant.

June 20, 2023
Grant Street – 7-Eleven employee identified defendant who was witnessed inside the store yesterday 6/19/23 at 6:00 am using a stolen credit card. Employee seen the male across the street at the bus stop and called 911. Officers did obtain and did get supporting deposition from employee and property owner. 7-Eleven does have video evidence.

June 18, 2023
Riverside Avenue – Defendant reportedly shouted from window that she "hoped (victim's) baby would die" and threatened to punch pregnant victim in stomach.

June 17, 2023
Elmwood Avenue – Victim states defendant did hit her in the face with an aluminum lid to a tin cannister causing redness to victim's left cheek. Victim denied medical.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	6			4		9		
		8			9		3	
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9					2		4	
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		1		6		2		
5					7			3
	8		9				1	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
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45			46				47			
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51			52				53			

ACROSS

1 America's uncle

4 "Dracula" author Stoker

8 Leftovers recipe

12 Chinese chairman

13 Roof overhang

14 Arizona tribe

15 Samovar

16 On the rocks

17 Hurler

18 "Syriana" Oscar winner

21 British ref. work

22 Caribou kin

23 Gold-loving king

26 "See ya!"

27 Scale abbr.

30 Privy to

31 "Of course"

32 Cheer (for)

33 Joke

34 Chic, to

35 Five dozen

36 Droop

37 Iota

38 1997 film starring Nicole Kidman and 18-Across

45 Only

46 Algeria's neighbor

47 Granada gold

48 "Mamma Mia" group

49 La Scala solo

50 Apprehend

51 Katy Perry hit song

52 Adolescent

53 Ninny

7 Musical mixes

8 Trembled

9 Undecided

10 Duel tool

11 Sly

19 Reddish horse

20 Flamenco cheer

23 "Top Gun" target

24 — jiffy

25 Pooch

26 Nap site

27 Bagel topper

28 Automaton, for short

29 Hog haven

31 Pad you bring

32 Ms. Moreno

34 West of Hollywood

35 Ape

36 Asparagus unit

37 Prove untrue

38 Despot

39 Vagrant

40 Exile isle

41 Give a darn

42 Hawaiian coffee

43 Historic periods

44 Filches

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Northwest Buffalo Beat

By Dave Gallagher AKA Joe Bortz

Women’s Songs



“How do you solve a problem like Maria?”, *The Sound Of Music*, 1965.

Not too long ago I met a woman named Linda. I did what I usually do and sang, “When I go to sleep, I never count sheep, I count all the charms about Linda.” Old song but a cute romance song and I can remember the words. She immediately responded that her father used to sing it to her as a little girl. It brought back fond memories and she thanked me. On another similar occasion, I met a Cindy and burst out into

singing, “Cindy oh Cindy, Cindy don’t let me down, write me a letter dear and I’ll be homeward bound.” She also responded that her dad used to sing it to her when she was young. It also brought back pleasant memories.

I had three daughters but none had names with songs written about them. I used to make up my own and even though they were personal, they were on the not-so-good side. Still, they seemed to enjoy

them to a certain extent. I will not disclose the words as most do not make much sense. The only one close to being okay was when I would sing, “Embraceable You” to my one daughter who had to wear a body brace. It made her feel a little better about the discomfort and embarrassment the brace afforded.

Over the years I have had Linda and Cindy work for me and it always brought a smile to their faces when I would sing their songs to them. Understandably, I am no Frank Sinatra but I could carry a tune. Another was Katie. “KKKKKatie, beautiful Katie, you’re the only one that I adore.” These songs are so old they are not listed under girls’ songs on the internet. My favorite is when I meet a Maria and there are lots of them. “How do you solve a problem like Maria?” from “Sound of Music” or, “Maria, I once met a girl like Maria” from “West Side Story.” Those two are more well known. Or, “Oh Suzanna” or a real old one sang by Eddie Cantor, “If you knew Susy like I know Susie, oh, oh, oh what a gal.”

There are lots of more recent songs with girls’ names that the younger generation are more aware of. I have a sister Gloria, “It’s not Maria, it’s Gloria.” One of my favorite nieces, “Michelle, my belle.” Always sing to them in my own little way. Most get a kick out of it. Only one who objected was my grandson Jedidiah. Changed the word a bit, instead of, “Jumbo Lia Turkish pie a Philly Gum-

bo, son of a gum we will have such fun on the bio.” Changed the Jumbo Lia to Jedidiah. Did not like it at first but it grew on him.

One of the more popular girls’ names is Mary. Lots of songs with Mary but I do not know them. So, I use that she had a little lamb, or, “How does her garden grow?” Lots of girl’s names in nursery rhymes. New generation is not that familiar with the old favorites. My dental hygienist’s name is Jill. I asked how Jack was and she responded, “Who is Jack?” He is the one you went up the hill with to fetch a pail of water. She did not have a clue as to what I was talking about. Jack and Jill going up the

hill is no longer a bedtime story.

Most girls’ songs are romantic but not all. Delilah? “Why why why Delilah”. No romance in that. “Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets.” “Laura, I see your face in my every dream.” “You picked a fine time to leave me Lucille.” “Georgia on my mind.” How about the classic, “Santa Lucia?” I have a granddaughter Lucia named after my mother and I sing it to her when I see her. Not sure if she likes it or not.

How many girls’ songs can you think of not mentioned? Not one boy’s name song comes to mind but there must be some. How about you?

Safety Tips For Backyard Grilling

Continued from page one.

your grill at least 10 feet from your home or other structures.

3. Make sure your grill is located on a flat, level surface

Grills that are placed on slopes or other uneven surfaces can tip over easily and cause a fire. Make sure that your grill is set up on a stable surface such as a concrete pad so that it remains level while cooking food.

4. Always clean your grill after use

Barbecuing regularly causes grease to build-up on the grill plates and collect inside the grease tray. If not cleaned, the build-up can then act as fuel and catch fire while the grill is in use. Clean your charcoal or gas grill after each use with a grill brush and empty the grease tray when it begins to fill up.

5. Never leave your barbecue grill unattended while in use

Never leave the grill unattended while you are cooking food. You should never walk away from your barbecue while it’s in use. Barbecues use high heat and open flames to cook food, and when left unattended can become a safety and fire hazard. If you must leave the grill, ask another adult to watch

the grill for you.

6. Wear appropriate clothing

Articles of clothing that have long sleeves or pieces that dangle can catch fire easily when too close to an open flame. If a piece of clothing does catch fire, remember to stop, drop, and roll to extinguish the flames quickly.

7. Keep a spray bottle on hand

It’s common for grills to flare up as fat drips from meat as it cooks, and this can cause a section of the grill to remain on fire as it burns away. If left alone, the flames will continue to burn and cause excess smoke to billow out from under the lid. Keep a spray bottle filled with water beside your grill so that you can quickly extinguish smaller flames before they spread.

8. Always have a fire extinguisher close by

In the event that a fire does break out, follow these tips on and ensure you have EZ Fire Spray within reach. It is simple to use, just point and spray to extinguish the fire.

Following these charcoal and gas grill safety tips and having the right protection will help you and your family enjoy a safe grilling season all summer long.

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at the following locations or online at www.buffalorocket.com

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7-Eleven.....	460 Hertel Avenue
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Caz Mini Mart.....	572 Hertel Avenue
CBD Store.....	3191 Delaware Avenue
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Gloria J. Parks Community Ctr.....	3242 Main Street
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Great Clips.....	2678 Delaware Avenue
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Hertel Park Senior Apartments.....	1631 Hertel Avenue
Hertel Parker Liquors.....	1859 Hertel Avenue
Home Taste (Chinese Cuisine).....	3106 Delaware Avenue
Imagine Salon.....	1527 Hertel Avenue
Macy's Place.....	3100 Delaware Avenue
Joey's Place.....	83 Niagara Street
Joe's Panini Grill.....	3024 Delaware Avenue
Johnny's Meats.....	1191 Hertel Avenue
Knights of Columbus.....	1530 Kenmore Avenue

Korona Jewelers.....	1588 Hertel Avenue
Marco's Deli.....	1518 Hertel Avenue
North Buffalo Community Ctr.....	203 Sanders Road
North Buffalo Dental.....	1600 Hertel Avenue
North Park Library.....	975 Hertel Avenue
Parkside Community Center.....	2318 Main Street
Paul Wolf Agency.....	2890 Delaware Avenue
Plaka Restaurant.....	2904 Delaware Avenue
Price Rite Market.....	1716 Kenmore Avenue
Salon Avanti.....	3086 Delaware Avenue
Salon Coronado.....	2870 Delaware Avenue
Salon D Capelli.....	3104 Delaware Avenue
Scissors.....	1497 Hertel Avenue
Studio Sophia.....	1094 Hertel Avenue
Sunoco Gas Station.....	4505 Main Street
Theater Apts.....	1065 Kenmore Avenue
Terrie's Workout Center.....	1481 Hertel Avenue
Vince's Pizza.....	1803 Kenmore Avenue
Wesselman's Inc.....	564 Colvin Boulevard
Wellington Pub.....	1541 Hertel Avenue

WEST SIDE

Baptist Manor.....	276 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo Public Library.....	Niagara at Porter
BMHA Housing.....	245 Elmwood Avenue
CWJ Lock & Key.....	183 Forest Avenue
Corner Store.....	Forest & Grant
Delaware Apartments.....	1217 Delaware Avenue
Dibble Hardware.....	262 West Ferry Street
Elmwood Square Apts.....	505 Elmwood Avenue
Fast Stop Food Mart.....	326 Military Road
Frontier Liquor & Beverage Ctr.....	121 Grant Street
First Niagara Bank.....	Elmwood at West Ulica

RIVERSIDE

AmVets.....	25 Review Place
Black Rock Pharmacy.....	431 Tonawanda Street
Boys & Girls Club.....	54 Riverdale Avenue
Buffalo Wine & Liquors.....	2067 Niagara Street
D District Police Station.....	669 Hertel Avenue
Doyles Deli.....	1981 Niagara Street
Faso Restaurant.....	2126 Niagara Street
Fast Stop Food Mart.....	236 Military Road
First Niagara Bank.....	2141 Elmwood Avenue
First Niagara.....	201 Amherst Street
Hearts Thrift Shop.....	890 Tonawanda Street
House of Sandwich.....	800 Tonawanda Street
M&T Bank.....	788 Tonawanda Street
Niagara Deli Pizzeria.....	2043 Niagara Street
Nickel City Bottle Return.....	2209 Niagara Street
Northwest Buffalo Community Ctr.....	155 Lawn Avenue
Pat's Pizzeria.....	544 Ontario Street
Pizza Bella.....	1133 Tonawanda Street
Riverside Market.....	740 Tonawanda Street
Riverside News Stand.....	Tonawanda Street
Roland Insurance Agency.....	432 Amherst Street
Sun Restaurant.....	1989 Niagara Street
Up To You Deli.....	2189 Niagara Street

Wedding Invitations

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Ask Rusty – About Income Tax on Social Security Benefits

Dear Rusty: I just started receiving my Social Security in February of 2023. I am also working part-time at a company 24 hours a week. My question is... I feel like I missed something when I signed up for Social Security because they are not taking any taxes out. What did I miss? How do I go about fixing it so I don't get hit at the end of the year? They are taking taxes out of my paycheck now, do they still take it out of my Social Security because I am working? Please help if I am not doing something right. Signed: Conscientious Senior

Dear Conscientious: Unfortunately, when the Social Security Administration processes your application for benefits, they don't usually inform you that your Social Security benefits may become part of your taxable income. I expect that's because your benefits only "may" become

taxable – they do not definitely become taxable, because Social Security benefits are taxed only if you exceed a certain income threshold.

The thresholds at which Social Security benefits become part of your taxable income are different depending on your income tax filing status – those who file as an individual have a different threshold from those who file as "married – filing jointly." And to further complicate matters there is more than one threshold for both individuals and joint filers. Here's how it works:

If you file your income tax as an individual and your "combined income" from all sources is more than \$25,000, then 50% of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your overall taxable income at your particular IRS tax rate. But if your combined income as an individual tax filer is more than \$34,000 then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received

during the tax becomes part of your overall taxable income.

If your income tax filing status is "married – filing jointly" the thresholds are higher – if your combined income from all sources as a married couple exceeds \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. But if your combined income as a married couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your SS benefits received during the tax year are taxable.

"Combined income" is also known as your Modified Adjusted Gross Income" or "MAGI." Your MAGI is your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus 50% of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest or untaxed foreign income you had (note that withdrawals from a Roth IRA are not included). If your "MAGI" exceeds the above thresholds, some of your Social Security benefits are taxable; if you are under the first threshold for your IRS filing status they are not.

Social Security doesn't automatically withhold taxes from your monthly benefits, and the FICA tax is withheld from your earnings are not used for that purpose. Everyone who works and earns must pay SS tax on their earnings, which are mandatory contributions supporting the federal Social Security program. But that FICA payroll tax has nothing to do with income tax on your Social Security benefits. If you are working 24 hours per week and also collecting Social Security benefits, you will likely exceed the threshold for your tax filing status, which means that at least some of your 2023 benefits will become taxable. That could, as you suspect, result in a surprise "hit" when you file next year's income tax return. Nevertheless, fixing this is quite easy:

Download IRS form W-4V from the IRS website here: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf. You will be able to choose the percentage of your Social Security benefits you wish to have withheld for income tax purposes. Complete the form and mail it to your local Social Security office (get the mailing address here: www.ssa.gov/locator). Social Security will then start withholding income tax from your monthly Social Security benefit payment, which will mitigate any additional tax due when you file your 2023 tax return next year.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent

legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed

by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Celebrate July 4th Early At The Great Pumpkin Farm

Continued from page one. must have wristband/ kids 2 and under are free)

SUN/ July 2nd 12-9pm Ride all rides, play family friendly games, great food vendors, FREE face painting & balloon art 1-5pm. Hula-hoop and juggling demonstrations 2-6pm.

Bar is open with bands throughout the day. Bring your blanket. For Spectacular Fireworks at dusk

\$10pp non riders & \$25pp for wristband to ride all rides (All riders must have wristband/ kids 2 and under are free)

All tickets are purchased at The Great Pumpkin Farm box office / cash or credit.

For more information or any questions, please call Lynn Ritchie/Hammerl Amusements 716-741-9518

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KENMORE SENIOR CENTER - 135 Wilber Ave. Kenmore 14217 873-0737

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WEST SIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES - 161 Vermont St. Buffalo 14213 884-6616
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Michael P. Kearns

Erie County Clerk
Guest Columnist

Kearns Brings One-Stop Passport Service To Northtowns

Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns announced that his office will be conducting a “Passports on the Move” outreach on Tuesday, July 18th from 5pm to 7pm at the AAA Travel and Insurance Center located at 100 International Drive in Williamsville. A second outreach event is also planned for Tuesday, August 22nd from 5pm to 7pm the AAA Travel and Insurance Center located at 1737 Sheridan Drive in Tonawanda.

This community event is for first-time passport applicants only. Reservations are required and can be made for either date by contacting the Erie County Clerk’s Outreach Center at (716) 858-8864

“I am pleased to make this popular service available to residents across the Northtowns, along with our community partners at AAA of Western and Central New York,” said County Clerk Kearns. “Our main objective is to make County government more customer-centered, including offering easily accessible locations for travelers to apply for their passport.”

Applicants will be able to apply for a passport card, passport book or both. Payment must be in the form of check or money order. No cash or credit cards will be accepted. “I encourage anyone planning an up-

coming vacation, the Buffalo Bills game in London, or college students preparing for a semester abroad to schedule an appointment for our ‘Passports on the Move’ event as the current wait time to receive a passport can be as long as 13 weeks,” Kearns stated.


“International travel is up more than 200 percent this year compared to last year based on AAA booking data, and the surge in demand is leading to passport processing delays at the federal level, so AAA recommends that travelers apply for passports as soon as possible,” said Elizabeth Carey, Direc-

tor of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at AAA Western and Central New York. “AAA is pleased to partner with the Erie County Clerk’s office to offer this much needed service, which simplified the application process for travelers.”

A certified copy of birth certificate and proof of identity such as a current New York State driver’s license or non-driver identification card is required in order for any application to be accepted. Passport photos can be taken on-site and are available for \$8.95 for AAA members and \$12.95 for non-members.

Current passport holders with less than 6 months validity remaining are encouraged to follow the instructions on how to renew their passport by mail at travel.state.gov/passports. Passport applications, a list of all required documents and a schedule of fees are available by visiting erie.gov/passports or by contacting the Erie County Clerk’s Office Outreach Center at (716) 858-8864.





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4th Of July Quiz

Test your patriot knowledge!

- 1) Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?
2. Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
- 3) What day should have Independence Day been originally been celebrated on?
- 4)What was the first newspaper to print the Declaration?
- 5) How many times does the Liberty Bell ring every Independence Day?
- 6) Where did the very first 4th of July fireworks show take place?
- 7) Who is the only president (so far) that was born on the 4th of July?
- 8) Independence Day wasn't a Federal holiday till _____.
- 9) What city were both the Declaration and Constitution signed?
- 10) Who believed that a new Constitution should be written every 19 years?

Last Answers: 1. “Back to the Future.” 2. Smallpox. 3. Orange. 4. \$50. 5. A horse. 6. Theodore Roosevelt (42). 7. Burgess Meredith. 8. Point Barrow, Alaska. 9. Venus. 10. Arby’s.

FREE PIZZA: Jean Bennett, 411 Hinman Ave. Apt. Lowr., 14216

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pocket is smaller. 2. Neckline is different. 3. Sign is missing. 4. Glasses are different. 5. Number is missing. 6. Bat is shorter.

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The Grapevine

A Summer of Spectacular Shows: A Free North Buffalo BPO Concert at the North Park Community School, 780 Parkside Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 on Wednesday, July 12th,

6:00pm - 8:30pm. Various food trucks will be available at 6:00pm. The free BPO concert will start at 7:00pm. Sponsored by: Council Member Joel Feroletto.



Reunion for ALL years of Nativity of the BVM School on Albany Street. To be held at: Town of Clarence Park (large pavilion-capacity 300) 10405 Main Street Clarence, N.Y. 14031 Date: Sunday July 9th, 2023 from 10:00am-8:00pm-Potluck Reservations are a must! RSVP by 6/30/23 to: Helen (Brown) Kurzdorfer at 716-400-7977

Rosie (DiLiberto) Mendolera at 716-881-1306.



City of Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation will reopen 3 City outdoor pools on Saturday, July 1, 2023. Those pools include Centennial Pool, Kensington Pool, and Riverside Pool. The City's two indoor pools will also be open throughout the summer months. The pools that

are scheduled to reopen, weather permitting, on Saturday, July 1st through Labor Day as follows: Centennial Pool, 5 Porter Avenue, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Kensington Pool, 665 Kensington Avenue, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Riverside Pool, 2505 Niagara Street, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All pools will be open every day, except Saturday for cleaning. Additional news available at: www.buffalo-ny.gov.

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PUBLIC AUCTION to satisfy overdue storage charges pursuant to UCC Code Section 7- 209, 210, and/or Articles 8 and 9, Sections 182, 184, 201, 201A-203 of the Lien Law of the State of New York, June 18, 2023 - June 25, 2023, online at www.cashauction.com The following units will be auctioned from Metro Self Storage; Shawniqua Johnson Unit 2F340, Ashley Pries Unit 2F481, Mary Ellen Keeler Unit GL611, Tricia Ring Unit MM936, Silvester Dihaan Unit 2F235. Edward Davis Unit 2F242B, Sherry Sherrill Unit 2F350. All units are contents of the storage unit. This list is an incomplete, representative sample only. All items are subject to redemption before the sale, and are sold "as is, where is." 15% Buyer's Premium. Cash Auctions 716.282.8466.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): DEL Associates VI, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on June 14, 2023. 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 Shaun Jackson, Esq., 570 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 30

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): DEL Associates VII, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on June 14, 2023. Office location is Erie County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon who process against it may be served.

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Buffalo City School District
Request for Bid/Proposal

RFP 23-0624E2-090 Hazardous Waste Management & Disposal

RFPQ 23-0723-086 Prequalification for Supplemental Student & Family Support Programs & Services

RFB 23-0624E2-093 HVAC & Plumbing Insulation Services

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RFP 23-0624-091 Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS)

for Pre-K

RFP 23-0624E2-092 Microsoft Power BI Consultant for Data Dashboard

RFB 23-0923-094 Printing of Reading Materials for Grades 1 & 2

RFB 23-0624-096 Word Building Kits for Grades 1 & 2

Offering Specifications posted at: <https://buffaloschools.bonfirehub.com/portal>

Jennifer LoTempio
Director of Purchase

Under §182 of the New York State Lien Law Lincoln Self Storage will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION all of the personal property stored by: PHILLIP BARNWELL, E116; DEB - RA REED, C203; GWENDOLYN DOWNING, C200; JANINE RICKS, J102; NATHANIEL SALAHUD - DIN, I105; SHIRLEY BOYD, E123; TERRANCE GIBSON, A103; PHIL - LIP LAMANCUSA, E107; GEOFF SWEENEY, A112; NORIS OWENS, E138; HENRY BRENT, A219; TA - MARA BETTON, E114; Douglas Tur - nage, B202 & D228; RUTH WEST/ KAREN KLINCK, C111; SALLY SAWYER, C214; KARL SKINNER, I103; TARAESA WATKINS, J105; TASHNEEN PRIM, J107; NOVIAR SAID, C112; JOSEPH ZANGHI, H120; CLAIRE GAY, C101. Auction will be online at www.STORAGETREASURES.COM

on July 11, 2023 at 1 PM EST and ending July 18, 2023 at 1 PM EST. Owner reserves right to bid at auction, reject any/all bids, cancel or

adjourn sale. To resolve this claim contact Lincoln Self Storage, 716-874-1380. 27

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Puzzle on page three.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	2	9	3	8	6	1	4	7
8	1	6	7	5	4	3	9	2
3	7	4	2	1	9	8	6	5
4	8	2	9	6	5	7	3	1
1	5	7	4	3	2	6	8	9
6	9	3	1	7	8	5	2	4
9	3	5	8	2	1	4	7	6
2	6	8	5	4	7	9	1	3
7	4	1	6	9	3	2	5	8

Puzzle on page three.

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