

# Buffalo Rocket

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Distributing to North Buffalo, West Side and Riverside • Established in 1969**

[www.buffalorocket.com](http://www.buffalorocket.com)

## Publishers of North Buffalo Rocket, West Side Times & Riverside Times

**Vol. LIV ISSUE No.50 • December 14th, 2023**

# Christmas Masses




Photo Courtesy of: Holy Spirit's Living Nativity, Catholic Community of Buffalo.

**The holidays are right around the corner with Christmas coming up on a Monday this year. Below is a an upcoming Mass schedule for the Buffalo area.**

Christmas falls on a Fourth Sunday in Advent this 2023. Which means the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. How many Masses do I go to? Pick One Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent & One for Christmas!

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Saturday: | December 23rd 4:00 PM at St. Mark | Fr. Dave Richards 4:30 PM at Assumption | Fr. Chris Eminger. Sunday: | December 24th 8:00 AM at St. Mark | Fr. Chris

Saturday: | December 23rd 4:00 PM at St. Mark  
| Fr. Dave Richards 4:30 PM  
at Assumption  
| Fr. Chris Eminger.

 Sunday: | De-  
cember 24th 8:00 AM  
at St. Mark | Fr. Chris

Emminger 9:30 AM at  
St. Margaret | Fr. Dave  
Richards 10:00 AM at  
Assumption | Fr. Rich  
Jedrzejewski 10:30 AM  
at St. Rose | Fr. Ron  
Sadjak 10:30 AM at All  
Saints | Fr. Chris Em-  
minger 11:00 AM at Holy  
Spirit | Fr. Dave Rich-  
ards.

Christmas Eve, Sun-  
*Continued on page five.*

## Toys Needed For Boxes Of Love

Boxes of Love is located at 286 Lafayette Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14213. Rev. Eric Johns, pastor at the Buffalo Dream Center, and volunteers from the local area have already given food to hundreds of families and will continue giving away food throughout the month. But their greatest need right now is not food. They need new unwrapped toys. Volunteers are beginning to distribute gifts tonight



at the Buffalo Dream Center, with hundreds of gifts that still need to be wrapped for more children who will come later in the week.

Boxes of Love, a Christmas campaign with a goal of giving food to 3,500 families and toys to thousands of children, has been serving thousands of people since the beginning of December. Pastor Johns brought attention to this campaign by living on the

streets of Buffalo with the homeless in November. This is the 25th anniversary of the campaign. New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Buffalo Dream Center.

Those desiring to help support or volunteer for the Buffalo Dream Center's Boxes of Love program can go to [www.buffalodreamcenter.org](http://www.buffalodreamcenter.org) or call 716-854-1001. Those in need of toys and food can also visit the website to register their families.

# First Night® Buffalo New Year's Eve Celebration

First Night® Buffalo, brought to you by the Independent Health Foundation in partnership with John R. Oishei Children's Hospital, will feature an entertaining line-up of family friendly video performances for free at [www.firstnightbuffalo.org](http://www.firstnightbuffalo.org) the evening of December 31.

**First Night® Party Packs**, including everything a family of four needs to celebrate New Year's Eve at home, will be on sale at select Tops Friendly Markets and online at [www.firstnightbuffalo.org](http://www.firstnightbuffalo.org)

throughout December. This year, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the party packs will go to Oishei Children's Hospital, supporting critical programs, lifesaving technology and care to achieve the best possible outcomes for moms, kids and babies in Western New York.

**buffalo** “Oishei Children’s Hospital has been proud to partner with the Independent Health Foundation as we both work to meet the needs of children and families across our community,” said Stephen Turkovich, MD, president of Oishei  
*Continued on page seven.*



# Memories

*From the Buffalo Rocket archives*



**December, 1984. CHATTING WITH THE MAYOR... Bob and John Hazelet, owner of Bob and John's La Hacienda, had a meeting with Mayor Griffin last Friday to discuss the parking problem Hertel Avenue, especially on the block between Parkside and Wellington. The Mayor promised the businessmen that he would begin work immediately with city bureaus.**

## Local Weather

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
 Mostly Sunny High 42° Low 40°	 Sunny High 46° Low 38°	 Cloudy High 49° Low 42°	 Cloudy High 49° Low 40°	 Showers High 43° Low 28°	 Mostly Cloudy High 35° Low 28°	 Partly Cloudy High 41° Low 33°



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THE BOY AND THE HERON (SUBTITLED) Fri 12/15: (1:30), 9:45 Sat 12/16: (1:45), 7:15 Sun 12/17: (4:30), 9:55 Mon 12/18: (4:15), 9:45 Tue 12/19: (4:15), 9:45 Wed 12/20: (1:30), 9:45 Thur 12/21: (7:00), 9:45

THE BOY AND THE HERON (DUBBED) Fri 12/15: (4:15), 7:00 Sat 12/16: (4:30), 9:55 Sun 12/17: (1:45), 7:15 Mon 12/18: (1:30), 9:55 Tue 12/19: (1:30), 7:00 Wed 12/20: (4:15), 7:00 Thur 12/21: (1:30), (4:15)

ELF (2003) Sat 12/16: (11:30 am) Sun 12/17: (11:30 am)

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**Michael P. Kearns**  
Erie County Clerk  
Guest Columnist

## A Happy Holiday Season Is A Safe Holiday Season

As Erie County Clerk, responsible for overseeing Auto Bureau operations, it is time to remind everyone this holiday season to not drink and drive or ride with anyone who is under the influence. If you have had too much to drink, for everyone's sake, please do not get behind the wheel of your car.

We all look forward to celebrating this time of year with our family and friends, but if those celebrations include alcohol, you, as a driver, need to plan ahead and arrange for a safe ride home. People who make the dangerous decision to drink and drive will find that local law enforcement is serious about combating reckless and irresponsible behavior.

New York State imposes harsh driver license penalties for those with an impaired driving charge for either alcohol or drugs. If convicted of a misdemeanor DWI, your license will be revoked for a minimum of 6 months. Aside from the tremen-

dous expense for an attorney, fines and insurance premium increases, there is total disruption of normal life, including possible loss of job and jail time for repeat offenders.

We need to keep in mind that preventing drunk driving is everyone's business, and we all need to take a leadership role in this fight! Driving while impaired is simply not worth endangering the lives of innocent people, while ruining your own life in the process.

Every single day, impaired driving senselessly kills about 37 people in the United States in drunk-driving crashes. In every state, it is illegal to drive under the influence, yet one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 39 minutes. In 2021, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) most recent study, more than 13,384 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths, which is a 14%

increase from 2020.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug-impaired driving is also a concerning public health problem. A NHTSA National Roadside Survey found that more than 22% of drivers stopped by law enforcement tested positive for illegal, prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Whether they are illegal, legalized, prescription or over-the-counter medicines all can affect your ability to drive safely.

I want to also remind everyone it really makes no difference whether the driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs. Those who choose to drive under the influence of drugs, whether obtained legally or illegally, pose a danger to themselves, their passengers, and other motorists and pedestrians. Drug-impaired driving isn't a mistake; just like a DWI, it's a crime. Impairment is impairment, no matter the substance. The facts are, if you feel different, you will drive different.

While celebrating the holidays, know the signs of when to hand over the keys and call a cab, a ride-sharing service or designate a sober driver before the party begins. Plan a safe ride home before you start your holiday festivities.

Please, think twice—don't drive distracted or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Let's make sure we all do our part in making this a happy and safe holiday season for everyone on the roads and at home.

### PICK UP A COPY OF THE BUFFALO ROCKET at the following locations or online at [www.buffalorocket.com](http://www.buffalorocket.com)

#### NORTH BUFFALO

7-Eleven.....460 Hertel Avenue  
Aspire Dental.....476 Hertel Avenue  
Bellamore Boutique.....3086 Delaware Avenue  
Black Rock Beverages.....538 Hertel Avenue  
Bob & John's Pizzeria.....1545 Hertel Avenue  
Caz Mini Mart.....572 Hertel Avenue  
Century 21.....1705 Hertel Avenue  
Corner Store.....2815 Delaware Avenue  
Daddio's Pizzeria.....1247 Hertel Avenue  
Dash's Supermarket.....1770 Hertel Avenue  
Delaware YMCA.....2564 Delaware Avenue  
Enchanted Hair Salon.....3030 Delaware Avenue  
Evans Bank.....2670 Delaware Avenue  
Fig Tree Patissille.....3062 Delaware Avenue  
Finishing Touches.....2820 Delaware Avenue  
Frank's Sunny Italy.....2491 Delaware Avenue  
Ginnane Funeral Home.....3215 Delaware Avenue  
Gloria J. Parks Community Ctr.....3242 Main Street  
Gamma Mora's.....1465 Hertel Avenue  
Great Clips.....2678 Delaware Avenue  
Hertel Coin Laundry.....1274 Hertel Avenue  
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 Utica  
M&T Bank.....130 Grant Street

Military Coin Laundry.....1134 Military Road  
Santasiero's Restaurant.....1329 Niagara Street  
Timon Towers.....1015 Delaware Avenue  
Trinity Tower Apartments.....33 Linwood Avenue  
West Market.....1032 West Avenue  
West Side Community Center.....Vermont at Fargo

#### 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  
Doyle's 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





# The Blotter

## Felonies

From "D" District

**North Buffalo**  
**December 10, 2023**  
Hertel Avenue – Defendant did swing and punch victim in the face causing bruising and swelling to the face. Defendant did also push victim recklessly into a cabinet causing hinges to break.

**December 9, 2023**  
Hertel Avenue – Victim stated subject threw a gingerbread box at his car after picking up their son and followed them home yelling and honking their car horn non-stop. Subject caused victim to be annoyed.

**December 9, 2023**  
Amherst Street – Victim states defendant woke up this morning 12/8/23 and continued drinking from night before and became aggressive towards her. Victim states he did push her while holding the baby and took the baby's bottle from him in an aggressive manner. Order of protection in place.

**December 9, 2023**  
Hertel Avenue – Patrol did observe Black sedan traveling east band on Hertel Avenue with no headlight on. Upon conducting traffic stop, the operator of the vehicle did have Buffalo warrant. Patrol did find a small bag of white substance between the door and driver seat while doing inventory.

**December 6, 2023**  
Kenmore Avenue – While being searched CBA's Craig & Davis did recover

a small plastic bag that did contain cocaine. Recovered by BRA. Submitted by patrol officer.

**West Side**  
**December 7, 2023**  
Grant Street – Victim reports that defendant did steal her vape pen, and while she was looking for it defendant did reportedly push and strike her with closed fist, causing pain and bleeding to her head and ear. Treated by AMR.

**December 6, 2023**  
Elmwood Avenue – Defendant did select \$207.00 worth of merchandise and did pass all points of purchase without an attempt to pay for those items. Defendant did use self-checkout to purchase other merchandise.

**Riverside**  
**December 10, 2023**  
Military Street – Upon a traffic stop for New York registered vehicle, defendant in passenger seat attempted to flee from the vehicle. Defendant was stopped by patrol officer. After a weapons safety search officer told defendant to walk to the back of patrol vehicle at which point defendant attempted to run away. Officers demanded compliance of the defendant and placed in mechanical restraints. Defendant gave false name during arrest. Defendant had .9g of unknown white powder on his person. Submitted to lab.

**December 8, 2023**

Hamilton Street – New York registered vehicle operated by defendant failed to stop at a red light on Austin Street and Niagara Street driving southbound. Vehicle had an expired inspection sticker and driver was found to have had a suspended permit. Officers recovered white powder substance on floor board of passenger side of the vehicle. When conducting inventory search of the vehicle prior to tow. Substances were in 2 small baggies. Patrol officer submitted the substance to the lab. Both passenger and driver were issued appearance tickets on scene and released.

**December 8, 2023**  
Hamilton Street – The defendant inside New York registered vehicle during a traffic stop. Two small baggies containing white substance found on the floor board of the front passenger side where the defendant was sitting during an inventory search of the vehicle.

**December 7, 2023**  
Ontario Street – Complainant stated defendant struck her on the left side of her face away bruising and swelling.

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## MAGIC MAZE

## WORDS FOUND IN "SEASON'S GREETINGS"

N T Q N S K I F C Z S W S S U

R P M J H E E C Z X N R E U S

Q N L J G(S I N G S O N G)E C

G Z X V T N S N R I I P N N L

J N H E C E I S N R T A A Y W

G N I T A E A E E A A V R T R

P N S T E T S G L N R K O I G

E C B R S Z N N S R E G N I S

X W G E A A U S I R N N P O M

L A I E T T O J I R E G O E D

B S A Y X W S R U T G S Q P O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Unlisted clue hint: AN AFTERNOON NAP

Agreeing	Grins	Seniors	Tangerines
Eating	Oneness	Singers	Teens
Generations	Oranges	Singsong	Tree
Grannies	Roasting	Stars	

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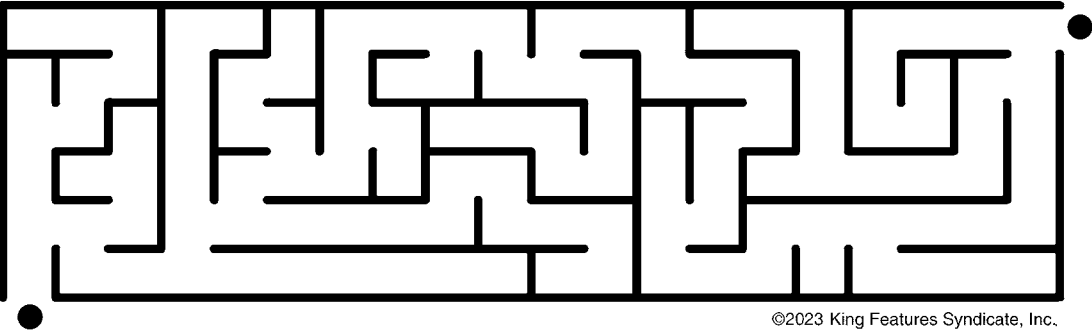
Answers on page seven.

## CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE BUFFALO ROCKET

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# Kids' Maze



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Answers on page seven.

FREE PIZZA: David Lewis, 327 Norwalk Ave., 14216

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: A. Priore, 368 Voorhees, 14216

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

1 North —

5 Green prefix

8 Oodles

12 Writer Kingsley

13 As well

14 Capri, e.g.

15 Souvenir seller

17 Move like a butterfly

18 Tours season

19 Snaky fish

20 Ceases

21 Solidify

22 Twitch

23 Shroud city

26 He can hold his head high

30 "Dream on!"

31 Zero-star review

32 Santa's runway

33 Old English Sheepdog feature

35 Skilled

36 Tramcar contents

37 "— the season ..."

38 Poker play

41 Fish propeller

42 Spa sounds

45 Protracted

46 Decorative paper

48 "There!"

49 Santa's help-

### DOWN

1 Leaf

2 Skip

3 Biography

4 Ballpark fig.

5 Lucy's pal

6 "Neato!"

7 "Alley —"

8 Prepaid stocking stuffers

9 Capital on a fjord

10 Radar image

11 Collections

16 Beheld

20 — Lancelot

21 Eloquent person's talent

22 Can metal

23 Indent key

24 GI entertainers

25 Tease

26 Cowboy's sweetie

27 Nemesis

28 Dandy guy

29 Newt

31 Bakery pur-

er

Penne —

Vodka

Uppity one

Ambulance initials

Lunch hour

Capital on a

chase

Canine cry

"—

Misbehavin' "

Squabbles

Diner orders

Cash advance

Loosen

Motion picture

Folksinger Guthrie

Saintly ring

Bridge

"My word!"

Pallid

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Answers on page seven.

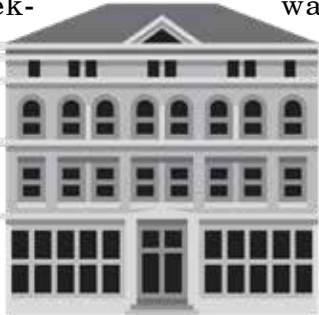


# Holiday Events To Support The Matt Urban Center

“Cookies for a Cause” and “Santas of Swig” Celebrate the Season of Giving and Support Agency’s Programs.

Two events organized by long time Matt Urban Center supporters Rebecca Decker and Sultans of Swig will take place this weekend as part of the agency’s “Home for the Holidays” year-end campaign. Funds raised from both events, to be held the weekend of December 9, 2023, will benefit the Matt Urban Center’s human services programs, with the overall “Home for the Holidays” campaign running through December 31, 2023.

The ninth annual “Cookies for a Cause” will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Flying Bison Brewery. Founded and organized by Rebecca Decker, this annual cookie exchange features donated cookies from Buffalo’s best home bakers, with this year’s sales benefiting the Matt Urban Center. Support-



ers can visit the venue to pick up their pre-ordered mixed pack of assorted dozen cookies as well as visit the pop-up market featuring local vendors and holiday gifts.

The event has grown from the simple activity of baking, that Decker wanted to share with others - to an event that has raised over \$14,000 since 2015, with support going to Matt Urban since 2017. “I organize this event to combine two things I love – baking cookies and giving back to our community,” Decker said. “It’s a labor of love! It combines the best parts of holiday season: cookies, charity, and merriment.”

“Our Cookies for a Cause and Santas of Swig fundraisers came about because people saw the work that we do at the Matt Urban Center and selflessly wanted to help us to do more for our clients and tenants,” said Ryan Undercoffer, Executive Director of the Matt Urban Center. “The generosity of this com-

munity makes it possible for us to keep doing the hardest work where it’s needed most.”

The Matt Urban Center is just past the midway point of its “Home for the Holidays” campaign, an effort to raise \$60,000 to support its essential human services programs by December 31. Located in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood on the East Side of Buffalo, the Matt Urban Center provides support to residents with affordable housing, weatherization, senior services, youth after-school programs, homeless outreach, permanent supportive housing, and access to clothing and personal essentials at its Hope Center. The campaign highlights the agency’s critical work with features on social media about how the agency revitalizes neighborhoods, serves families, and changes lives. Donations can be made by accessing a secure link via the Matt Urban Center’s website as [www.urbanctr.org/donate](http://www.urbanctr.org/donate).

For more on the Home for the Holidays campaign or events, please contact Ryan Undercoffer at [rundercoffer@urbanctr.org](mailto:rundercoffer@urbanctr.org) or 716-387-0781.

Home for the Holidays Sponsors: We extend our gratitude to our current sponsors, Evans Bank and Rich Products, for their generous support in making the “Home for the Holidays” campaign a reality. About Cookies for a Cause: Founded and organized by Rebecca Decker, Cookies for a Cause is a charitable cookie sale that has been raising funds for local organizations since 2014. This year’s event is supported by Jobena Supply and ZoomCopy. For more information please visit [www.urbanctr.org](http://www.urbanctr.org).



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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## Ask Rusty – I'm 65 And Working; Can I Collect Ex-Spouse Benefits?

**Dear Rusty:** I turned 65 earlier this year, and I still work full time. I was divorced four years ago after 38 years of marriage, but my ex-husband has been collecting Social Security for at least 10 years now. Can I start collecting Social Security and still work full time? And can I collect my ex-husband's amount if it is more than mine (and what is the best way to achieve this)? When I went to my local SSA office, they said they had no way of knowing that.

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

**Signed: Working Divorcee**

**Dear Working Divorcee:** Although you are eligible to claim Social Security at age 65, because you are working full time you may wish to wait a bit longer to do so. That's because Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before full retirement age, and you have not yet reached yours.

The earnings test imposes a limit on how much you can earn before SS takes away some of your benefits. If you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024), Social Security will want back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit and you will need to repay that, usually by having future benefits withheld. If you significantly

exceed the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 8 months. So, if your earnings from working will significantly exceed the annual earnings limit (which changes yearly), it's likely that your wisest move would be to wait longer to claim your Social Security. As an bonus for doing so, your monthly payment will have grown and will be higher when you claim later. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach FRA.

Regarding benefits from your ex-husband, you cannot collect his instead of yours. What you may be able to do, when you claim your own benefit, is to get an additional amount which brings your monthly payment up to 50% of his. In order for that to happen, you would need to satisfy the following criteria:

You are not currently married.

The personal benefit you are entitled to at your FRA must be less than 50% of your ex-husband's FRA entitlement.

If the above are true, when you claim your own SS retirement benefit you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your payment up to what you're entitled to as an ex-spouse. The amount of the spousal boost, if you claim Social

Security at your FRA, will be the difference between half of his FRA entitlement and your FRA entitlement. If you claim your benefit before your FRA, not only will your own benefit be reduced for claiming early, but the amount of your spousal boost will also be reduced (benefits claimed before FRA are always reduced).

Whenever you decide to claim Social Security, you will be automatically deemed to be filing for benefits from your ex-husband as well (you shouldn't need to apply separately). You've already satisfied the basic criteria of at least 10 years married to get benefits from an ex-spouse and, if you satisfy the above criteria as well, you will be entitled to a spousal boost when you claim. But your current earnings from working full time will likely affect your eligibility to collect Social Security benefits at this time, so waiting until your full retirement age to claim may

be your best choice.

If you will only slightly exceed the annual earnings limit you can consider claiming earlier, as long as you are comfortable with receiving a permanently reduced amount, and the prospect of not getting benefits for a number of months if you exceed the earnings limit (the number of months you will go without benefits depends on how much you exceed the limit by).

Thank you for submitting your question to our Social Security Advisor department. Be sure to share our link with your family and friends.

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).

## Christmas Masses

*Continued from page one.*

day: | December 24th 4:00 PM at All Saints | Fr. Ange Chimera Children's Nativity Play 4:00 PM at Assumption | Fr. Rich Jedrzejewski Nativity Pageant 4:00PM at St. Margaret | Fr. Dave Richards 4:00 PM at St. Mark | Fr. Chris Emminger Nativity Pageant 4:00 PM at St. Rose | Fr. Rich Zanoni 10:00 PM at Holy Spirit | Fr. Dave Richards "Living Nativity"

ty" with live animals.

Christmas Day, Monday: | December 25th 9:00 AM at St. Mark | Fr. Dave Richards 9:30 AM at St. Margaret | Fr. Chris Emminger 10:00 AM at Assumption | Fr. Rich Jedrzejewski 10:30 AM at St. Rose | Fr. Ron Sadjak 10:30 AM at All Saints | Fr. Dave Richards 11:00 AM at Holy Spirit | Fr. Chris Emminger.



# SERVICE YOU DESERVE...

## SATURDAY HOURS

## Erie County Auto Bureau

Reservations Are Encouraged, But Not Required

# Make a Reservation Online Today!

**West Seneca  
Office Hours:**

**7AM-5PM**

**Monday-Friday**

**9AM-1PM**

**Saturday**



Scan QR Code with Your Cell Phone Camera

**Eastern Hills  
Office Hours:**

**10AM-6PM**

**Tuesday-Friday**

**8AM-3PM**

**Saturday**

For those without internet access, please call the Erie County Clerk's Outreach Center at 716-858-8864 to schedule your appointment today!

**West Seneca: Southgate Plaza, 1088B Union Road, West Seneca**  
**Eastern Hills Mall: 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville**

Use main entrance by Duff's

## ADOPT A PET

Sponsored By The Buffalo Rocket

This Week's Featured Friend: **MAYA**

OUR SHELTER IS  
OVERFLOWING WITH DOGS!

Meet Maya! Estimated to be about 1.5 years old, Maya is brave and social, she loves her time spent out of the kennel. She has been social with other cats. She is also the longest stay in our shelter system and we don't know why. Sometimes black cat are left behind for no good reason. Come and meet her and see for yourself!! Maya is currently located at our PetSmart location on Elmwood Avenue in North Buffalo. We encourage you to visit her and our other adoptable kitties, volunteer hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5-7 PM, Saturday 12-4 PM, and Sunday 2-4PM. Online applications can be submitted by visiting [friendsofcbas.org/adopt](https://friendsofcbas.org/adopt).



If you would like to meet any of the adoptable dogs, please fill out an application online (if you are not already pre-approved), call the shelter, and leave a message with your name and phone number and the dog you're interested in. Have patience, and they will call you back when they can. From there, a time will be scheduled for you to come and meet the dog. Please be patient, and remember they are very short staffed at the moment. Applications can be found at <https://friendsofcbas.org/adopt>

City of Buffalo Animal Shelter  
380 N. Oak St. Buffalo  
[Buffalo\\_Shelter@yahoo.com](mailto:Buffalo_Shelter@yahoo.com)

**716-851-5694**



To see more great pets, visit: <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelterid=NY341>



# The Grapevine

**Ten Lives Club Cat Adoption Group** is looking for contestants for their 13th Annual Chili Cook-Off fundraiser on Sunday, January 21, 2024. The event runs from 12:30pm to 3pm and will be held at Woodlawn Fire Company, located at 3281 Lakeshore Road, Blasdell, NY 14219. Do you make a mean chili? Have a secret family recipe or unique chili to share? If so, be sure to sign up to be a contestant in our supporter-favorite Chili Cook Off event! Ten Lives Club welcomes all chilis: professional, restaurant, amateur, vegetarian, spicy, you name it! By entering the contest, contestants have a chance to win money prizes for Best Professional Chili, Best Amateur Chili and Best Chili Display! Everyone who participates will receive a t-shirt and their entrance into the event is free as well as one guest per contestant. Each contestant must bring their own crock pot filled with their chili, along with a ladle for serving. Ten Lives Club will provide the bowls, spoons, and bread and butter. For \$15, guests can enjoy samples from all contestant chili tables with a side of bread and butter! Admission for children aged 10 and under is \$10. There is no pre-sale for this

event and admission donations are taken at the door. For more information on this event, or to enter the contest, email [eschmitz@tenlivesclub.com](mailto:eschmitz@tenlivesclub.com). Visit Ten Lives Club website to see more details on the event or call their shelter at (716) 646-5577 ext. 7 to have an application mailed to you.



**Queen City Traveling Market: Holiday Edition:** Come celebrate the Holidays with the Queen City Traveling Market, located at The Barrel Factory, 65 Vandalia Street, Buffalo, NY on December 16 and 2023, December 17, 2023 from: 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM. A gathering of locally-based businesses provides a variety of goods so you can shop-small and support 716. Held indoors, we'll be there snow or shine. We are also collecting canned goods and personal hygiene materials in collaboration with the WNY Food Shuttle. Free parking, full service restaurants, multiple bars and a tasting room featuring locally-made spirits and beverages. For more information please visit: [visitbuffaloniagara.com](http://visitbuffaloniagara.com).



**Garden Walk Buffalo,** America's largest garden tour, is looking for submissions of original artwork to promote the 2024 event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 27 & 28, 2024. Garden Walk Buffalo will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024. Entries are due Wednesday, January 31, 2024. This is an opportunity to share your artwork with hundreds of local gardeners and tens of thousands of visitors from around the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Email your entry to [aclark@gardens-buffaloniagara.com](mailto:aclark@gardens-buffaloniagara.com). Include ART ENTRY in the subject line. If possible, zip your files or use a service like wetransfer. For more information, email [GardenWalkBuffalo@Gardens-BuffaloNiagara.com](mailto:GardenWalkBuffalo@Gardens-BuffaloNiagara.com) or call (716) 247-5004.



**At The Buffalo AKG:** Adult Studio Classes Open For Registration. Guests can register for classes at [buffaloakg.org/studioclasses](http://buffaloakg.org/studioclasses). Registration is required. All supplies are provided. Intro to Oil Painting: Landscape and Portraits (Four-Week Series, Ages 16+) Learn about composition and color theory by looking at works in the collection and create a naturalistic portrait and or landscape. No experience necessary; geared for beginners. Thursdays, January 18, 25; February 1, 8 6-8 pm. For further information, please contact Karen Duval, Manager of Access & Studio Programs, at 716 270 8249 or [kduval@buffaloakg.org](mailto:kduval@buffaloakg.org).

## Senior TRIVIA

### Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

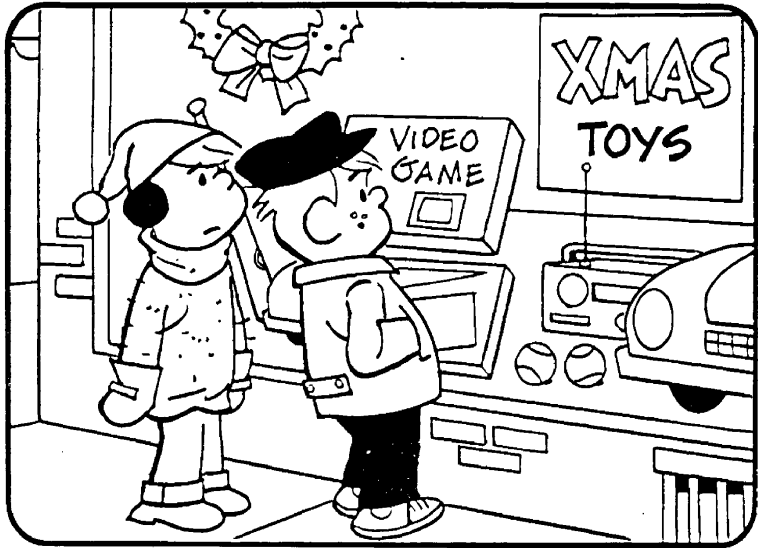
- 1) Which famous highway that stretches across the United States is sometimes known as the Will Rogers Highway?
- 2) Which country did the pop group ABBA come from?
- 3) What article made Frosty the Snowman come to life in the popular TV special?
- 4) What is colcannon?
- 5) Which state is home to the Volcanoes National Park?
- 6) What is the name of the acapella group that Anna Kendrick joins on "Pitch Perfect"?
- 7) Who invented the Barbie doll in 1959?
- 8) How many tablespoons are in 1 cup?
- 9) What is the title of the sequel to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl?
- 10) Which elected president is the only one to fail to gain his party's nomination for a second term?

Last Answers: 1. David Hasselhoff. 2. Olympia. 3. 15-30 days. 4. "Animal Farm." 5. Talc. 6. The River Thames. 7. Hangover. 8. "Fast & Furious" (2009). 9. Anaheim, California (1955). 10. Torch.

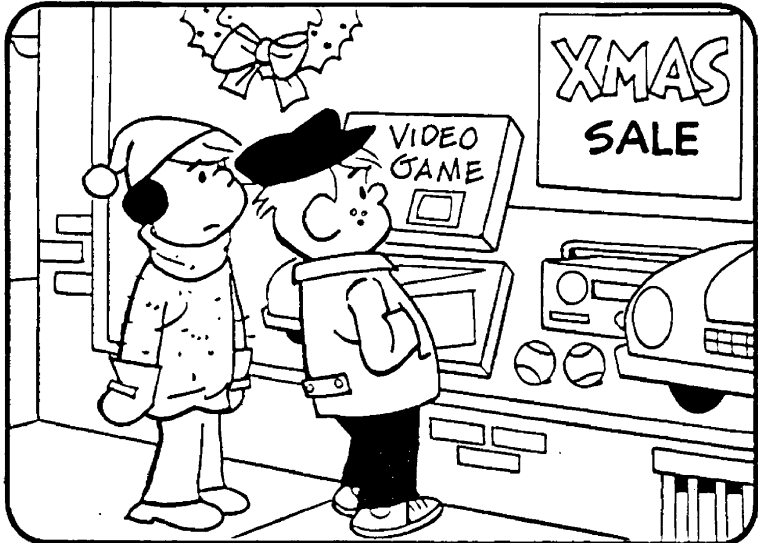
FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Aleksy Kayutkin, 1010 Kenmore Ave., 14216

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tassel is shorter. 2. Cuffs are missing. 3. Baseball bat is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Sign is different. 6. Antenna is missing.



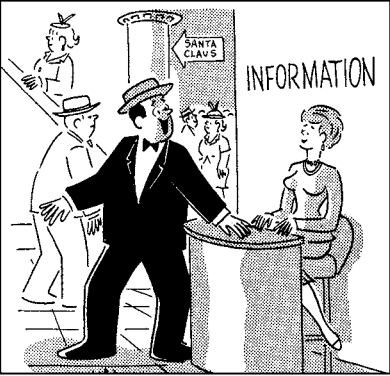
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Submit Your  
Community Event to

The Grapevine

editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com



### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Restrain	DREAMN				
Expect	DINET				
Imbed	GOLDE				
Certify	TASTET				

TODAY'S WORD

"What floor is the \_\_\_\_\_ on?  
And don't go away ....!"

Answers on page seven.



# First Night® Buffalo New Year's Eve Celebration

*Continued from page one.* Children's Hospital. "We are thrilled to again be the presenting sponsor for First Night Buffalo. From the party packs to the free digital content, First Night provides a safe and fun option for families to celebrate the New Year."

First Night® Buffalo, one of the Independent Health Foundation's sig-



nature programs, marks its 35th year as a family-friendly celebration. It is the fourth year that the event has been all-virtual, allowing families from across Western New York to usher in the New Year in an entertaining and affordable way in their own homes. With more than two hours of recorded programming, families can watch togeth-

er or create a kids-only viewing party that is fun and safe."

"With another amazing show planned, this year's First Night Buffalo celebration will be packed with energy and fun for families," said Carrie Meyer, executive director, Independent Health Foundation. "Together in partnership with John R. Oishei Children's Hospital, we can provide free online access to the videos

for families across Western New York to enjoy a special New Year's Eve from the comfort of their home."

The entertainment lineup for First Night® Buffalo will be accessible for free at [www.firstnight-buffalo.org](http://www.firstnight-buffalo.org) beginning on New Year's Eve. In addition to performers and shows, this year's lineup will again include Buffalo's Talent Show featuring a collection of talent

videos from Western New York kids.

The Independent Health Foundation works to improve the health and well-being of Western New York residents through awareness, prevention, education and other programs focused on community health priorities. For more information about the Independent Health Foundation's activities, visit [www.independent-health.com/foundation](http://www.independent-health.com/foundation).

## CLASSIFIED

### LEGAL

Notice of Formation of Thermo King Northeast, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 10/26/2023. Office location: Erie County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Thermo King Northeast, LLC, 583 South St., New Britain, CT 06051. Purpose: any lawful activity. 52

Notice of formation of Zen Zone Property Maintenance LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/20/23. Office in Erie County. SSNY is the designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 200 ayer rd buffalo NY 14221. Any lawful purpose. 52

KATHERINE MILLER-PROCKNAL PSYCHOLOGIST PLLC. Articles of Organization for KATHERINE MILLER-PROCKNAL PSYCHOLOGIST PLLC were filed with the NY Department of State on August 28, 2023. The Office of the PLLC is in Erie County. The NY Secretary of State has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of any process to the LLC at: 73 Fayette Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14223. The purpose of the PLLC is any lawful purpose permitted for this PLLC under NY Limited Liability Company Act. The duration of the PLLC is perpetual. 1

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, December 16, 2023 - December 23, 2023, on-line at [www.cashauction.com](http://www.cashauction.com) The following units will be auctioned from Metro Self Storage; Raymond Barksdale unit LL102, Sonia Santiago unit LL59, Peter Juliano unit 2F547, Matthew Pope unit MM949, Laura Torres unit 2F435B, Brian Harris unit GL714, Kelsey Lash unit LL88, Maurice Reeves Units 2F214+2F529, Patti Carr unit LL37, Sadie Clendenning unit 2F424B, Irene Revelas unit LL108, Elizabeth White unit 2F471, Charmaine Jackson unit 2F300. 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 71 6.282.8466. 51

### AREA SENIOR CENTERS

#### NORTH BUFFALO

GLORIA J. PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER - 3242 Main St. Buffalo 14214 832-1010

NORTH BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER - 203 Sanders Rd. Buffalo 14216 768-1004

#### RIVERSIDE

NORTHWEST BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER - 155 Lawn Ave. Buffalo 14207 876-8108

#### KENMORE

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

#### WEST SIDE

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

CONCERNED ECUMENICAL MINISTRY (CEM) - 286 Lafayette Ave. Buffalo 14213 882-2442

FATHER BELLE COMMUNITY CENTER - 104 Maryland St. Buffalo 14201 845-0485

RICHMOND-SUMMER SENIOR CENTER - 337 Summer St. Buffalo 14222 885-3290

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an Apartment Your Stuff Your Notice an Apartment Your Stuff Your Notice

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ADVERTISING GETS RESULTS! CALL DENNIS GALLAGHER AT 716.632.0808

## SCRAMBLERS

*solution*

1. Remand
2. Intend;
3. Lodge;
4. Attest

*Today's Word*

## MISTLETOE

Puzzle on page six.

### — King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	O	L	E	E	C	O	G	O	B	S		
A	M	I	S	T	O	O	I	S	L	E		
G	I	F	T	S	H	O	P	F	L	I	T	
E	T	E	E	E	L	S	T	O	P	S		
T	U	R	I	N	G	I	R	A	F	F	E	
A	S	I	F	P	A	N	R	O	O	F		
B	O	B	T	A	I	L	A	D	E	P	T	
O	R	E	F	T	I	S						
B	L	U	F	F	F	I	N	A	H	S		
L	O	N	G		G	I	F	T	W	R	A	P
T	A	D	A		E	L	F		A	L	L	A
S	N	O	B		E	M	S		N	O	O	N

Puzzle on page three.

### — Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

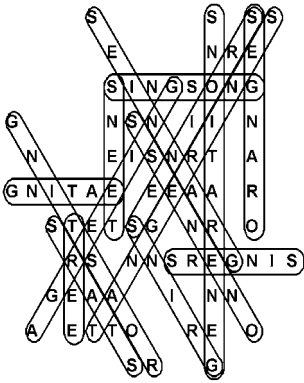
Puzzle on page four.



### TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE BUFFALO ROCKET  
CALL 632-0808

#### WORDS FOUND IN "SEASON'S GREETINGS"



Puzzle on page two.

### TO PLACE YOUR HELP WANTED AD

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Business Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am-5:30 pm,  
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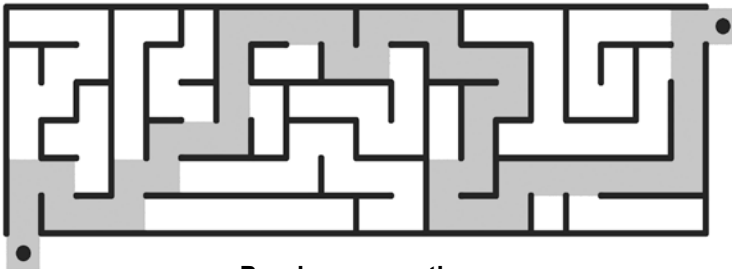
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### Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page three.





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