

## Merry Christmas



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us the Buffalo Rocket! From Left to Right: Dennis Gallagher, Joe Bortz, Sania Carlyon, Bobby Wright, Craig Sanderson, John Raymond, Mike Nowak, Tarek Barger, Daryl Gallagher, Alexandra Kelter, and Charles Wilson.

## Hertel Avenue Christmas Tree Lighting



Councilmember Joel Feroletto attends Hertel Tree Lighting with County Legislator Michael H. Kooshoian, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera, State Senator Tim Kennedy and County Legislator John Bargnesi.

**By Joel Feroletto.**  
Hertel Avenue is officially “Lit”! On Friday, December 1st we hosted the annual tree lighting ceremony in front of St. Margaret’s Church. With the help of the Hertel Business

Association we were able to kick off the holiday season with another successful event in coordination with the long time running Hertel Holiday Walk. The night was filled with carols sung by the

Buffalo Seminary Sema Chords, hot cocoa donated by Dash’s Market, and winter hats donated by New Era Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Claus also joined in on the fun before they hopped on their sleigh and made their way around the businesses on Hertel Avenue. The 35-foot tree will be up on display throughout the month of December. Santa’s Mailbox is also set up at the tree this year, kids can drop off their letters and we will personally ensure that the letters make it to the North Pole in time for Christmas! After the tree lighting ceremony, I walked down the street and was excited to partake in all the hustle and bustle. Stores and restaurants along the street had extended hours for the evening and you could tell it was the perfect

## The Countdown To New Year’s Eve

It’s time to celebrate New Year’s Eve in Downtown Buffalo! Today, Mayor Byron W. Brown announced the details of the 36th Annual Buffalo Ball Drop and Fireworks Celebration at the Electric Tower, presented by M&T Bank. The celebration will begin at 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31st in Roosevelt Plaza and will feature live music by The Strictly Hip and Saxophonist Will Holton. It will conclude with the traditional ball drop at midnight, followed by fireworks. “Buffalo’s New Year’s Eve gathering is the second largest such

celebration in New York State and we’re proud of this event which is a benefit for the Police Athletic League of Buffalo,” said Mayor Brown. “The City of Buffalo is the largest supporter of the NYE Ball Drop, devoting police officers, firefighters, parking and DPW crews to the event who work to ensure that all remains safe and festive for everyone.” “As M&T continues to grow, we currently have operations in 32 states and 5 countries, our focus on our hometown remains as strong as ever,” said Keith Belanger, M&T Bank Senior



*Continued on page five.*

## Memories

*From the Buffalo Rocket archives*



December, 1984. A CHRISTMAS VILLAGE... Debbie and Bob Hapka of 91 Saranac continue a 38 year tradition begun by Bob’s mother of setting up an expansive display around the Christmas tree. The growing little town presently occupies nearly half of their living room.

## Local Weather

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH
 Mostly Cloudy High 33° Low 26°	 Partly Cloudy High 41° Low 35°	 Showers High 44° Low 40°	 Cloudy High 49° Low 40°	 Mostly Cloudy High 54° Low 43°	 Showers High 51° Low 46°	 Showers High 49° Low 37°



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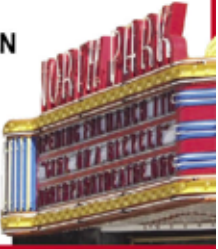
THE BOY AND THE HERON (SUBTITLED) Fri 12/22: (4:15) Sat 12/23: 9:45

THE BOY AND THE HERON (DUBBED) Fri 12/22: (1:30), 7:00 Sat 12/23: (1:45), 7:00 Sun 12/24: (11:30 am)

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION (1989) Sat 12/23: (11:30 am)

UNBILLIEVABLE! THE MOVIE Fri 12/22: 9:45 Sat 12/23: (4:30)

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**SPORTS**

By Bill Snyder

## Xavier Mann: The Man!



Photo Courtesy of: Xavier Mann

**The Mann Family. Pictured left to right: Robin Mann, Xavier Mann, Karrington Mann, and Michael Mann.**

The tragedy at the Tops Market on Jefferson Avenue last year was still in the hearts of thousands of East Buffalo residents on the anniversary of the ten lives lost on May, 14, 2022. While the City tried to force change for a better Community, tributes for Lt. Aaron Salter Jr. and the nine other victims in this horrific event poured into the minds for a better Buffalo from now on.

Several months ago, three longtime friends of the late Aaron Salter Jr., got together and set up an annual scholarship to honor the man who confronted the killer and saved precious minutes from the crime so more store shoppers and employees could escape. The three men are Nate Goldsmith, Earl Perlin and Bradford Pitts. A panel was set up to search for young students that were emblematic of their deceased friend and after some consideration, a former player in the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League named Xavier Mann was selected as the inaugural recipient for the Aaron Salter Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

"It's a great honor to represent everything that Mr. Salter stood for in this Community and I hope to continue his legacy," said Mann, 18, recently in a telephone interview home after his first semester at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina. "I couldn't believe I was

receiving it. When everything happened, I couldn't imagine so many people like me just being gone."

Mann, a City Honors High School Junior at the time of the shooting, was playing shortstop for the Centaurs and leading the team to a sectional title under coach John McMahon. Several of his teammates were also former players of the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League, including Matt Cambria, Connor Keiffer, Nathaniel Gilbert, Quinn Mahoney, Liam Meyers and Quinn Langdon.


A stand-out athlete in the North Buffalo Baseball league, Mann started learning the game in t-ball at the age of five in 1999 under the watchful

eyes of his father, Mike, and has been playing ever since. He and his wife, Robin have taken an active role in the lives of their two children, Xavier and a younger sister, Karrington, a fierce competitor on a softball diamond. Xavier played over 14 years in Shoshone Park on both house and travel teams. He was a big part of the reason the Pirates won a Senior Division House Championship in 2009 on the 90 foot diamond at the age of 13.

Mr. Mann, Xavier's Dad, is no stranger to the game of Baseball. He played the game as a youth for the old River Rock Little League and later for Hutch-Tech. He feels interest in the game has dwindled in time in the City. But as a youth coach for his son and other boys, he also teaches lessons in humility and imparts this on a team.

"This is a tremendous honor and achievement for Xavier," said Mann. "I feel my son will be able to emulate the characteristics of Aaron Salter Jr. and carry out the goals of this magnificent honor. He realizes the Johnnie B. Wiley Sports Pavilion, where he played and practiced for games, is just blocks from where this Tops Market is. The magnitude of what happened on May 14 will always be entrenched in his mind..


At Christmas time, we remember the lives of the ones we've lost. We reflect on the year just passed and look forward to 2024. We look for new baseball helmets or a catcher's glove under our tree. But we get ready for a new season. Western New York native Jonah Heim helps lead the Texas Rangers to their first ever World Series since 1972, when the moved from Washington and the Oakland A's are moving to Las Vegas. It's still America's game.



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# The Blotter

## Felonies

From "D" District

**North Buffalo**  
**December 17, 2023**  
Amherst Street – Officers responded to a knife call and complainant states the suspect did attempt to break into her bedroom and broke her door down. Defendant did attack complainant by means of a knife and did cut complainant in the left hand. Defendant did also strike the complainant about the body causing pain and swelling knife recovered by patrol officer. Submitted by patrol officer.

**December 17, 2023**  
Norwalk Avenue – Victim did state that on 12/17/23 at approximately 1500 hours inside of 103 Norwalk Avenue that victim and his girlfriend (defendant) did get into a verbal dispute about defendant hiding victim's belongings. Victim then stated that defendant did damage victim's dishes and antiques in the approximate amount of \$300.00. Victim then stated that defendant did throw a blood pressure monitor at victim's face causing bleeding. Victim then stated that defendant did strike victim multiple times in the back.

**December 17, 2023**  
Elmwood Avenue – Defendant did shoplift \$391.50 worth of merchandise from Bath and Body Works by placing items in a basket and passing all points of purchase without paying for said items.

**December 17, 2023**  
Elmwood Avenue – Complainant did report that on 12/17/23 at 2101 Elmwood Avenue at approximately 1310 hours that defendant did take without permission \$214.67 worth of merchandise and did pass all points of purchase. Defendant did walk out with merchandise in a basket.

**December 17, 2023**  
Amherst Street – Officer responding to a person down call for someone passed out did arrive on scene to find defendant unconscious in driver seat of New York registered vehicle. Vehicle was running with keys in the ignition and defendant did have an open bottle of Hennessy Cognac between her legs. Officer did conduct standard sobriety tests that defendant did fail. Officer then attempted to place defendant under arrest when defendant did refuse verbal commands and pulled away from officers and tensed up in an attempt to prevent officers from placing her under arrest.

**West Side**  
**December 18, 2023**  
Grant Street – Victim states that, after he ignored her attempting to argue with him, she did become aggressive, biting him in the face causing reckless and attempting to remove him from residence causing abrasions.

**December 17, 2023**

East Avenue – Defendant did follow victim home from bar and did repeatedly drive back and forth causing victim alarm and annoyance. Defendant did also continuously call victim's cell phone until victim's phone died, harassing victim. Defendant did leave area and was apprehended by West Seneca Police at 29 East Avenue. Custody was transformed to Buffalo Police at Cazenovia Park.

**Riverside**  
**December 16, 2023**  
Debra Lane – Victim states that offender did make verbal threats to harm victim and threatened life of victim. Victim is fearful for her safety and feels alarmed and annoyed due to threats. Verbal threats were made in front of 8 year old child.

**December 15, 2023**  
Debra Lane – Officers responded to a violent domestic call upon officers arrival noticed male in the house. Defendant would not let officers in. Victim was sitting in the corner. Victim eventually stood up and officers observed a swollen left eye and marks on victim's face. Victim also had blood on her coat.

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W U S R O C S N Q P W P M O L  
N L J R G N I Y A T S O L A R  
H F D C O A Y G W L T E L V O  
T S Q P N H L K A A A P I F W  
I H F E C B Z Y W M R B W V U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: YOUR TRUSTY STEED

Atomic	Magical	Rocket	Super
Balance of	Nuclear	Solar	Will
Flower	People in	Star	World
Hydroelectric	Pulling	Staying	

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Answers on page seven.

FREE PIZZA: Robert Reidy, 295 Voorhees Ave., 14216  
FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Diane Totaro, 386 Taunton Pl. Apt. Uppr., 14216

# King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 TiVo precursor

4 Wide

9 America's uncle

12 Consume

13 Heart line

14 La-la lead-in

15 Gym machine

17 And so on (Abbr.)

18 Nabokov novel

19 Bowling lanes

21 Packs tightly

24 Go yachting

25 Yale grad

26 Author Umberto

28 Aegean island

31 Building wings

33 Farm female

35 Steakhouse order

36 Rice recipe

38 PC key

40 Chaney of horror films

41 First lady of scat

43 Bistro furniture

45 Telepathic

47 Sushi choice

48 Hostel

49 Heavy burden

54 Memo letters

55 Deadly virus

56 Schlep

57 Air safety org.

58 Philly hooper

59 Director Lee

**DOWN**

1 Animal doc

2 Train unit

3 Hwy.

4 Villain

5 Woo

6 "... — quit!"

7 World record?

8 Texas city

9 Sheet metal producer

10 Bohemian

11 Apple computers

16 Small batteries

20 Tale teller

21 Army transport

22 "That's — need to know"

23 1,000-year spans

27 Have debts

29 Bassoon's kin

30 Taxpayer IDs

32 Pretzel topper

34 Getty of "The Golden Girls"

37 Fireplace flickerers

39 Salad type

42 Suspect's excuse

44 Crunchy sandwich

45 Peeve

46 "May It Be" singer

50 Bagel topper

51 Slangy suffix

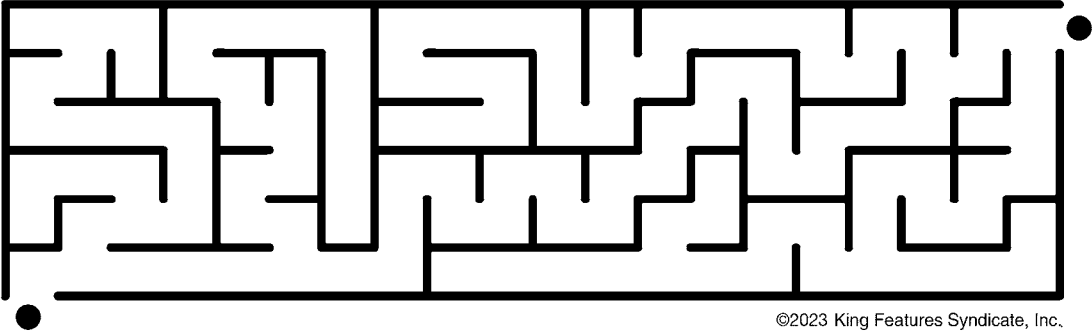
52 Sister

53 Silly Putty container

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Answers on page seven.

# Kids' Maze



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Answers on page seven.

# BPO "Rocks" In The New Year With Next Series

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is gearing up for the January start of their 23-24 Rock Series, highlighting timeless rock hits from Led Zeppelin, Phil Collins & Genesis, and Fleetwood Mac that captivate listeners across generations. Sponsored by the Yurtchuk Foundation and led by BPO Rock conductor Bradley Thachuk, the series brings a distinct orchestral depth to fan-favorite rock music that cannot be heard anywhere else in Western New York.

BPO Principal Percussionist Mark Hodges shares some insight on this year's series from a drummer's perspective: "Our Rock Series is packed with

exciting artists and a full symphony orchestra, making them some of the most thrilling concerts I've experienced! Here are some fun drum facts you may or may not know about the bands whose music we're amplifying this season at Kleinhans Music Hall."

The Music of Led Zeppelin, January 19: "Led Zeppelin sold out Kleinhans when they played in our iconic venue in 1969 with the famous John Bonham on drums!"

The Music of Phil Collins & Genesis, March 8: "Phil Collins' 'In the Air Tonight,' that you've played air drums to at

Bills games, is one of the most recognized drum fills of all time."

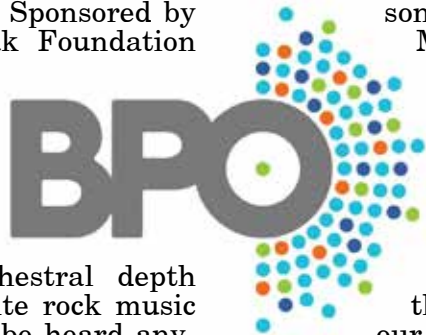
Landslide: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac, April 26: "Fleetwood Mac is actually named after their drummer, Mick Fleetwood, and not a hamburger."

Tickets can be purchased through the Classic Rock 3 subscription package offering all 3 concerts, or as individual events. Additional tickets to The Music of Elton John (February 24) or Symphony of Illusions (June 8) are available at a 25% discount with the Rock 3 subscription. For details, visit [bpo.org/rock](http://bpo.org/rock).

Purchases can be made online, in-person at the Box Office in Kleinhans Music Hall, or by calling (716) 885-5000.

Find images here. For additional information, interviews, photos, or video, contact Simone Viola at [sviola@bpo.org](mailto:sviola@bpo.org) or (716) 242-7814.

To learn more about the BPO's storied history, distinguished conductors and world-class musicians, and commitment to IDEA, visit the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at [www.bpo.org](http://www.bpo.org).





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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 Patisserie.....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  
Gramma 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

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Baptist Manor.....276 Linwood Avenue  
Buffalo Public Library.....Niagara at Porter  
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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  
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Sun Restaurant.....1989 Niagara Street  
Up To You Deli.....2189 Niagara Street

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					4	1		7
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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 – Are Spousal Benefits Always A Factor?

**Dear Rusty:** Both my wife and I have worked our entire lives. When we retire, will we both be entitled to full benefit amount each, or will there always be a spousal factor in there? Also, how are those benefits calculated – based on your highest salaries throughout your career, or your ending salaries when you retire?

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

**Signed: Looking Ahead**

**Dear Looking:** Prior to retiring from work is a smart time to investigate how Social Security will fit into your golden years. To answer your second question first, each person's personal SS retirement benefit is based on the highest-earning 35 years over their entire lifetime, with earlier years adjusted for inflation. The person's Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME) – essentially the person's lifetime average inflation-adjusted monthly earnings amount – is first determined. Using AIME, the person's Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) is calculated using a special benefit formula which will yield a PIA of about 40% or less of the person's AIME. The PIA is the amount received if benefits start in the month full retirement age or "FRA" is attained (as you can see, Social Se-

curity likes acronyms).

Since you and your wife were both born after 1959, FRA for both of you is 67. The age when you claim benefits, relative to your FRA, determines how much you'll get. Claim before FRA and your benefit is reduced; claim after your FRA and your SS retirement benefit will be more (up to age 70 when maximum is reached); claim at your FRA and your benefit will equal your PIA – the full (100%) amount you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Spouse benefits only come into play if the PIA for one of you is less than 50% of the other's PIA. In that case, the spouse with the lower PIA gets a "spousal boost" to their own SS retirement benefit when claimed. The amount of the "spousal boost" will be the difference between the lower PIA and half of the higher PIA, but the amount of the "spousal boost" (as well as the person's own SS retirement amount) will be reduced if benefits are claimed before full retirement age. Any time SS benefits are claimed before full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

If one spouse is entitled to a "spousal boost" from the other, the spousal amount will reach maximum at the recipient's full retirement age. Thus, if the lower earning part-

ner's highest benefit will be as a spouse, then that spouse should not wait beyond their FRA to claim. If, instead, the lower earning partner's own SS benefit at age 70 is more than their spousal amount, waiting longer than FRA to claim could be prudent, depending on life expectancy.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security benefits should consider many things, including financial need, work status if claiming before FRA, marital status, and life expectancy. But it is your lifetime earnings which determines your SS retirement benefit amount, and it is how your FRA entitlements compare to each other that determines whether spousal benefits will be paid.

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

## The Countdown To New Year's Eve

*Continued from page one.*

Executive VP of Corporate Services. "We remain deeply committed to Buffalo, the city where it all started for M&T Bank. The New Year's Eve Ball Drop is a chance to celebrate our hometown city with hope, reflection, and connection, all which couldn't be more important as we come to the close of 2023 and ring in 2024." Once again, the New Year's Eve Ball will descend from atop Iskalo Development's historic Electric Tower, located in the heart of Buffalo's Theatre District.

At 10:30 p.m., the 7WKBW broadcast will switch back to Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest 202. That celebration will lead up to midnight, at which time both celebrations in New York City and Buffalo will be highlighted on the screen. Be sure to watch

7WKBW Live on your favorite platform, including the 7WKBW Streaming app, starting at 10:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve!

Skylighters of WNY will shoot the fireworks show and choreograph it to classic rock and seasonal music favorites. In an effort to provide reliable rides to and from the Buffalo Ball Drop, UBER is on board this year to help holiday revelers get to and from the event easier than ever. A Ridesharing Zone will be set up on Pearl Street, between Huron and Chipewa.

A "test drop" of the NYE Ball will be held at 535 Washington Street, in front of the Electric Tower on Thursday, December 28th at noon, when crews hoist the specially designed ball to the top of the tower, testing the hundreds of special lights and timing the descent.



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**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: **APACHE**

OUR SHELTER IS  
OVERFLOWING WITH DOGS!

Meet Apache. This young boy of about 7-9 months sure could use a home to give him some TLC for his skin and fur so that it will grow it back and be even more handsome than he already is. Many shelter dogs come in just like Apache due to poor nutrition, life on the streets but heal quite nicely once given good food, less stress and a good ole oatmeal bath. He is a very sweet boy with moderate energy that appears to need some work on some basic manners but loves treats which will help him learn cool new things. Apache loves loves attention and is looking forward to bonding with his new human best friend. All this guy wants is a new start to his life in a comfy dog bed, a fabulous spa day, and some fabulous treats to make his doggie world complete. Online applications can be submitted by visiting 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

**716-851-5694**



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



# The Grapevine



**Trinity Episcopal Church:** Would you like your children to experience the pleasure of an old-fashioned Christmas pageant without all the rehearsals and hassle? Then bring them to Trinity Church, 371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th dressed as an angel, shepherd, king, Mary, Joseph, star, or animal (ANY animal will do). All children will be incorporated into a retelling of the Christmas story. Familiar Christmas carols will be sung. "It looks a lot like a pageant," says the Rev. Matt Lincoln, Rector of Trinity, "but it is not a performance by children for an audience. It is really a way for children to worship God by experiencing something like going to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child. That is why we invite them to participate without rehearsals. At the same time, grandparents get to see their grandchildren looking angelic!" Trinity Church is a metropolitan house of prayer – a community of worship and spiritual inquiry, welcoming all people. For more information, call 716-852-8314 or email The Rev. Matt Lincoln at [mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org](mailto:mlincoln@trinitybuffalo.org).

**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@gardensbuffaloniagara.com](mailto:aclark@gardensbuffaloniagara.com). Include ART ENTRY in the subject line. If possible, zip your files or use a service like wetransfer. For more information, email [GardenWalkBuffalo@GardensBuffaloNiagara.com](mailto:GardenWalkBuffalo@GardensBuffaloNiagara.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).



**Ten Lives Club.** Beauty Blends Tattoo & Spa: The event was held at Beauty Blends located at 9290 Boston State Rd Boston, NY 14025. During the event, guests picked tattoo designs from a flash sheet with a variety of cat themed tattoos. The tattoo and spa studio also offered quick glow facials, hair braiding and hair tinseling. The event raised over \$1,000 for the cats at Ten Lives Club! For more information about this event, please contact their main shelter at (716) 646-5577 x.2.



Submit Your  
Community Event to

The Grapevine

editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com

## Hertel Avenue Christmas Tree Lighting

*Continued from page one.* night to get some shopping done. The businesses embraced all the community support and continue to appreciate those choosing to shop local this year. Looking back on the evening, I am still in awe of all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event possible. Many thanks to Tree Haven Nursery, Elber's Landscaping, Shea's Buf-

falo Stage Hands (Local 10), Indigo Productions, Iskalo Development, Buffalo Fuel, and Harbison Brothers who were all instrumental in making this night such a great time for the entire community. I hope some of the special events taking place this last month in the Delaware District have provided you with joy and holiday spirit. I wish you and your loved ones

a safe and happy holiday season to carry us into the New Year!



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The Buffalo Rocket

Senior TRIVIA

Christmas Quiz

Test your holiday knowledge!

1) Who sang "Mele Kalikimaka" in the holiday comedy, "National Lampoon's: Christmas Vacation"?

2. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?

3) The film, "Miracle on 34th Street", is based on a real-life department store. What is it?

4) Who wrote the classic holiday novella "The Cricket on the Hearth"?

5) Elvis didn't have a "White Christmas", he instead had a....

6) In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born in?

7) What is Ralphie's little brother's name in the movie, "A Christmas Story"?

8) Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as another holiday mascot?

9) In Rankin Bass' "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer", what year did the storm take place?

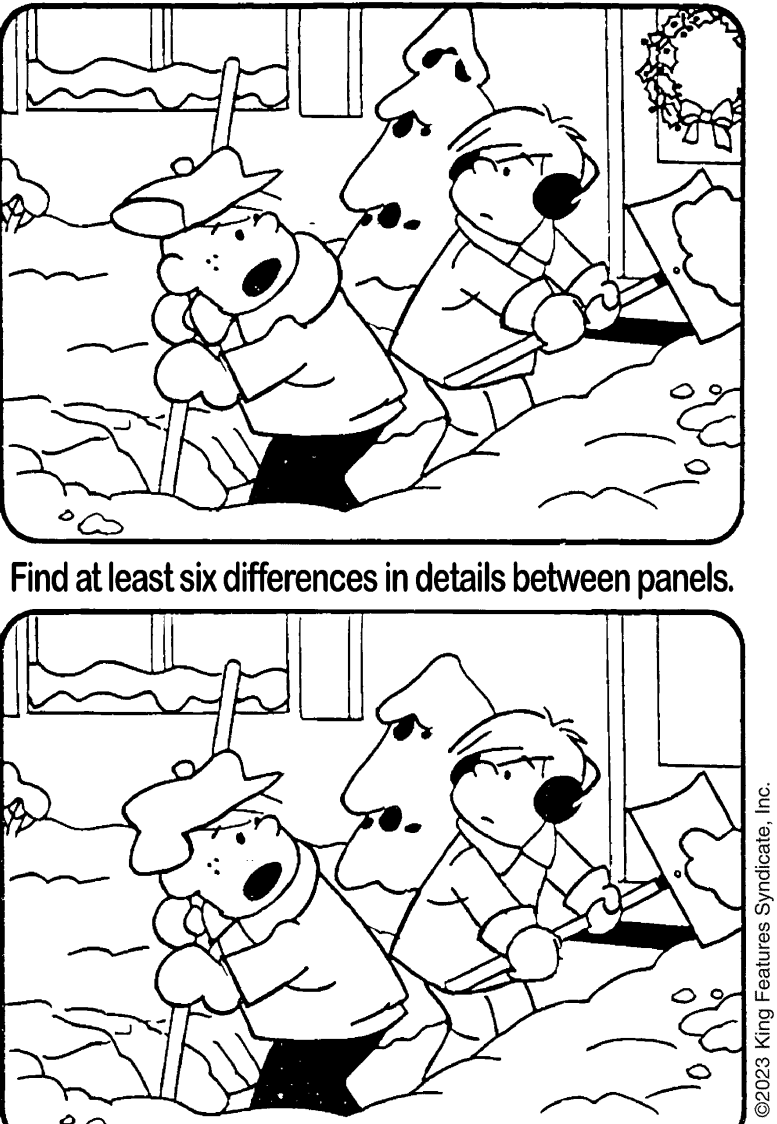
10) How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?

Last Answers: 1. Route 66. 2. Sweden. 3. A magic hat. 4. Mashed potatoes and cabbage. 5. Hawaii. 6. The Barden Bellas. 7. Ruth Handler. 8. 16. 9. "Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator." 10. Franklin Pierce.

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Jeff Rieth, 940 Amherst St., 14216

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Ear flap is moved. 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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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 over- due 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, online 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 Clendening 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 716.28 2.8466. 51

Buffalo City School District Request for Bid/Proposal

RFP 24-0629-043 REGENTS CHEM-

ISTRY TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Offering Specifications posted at: [buffaloschools.bonfirehub.com/portal](http://buffaloschools.bonfirehub.com/portal)

Jennifer LoTempio Acting Director of Purchase 51

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INDEX NO. 814889/2022 COUNTY OF ERIE

GOVERNMENT LOAN SECURITIZATION TRUST 2011-FV1, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS DELAWARE TRUSTEE AND U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS CO-TRUSTEE Plaintiff, vs. T.B., A MINOR CHILD, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO BIRDSONG A/K/A PEDRO T. BIRDSONG, BY AND THROUGH HER NATURAL GUARDIAN, TAMARA HENRY; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF PEDRO BIRDSONG A/K/A PEDRO T. BIRDSONG, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES; FINANCIAL TRUST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION S/B/M/T ERIE METRO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; JOHN DOE (REFUSED TO PROVIDE NAME); TAMARA HENRY, "JOHN DOE #3" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last ten names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendants. Plaintiff designates ERIE as the place of trial

situs of the real property SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Mortgaged Premises: 52 FLOSS STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14211 Section: 101.260, Block: 7, Lot: 16.000

To the above named Defendants YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30)days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty(60)days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$47,250.00 and interest, recorded on November 01, 1993, in Liber 12368 at Page 762, of the Public Records of ERIE County, New York., covering premises known as 52 FLOSS STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14211. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. ERIE County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: October 12, 2023 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Plaintiff Theresa Regis, Esq. 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310 Westbury, NY 11590 516-280-7675. 2

FOR SALE

Feral cat houses FREE for winter - Stryfoam coolers with straw for bedding. 716-877-4682.

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

V	C	R		B	R	O	A	D		S	A	M
E	A	T		A	O	R	T	A		T	R	A
T	R	E		A	D	M	I	L		E	T	C
			A	D	A		A	L	L	E	Y	S
J	A	M	S	I	N		S	A	I	L		
E	L	I		E	C	O		S	A	M	O	S
E	L	L	S		E	W	E		R	I	B	S
P	I	L	A	F		E	S	C		L	O	N
		E	L	L	A		T	A	B	L	E	S
M	E	N	T	A	L		E	E	L			
I	N	N		M	I	L	L	S	T	O	N	E
F	Y	I		E	B	O	L	A		L	U	G
F	A	A		S	I	X	E	R		A	N	G

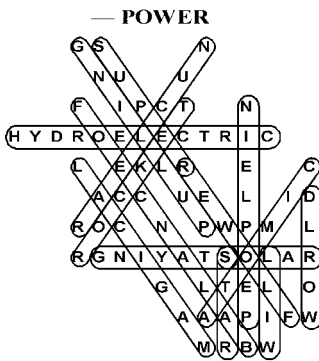
Puzzle on page three.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Puzzle on page four.



Puzzle on page two.

FOR RENT

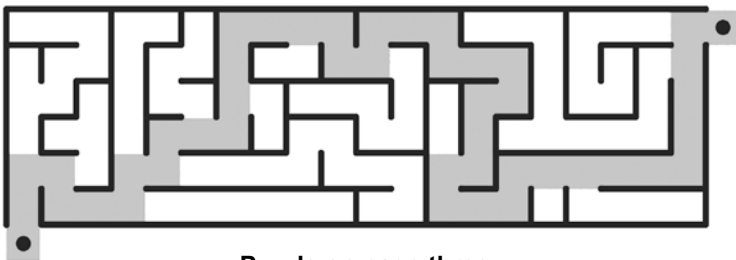
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Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page three.

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