

SPCA Winter Pet Safety Tips



Winter pet safety tips may seem obvious, but they are often overlooked.

After higher-than-average temps throughout December, winter is coming Buffalo and surrounding areas. Plan ahead for the upcoming snowy days and nights now to ensure your pets stay safe and healthy today and throughout the winter months. Read on for some of the SPCA Serving Erie County's winter pet safety tips.

Outdoor animal shelter must be suitable for inclement weather and if it's not, animal welfare officers can rescue the pet even before he or she shows signs of suffering, thanks to New York State's Shelter Law that went into effect in 2003. Thanks to a legislative push in late 2018 that led to stronger laws concerning the tethering of dogs within Buffalo city limits, the SPCA and other law enforcement organizations can now take even more steps to ensure dogs are protected from the elements.

Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Pets can lose their

Continued on page six.

Free Lifeguard Training For City Of Buffalo

The City of Buffalo Division of Parks and Recreation, as well as the Police Athletic League of Buffalo issued a reminder that a new round of lifeguard training sessions begins in January and encouraged City youth to sign up as soon as possible. The first 2-day session is scheduled to begin the weekend of January 13th and will continue on weekends for another two weeks at the Cazenovia Park Pool, located at 626 Abbott Road.

"Summer will be here before we know it and we're doing everything we can to continue to bolster our lifeguard staff," said Mayor Brown. "Buffalo bucked the trend last year when enough City youth completed the lifeguard requirements and were hired as lifeguards by the city, enabling us to re-open three of the City's outdoor pools, and two indoor pools, despite a national lifeguard shortage. I thank the young people who have already stepped up, took and passed the lifeguard certification course and were hired as City of Buffalo lifeguards. We are proud of their commitment to our community by helping us staff our pools and look forward to adding new lifeguards to the ranks."

Because of the need for more summer lifeguards in Buffalo, Mayor Brown and the City of Buffalo increased the wage last year to \$20 an hour, up from the

Continued on page two.

Shakespeare In Delaware Park Announces 2024 Season Auditions

Auditions for Shakespeare in Delaware Park's 49th season will be held on Jan 20,21,22 at 625 Delaware Ave, 3rd Floor.

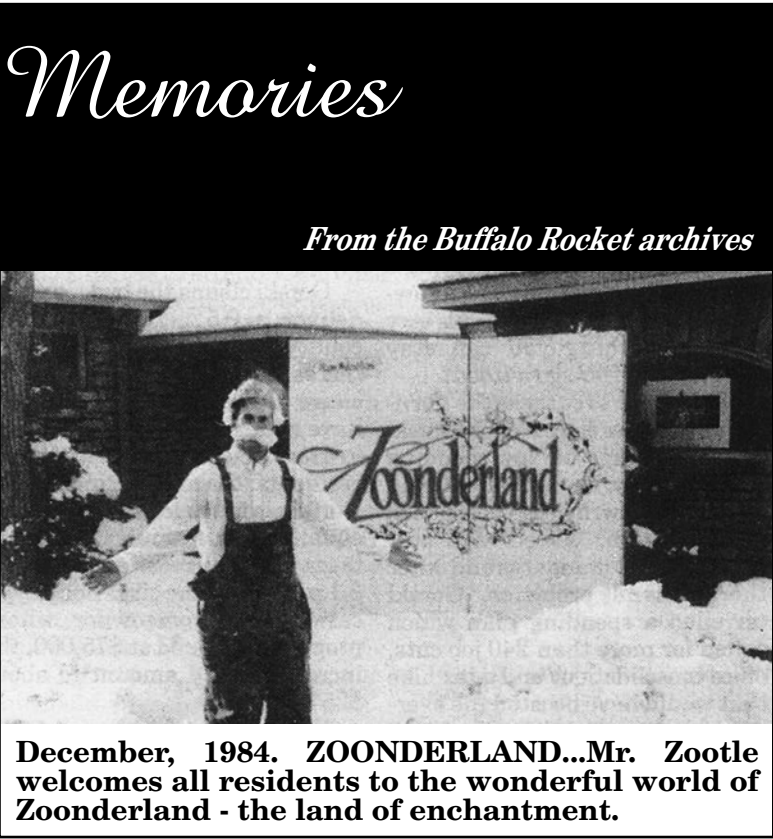
2024 SEASON:
THE WINTER'S TALE - June 20-July 14 Director Kate Powers
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS - July 25-August 18 Director Larry Smith




Open call auditions are by appointment only. Everyone interested in being considered for the 2024 season must make an audition appointment. We strongly encourage actors of all ethnicities, genders and abilities, who are over the age of 18 to audition. To arrange an appointment, please call. All positions are paid.

Please call (716) 856-4533 ON or AFTER January 2nd (NO audition appointments will be accepted before January 2nd).

Actors should prepare one memorized Shakespearean monologue, not to exceed 2 minutes. All actors are requested to bring a resume/career bio and a headshot to the audition.

Shakespeare In Delaware Park is one of the nation's largest free outdoor Shakespeare festivals. Since its inception in 1976, the company has been dedicated to enriching the cultural life of Western New York by producing accessible, professional theater for all. Each summer, thousands of theater enthusiasts gather at Delaware Park to enjoy the magic of Shakespeare under the stars, fostering a sense of community and celebrating the timeless beauty of the written word. For more information, visit shakespeareindelawarepark.org or call 716-856-4533



Local Weather						
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH	FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH	SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH	SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH	MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH	TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH
 Partly Cloudy High 28° Low 22°	 Partly Cloudy High 35° Low 28°	 Snow High 38° Low 29°	 Snow High 36° Low 31°	 Partly Cloudy High 38° Low 32°	 Showers High 40° Low 39°	 Showers High 42° Low 32°

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FERRARI Fri 1/5: (1:20), (4:10), 7:00, 9:45 Sat 1/6: (1:50), (4:30), 7:15, 10:00 Sun 1/7: (1:50), (4:30), 7:15, 10:00 Mon 1/8: (1:20 OPEN CAPS), (4:10), 7:00 Tue 1/9: (1:20), (4:10), 7:00 Wed 1/10: (1:20), (4:10), 7:00 Thur 1/11: (1:20), (4:10), 7:00 The 1:20 screening on MON 1/8 will be shown with open-captions.
HAPPY FEET (2006) Sat 1/6: (11:30am) Sun 1/7: (11:30am)
LADY SNOWBLOOD (1973) Mon 1/8: 9:45 Tue 1/9: 9:45 Wed 1/10: 9:45 Thur 1/11: 9:45

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The Grapevine



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@gardensbuffalo-niagara.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 or call (716) 247-5004.



Dog Ears Bookstore & Café: A new six-week Puppy Tales series located at 688 Abbott Road in South Buffalo, will kick off at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5. Open to children ages 3 and 4 accompanied by a parent or guardian, Puppy Tales runs on six consecutive Friday mornings and each session includes three stories, a craft and healthy snacks. Sessions are skill- and book-based and the cost is \$30 per child. Puppy Tales is limited to 15 children. Puppy Tales is a great way to prepare students for Pre-K. To register for Puppy Tales, please visit the bookstore or call 823-2665. For more information on Dog Ears Bookstore, please visit dogears-bookstore.org.



At The Buffalo AKG: Adult Studio Classes Open For Registration Guests can register for classes at 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.



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 tinsel. 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.



Free Lifeguard Training For City Of Buffalo Youth

Continued from page one. \$15.50 to \$17.50 range in previous years.

The upcoming training courses are free for City of Buffalo youth, who will receive a hiring stipend of \$525 when they become certified and join the City's Lifeguard Team. The sessions are scheduled to take place on the following dates at the Cazenovia Park Pool, located at 626 Abbott Road. All sessions run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Make \$20 an hour as a Summer Lifeguard!

Session #1/January Weekends

Saturday & Sunday, January 13 & 14 Saturday & Sunday, January 20 & 21 Saturday & Sunday, January 27 & 28

Session #2/March Weekends

Saturday & Sunday, March 2 & 3 Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10 Saturday & Sunday, March 16 & 17 After a yearlong multi-faceted lifeguard recruiting process that began in 2022, Centennial Pool, Kensington

Pool, and Riverside Pool were able to open last summer after the City successfully recruited 73 life-

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Community Event to

The
Grapevine

editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com



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guards. Buffalo's outdoor pools had been closed for three summers due to a lifeguard shortage that was impacting cities across the country. Eligibility requirements for lifeguard trainees are as follows:

- Youth who CAN already swim with proficiency.
- Youth who are at least 16 years old.
- Preference given to youth who reside in the City of Buffalo and attend a Buffalo Public School.

- The cost of the program is free to City of Buffalo residents; \$250 for those living outside the City limits; \$75 for re-certification.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Youth who are interested in participating in the January or March training sessions, or those interested in being a Red Cross Certified Lifeguard Instructor, should visit www.buffaloal.com to register and get additional information on the certification course. Those who hold Red Cross lifeguard certification can apply to be a lifeguard on the City's website: www.buffalony.gov/jobs.aspx.



The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo
December 31, 2023
Hinman Avenue – Victim 1 reports suspect did force his way into residence and did punch the victim in the face and forcibly took the victim's phone. The suspect did then proceed to strangle victim 1 until victim lost consciousness. The victim did express fear for their life. The suspect did attempt to prevent the victim from calling the police.

December 31, 2023
Hertel Avenue – Victim states that suspect did enter her home unlawfully with her house keys he took without permission las night. While in the victims home, suspect did call victim over the phone and threaten to kill her daughter who was in residence at the time and also threaten to shoot victim's father who was not in the residence.

December 31, 2023
Hertel Avenue – Victim reports defendant did take from her hand two rental vehicle keys to a GMC Terrain bearing Colorado registration. The defendant did then take without permission said vehicle. Defendant was found later that day while investigating a burglary call in possession of said rental keys to some vehicle.

December 30, 2023
Kenmore Avenue – Defendant did conceal \$79.45 worth of merchandise and did leave the

store stealing said property. Defendant was apprehended and detained by complainant until police arrived. Complainant recovered all stolen property.

December 30, 2023
Tacoma Avenue – In January of 2023 victim did hire defendant to restore 4 wooden doors from victim's home. Doors were taken off victims property by defendant so he could restore them. Victim and defendant did message each other about doors and a finished picture was sent to victim in February for the past 10 months victim has asked defendant to return the doors to no avail. Each door is worth \$3,000.00 a door. Total grand larceny amount equals \$12,000.00.

West Side
December 31, 2023
Grant Street – On the above date, time, and location while assigned patrol officer came across and flagged down two males fighting. Complainant did state that defendant was irate and did break window outside Family Dollar store.

December 31, 2023
Military Road – Officers responded to an assault call to which defendant struck complainant in the head causing minor injuries. Complainant declined medical attention.

Riverside
December 31, 2023
Delaware Avenue – Defendant did take with-

out permission miscellaneous amount of Red Bull (\$190.60) and did pass all points of purchase without paying for same. Defendant fled in vehicle New York registered but was pulled over and apprehended at 2634 Delaware Avenue. Defendant was found to be in possession of stolen items.

December 31, 2023
Delaware Avenue – On 10/22/2023 at approximately 1223 hours while at Target, 2626 Delaware Avenue, in the city of Buffalo, defendant did select \$175.92 of Red Bull, placed it in her cart, and did pass all points of purchase without any attempt to pay for items. Defendant did flee in New York registered vehicle. Detective has video.

December 31, 2023
Riverside Avenue – Officers responding to a 911 call for a gun. Officers did arrive on scene and approached residence and male did present himself in the door window and officer issued commands to open the door. Defendant eventually complied after multiple verbal commands and was removed from entryway of residence and detained. Officer did then enter entryway where a male informed officer that the defendant did have a gun in his hand and he heard him rack the firearm and a cartridge hit the floor. Officer did then observe one live cartridge and a black handgun being a Smith & Wesson MP Bodyguard 380 loaded with 1 cartridge in the chamber and 2 cartridges in the magazine on the floor of entryway.



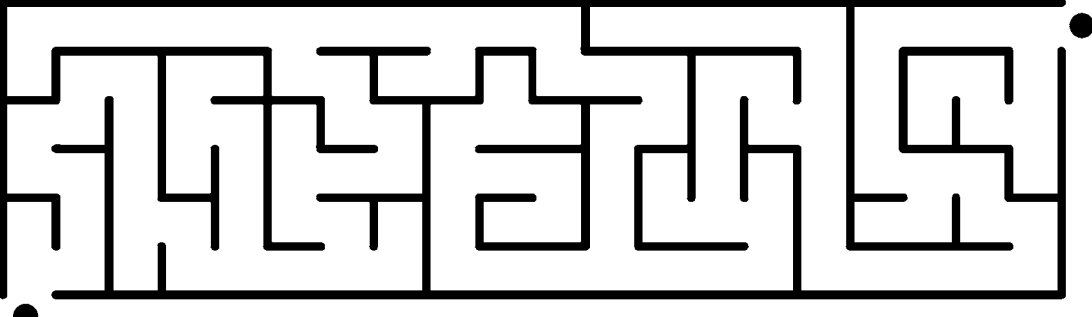
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Kids' Maze



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Answers on page seven.

MAGIC MAZE ●

ENDING IN
"AGE"

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **A Liquid Suitable for Drinking**

Adage	Barrage	Camouflage	Damage
Amperage	Breakage	Coinage	Stage
Arbitrage	Cabbage	Cottage	Voyage
Average	Cage	Cribbage	

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Answers on page seven.

FREE PIZZA: James Lyle, 19 Arundel Rd., 14216

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: John Williams, 111 Middlesex Rd., 14216

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Jog
5 Cry
8 Goblet feature
12 Stead
13 Spanish aunt
14 Tortoise's opponent
15 Ride-sharing arrangements
17 Work units
18 Sixth sense
19 Forbidden acts
21 Stylish wrap
24 Flintstones' pet
25 Comic strip possum
26 "Yellow" band
30 Where Lux. is
31 Primitive
32 Brit. record label
33 Slapstick missile
35 Perched on
36 Evergreens
37 Icky
38 Where Gauguin painted
41 Pen name
42 Out of the storm
43 Temporary lodging
48 Furnace fuel

DOWN

1 Pampering, for short
2 Estuary
3 Not 'neath
4 Elvis' birthplace
5 Halt
6 Texas tea
7 Historic
8 French prison
9 Cyndi Lauper hit
9 Poi base
10 Thus
11 Disarray
16 Sugary suffix
20 Tennis champion
21 Detail, briefly
22 Go sightseeing
23 Shrek, for one
24 Writer Lessing
26 Whims
27 Jared of

"Panic Room"
28 Book after Joel
29 Shrill barks
31 Send forth
34 Off course
35 Sagittarius
37 USO audience
38 Dash gauge
39 Skin soother
40 Make well
41 Hardly hirsute
44 Old Olds
45 Layer
46 Pub order
47 " — Kapital"

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Answers on page seven.

SPORTS

By Bill Snyder

"We Will Miss You, Don."



President John Hornung, left, presented out going League President Don Morris, right, with a framed aerial shot of Shoshone Park in appreciation for his thirty years as the leader of the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League in North Buffalo at their recent board meeting last week. Newly elected vice president Scott Gallivan, center, joined with other board members to share their gratitude to Morris for making sure every child can play baseball or softball in Shoshone Park.

Baseball, softball and youth athletics in Western New York has lost a great friend and Champion.

Morris, Donald E. of Buffalo, entered into rest December 29, 2023. beloved husband of Carol (nee Catanzaro) Morris; devoted father of Marc J. (Kristen) Morris and Melissa A. Morris; cherished Papa of Matthew; loving son of the late Edward and Gertrude (nee Fromm) Morris; also survived by nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends may visit the Lombardo Funeral Home (Main Street Chapel) 4614 Main St, Snyder (near Harlem) on Thursday from 3:00 - 7:00 PM where the funeral Service will immediately follow. Entombment Mt. Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Connect Life 4444 Bryant and Stratton Way, Williamsville, NY 14221 ATTN: Community Relations.

An email from the Board of Directors of the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League late last week delivered the sad news. "It is our sad duty to announce the death of our leader, our long-time president, mentor, coach and friend, Don Morris. Don passed away yesterday at the age of 81. This picture was taken at his last board meeting as President in 2022, marking his 30th year of leadership at Shoshone.

It is safe to say that our League would in no way be as strong and popular as it is today without his steady hand guiding us. Our thoughts are with his loving family right now. Please keep his long-time wife Carol, and his two children, Marc and Melissa in your prayers."

The entire Board of Officers of this League are extremely saddened by his loss, from long-time members like Anthony Messina, Paul Fuzak and current Board President John C. Hornung. Other members of the Board are: Jim Daley, Khristi Foglia, Scott Gallivan, Jim Hornung, Laura Lester, Jim Lucas, Kevin Mahoney, Bob Mucitelli, Kevin Pritchard, Kristin Roberts, Tim Robertson, Peter Savage, Eric Schmarder, Melissa Trillo, Matthew Ward and Matt Wolf.

"Don had a profound impact on so many lives," said Eric Schmarder, a Board Treasurer. "His leadership meant so much to me and to my kids. I feel so fortunate to have grown through borrowing his knowledge, witnessing his passion and commitment and sharing his friendship.

"It's hard to properly express how much this person meant in my life and in the lives of hundreds (at a minimum) of others," said Kevin Pritchard, the Board Secretary. Jim Daley,

the Board Travel Director for Boys added "Rest Well Don. Thank you for all you did for North Buffalo and my family. You are Shoshone Baseball. Thanks for being part of my life."

Don touched the lives of so many people that extended beyond the limits of Shoshone Park. Former players like Michael Baco and Michael Murak would return to the Park to visit Morris after starting their own families. "GodSpeed Mr. Morris," said Baco. "It was a privilege to play for you all those years and an honor to be your friend when the playing days were over. Thank you for the truly countless hours you donated to the Community and the sacrifices you made to ensure us North Buffalo kids had a great place to play, learn and work. Cheers to a life well lived and love to all the people who will miss you even more than I will."

"Rest in Peace Coach," said Murak. "You were a great leader who got the most out of every player. You developed young athletes into successful men and women. Thank you from the 1990 Mets Season Championship."

Morris joins a small list of former HNPYBL Board members who have left Shoshone Park years ago and are possibly waiting to greet him now in Heaven. They are former Board Secretary and Once North Buffalo Community Center Director Robert Ryan and long-time Boys Coach for the Reds, Samuel S. Chainta. Both have Memorial Stones placed in their honor in the circular garden in front of the Fieldhouse in the Park. A Niece of Sam Chainta, Jennifer, has been an active supporter for the League in recent years and she shared her thoughts about Morris.

"My condolences to the Morris family, and to everyone whose lives were touched by Don and his service to the League. May he rest in peace."

In 1992, Morris became the president of the League after having coached his son, Marc, to grow up and play for his Dad since 1988. He succeeded Charles Bartolotta and quickly took steps to offer more games for the players by installing more diamonds around the Park and give a fledgling youth football League the boot. He learned how to skin diamonds and drove a tractor around what were then just four or five diamonds before he added diamonds 3 and 7 and t-ball space for the begin-

ners. A daughter, Melissa followed Marc and became a softball legend on the girls diamonds while Morris worked hard to improve the Senior Boys Division and his long-time team, the Dodgers.

"Don Morris put Hertel North Park Youth Baseball on the map here in North Buffalo," said James Hornung, the president and owner of Elbers Nursery located nearby on Main Street recently to the Rocket. "If he hadn't made improvements to the Park for Baseball or softball in those early years as president, then Shoshone Park would have just disappeared on the landscape with no reason to pursue fulfillment. We have him to thank."

Morris continued to allow the Buffalo Rocket

to have access to all the games and contact with the numerous men and women who would serve as volunteer coaches for all the children learning the game. Keeping up with the wins and losses was always a challenge but when I would approach him for scores of previous nights games, he would quickly roll off numbers like 3-2, 5-1, 8-5 or 1-0. That was his way of allowing me to continue to make his "kids" happy.

North Buffalo has been blessed to have Donald E. Morris on the Diamonds of Shoshone Park for 30 years and an institution to this Community that will forever live in the hearts and minds of all he touched through youth sports. Go Home Don. Go Home.

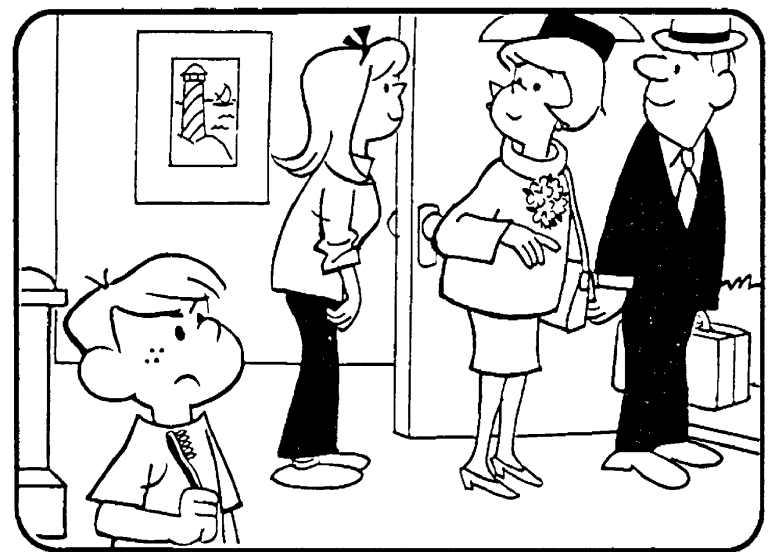
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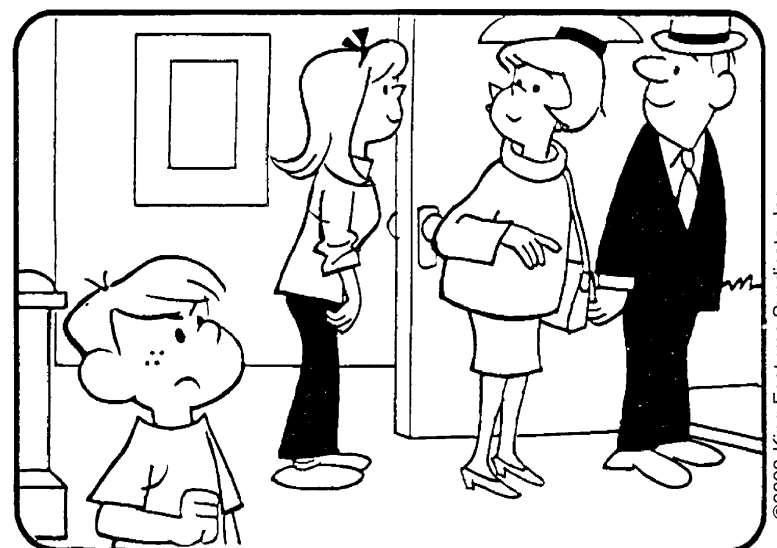
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HOCUS-FOCUS


BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Picture is missing. 2. Toothbrush is missing. 3. Body is slimmer. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Corsage is missing. 6. Suitcase is missing.



Northwest Buffalo Beat

By Dave Gallagher AKA Joe Bortz

New Year



Happy New Year!

Well anyway, I started the year off with a bang. At least, someone did, as I heard fireworks going off in the neighborhood down here in Florida. Usually, you do not hear fireworks on New Year's eve like you do on the fourth of July. That is because there is normally snow on the ground and it is too cold to be outside in Buffalo. These were neighborhood and on the smaller side but noisy enough. Personally, I watched the ball drop and went to bed. The banging ended soon after and all was good. Might have disturbed the people who go to bed early but those who waited till midnight were okay with it. Remember, down here in sunny Florida there are older people who normally are in bed by ten. It will be alright if they lose a couple of hours of sleep for one night. It is a special occasion. Only happens once a year.

So, we start a new year and say goodbye to the one that just passed. It is a time to recollect what was accomplished in the last 365 days, good or bad. I have seen so many of

these it is hard to sort out anything of importance anymore. Lost two siblings last year and many friends. The longer you live the more this happens. It is a grim part of life. Then there are the happy days that pop up to make you glad that you are still on the right side of the grass. In the coming year, we must hope there are more happy days than sad ones. Many more. Somehow, we are not in control of what happens. We can try to make it happen, but it does not always work out. So, when we reflect on the past, we do what we can to improve on the negatives, if we can.

So, as always, we start by making what we call New Year's resolutions. Back in the day, the number one resolution was to quit smoking. I have heard that so many times in my lifetime. It was a biggie and those that did want to be known as those who do not. If you are one of those who did stop smoking it was great to use this day as an incentive. I use the term stop as to quit could only mean you just did not smoke for

a while. Like, I quit for three weeks. If you went back, it meant you did not stop, just quit for a certain amount of time. To stop means never again. Personally, I did both. I quit for two years then started again. I went back and then stopped, for good. It was not a New Year's resolution but a birthday present to me. On my fortieth birthday. One of the hardest things I had to do in my life. Those who have done it know what I say. It is a tough thing to do. Now after all these years, I wonder why anyone would smoke. I could not tell you the number of friends and relatives who have passed away at an early age because they smoked. It is a killer and makes no sense. I suggest if you are a smoker, make this your resolution and stick by it. See where you are next New Year's day.

Another popular resolution is to make more money. Easy to say but not easy to do. Everyone wants to do that. It will have more success if you set a goal and try to match it by the end of the calendar year. Same with losing weight. Another of the more frequent resolutions. Another toughie like more money or smoking. Really tough if you like to eat, like I do. Seems all the things you enjoy are bad for you. Does that make this a good part of the year or bad? To give up smoking or eating food you like for your own good? Does not seem right for some reason, but that is the way it is.

So, if you do any of these three things, when next New Year's rolls around, if you are still here, you will be one happy person. You made more money, you lost some weight, and you stopped smoking. Then again what would you have to want for the next year? You would have enough money to do what you want; you would be lighter and healthier. Maybe you did all that last year. Now what? You could always wish for a winter home in Florida and escape the snow and cold of Buffalo. That's what I did on my New Year's Eve years ago. Glad I made that resolution. Now I can go to the beach on New Year's Day.

Do you have a birthday greeting you would like to see here? Birthdays, anniversaries, interesting pictures, short stories or even a 500 word column of interest to your neighbors. Send them to me and I will see what I can do. Nothing political or controversial. Send to Jbortze@aol.com

Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

- 1) In which city is the Brandenburg Gate located?
2. Which 1990s TV show catapulted actor George Clooney to fame?
- 3) What kind of legislative body is bicameral?
- 4) What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
- 5) In "The Night Before Christmas" poem, how many reindeer does Santa Claus have?
- 6) Which chemical element's symbol is C?
- 7) Who is the first female chancellor of Germany?
- 8) Which female French singer had a hit song with "La Vie en Rose"?
- 9) When did the Krakatoa volcano have its last major eruption?

Last Answers: 1. An Italian bread. 2. "T.J. Hooker." 3. 2010. 4. Alexander Fleming. 5. France. 6. New Mexico. 7. Martin Brody. 8. Juris Doctor. 9. Katy Perry.

FREE PIZZA: Tinka R. Lendner, 262 Sarnac Ave., 14216

FREE PIZZA: Dawn General, 28 Fairchild Pl., 14216

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9	1		2			4
	5			8			1	
7					9	3		
		8	5				3	
1					4		6	9
	2			9		5		
		7	3					6
5	4			6		2		
9					1		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 – If My Wife Claims Now, Will It Hurt My Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty: I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes (I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better). I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire.

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

Signed: Anxious Husband

Dear Anxious: The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security (SS) suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her

to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible. I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or your local office) right away to request an appointment to apply for her benefits and she should be sure to request six months of retroactive payments (SS will pay up to 6 months retroactively). If your wife has a "my Social Security" online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the "Remarks" section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting 6 months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim.

Even though you plan

to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason – your benefit will reach maximum when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to 4 months in advance, and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to create your own "my Social Security" online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won't get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that info is received from the IRS (after you file your income tax return). If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn't delay past age 70 to claim Social Security because you're working – you'll still get credit for those earnings, automatically.

So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money, and that you plan to apply for your benefits to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

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 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.

SPCA Winter Pet Safety Tips

Continued from page one. scent on snow and ice, especially if snow is falling at a fast rate, and your pet can easily lose his sense of direction. Pets may also panic during a snowstorm and run away; many pets are lost during the winter months. Remember to keep current identification on your pet at all times!

***Keep Pets At Home:** Never leave your pet alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold. Your pet could literally freeze to death.

***Always Dry Pet's Wet Feet:** Thoroughly wipe off your pet's legs and stomach when she comes in and out of the rain, snow or ice. Check her sensitive foot pads, which may be bleeding from snow or ice encrusted in them. Your pet may also pick up salt and other chemicals on her feet accidentally. These chemicals could hurt her if she swallows them while licking her feet.

***Lay Straw for Dogs' Visits Outdoors:** Can't get your dogs to wear booties? Lay straw on top of snow for trips outdoors by dogs reluctant to step out onto a freezing surface to relieve themselves.

***Check Cars for Cats:** During the winter, stray or neglected cats outdoors sometimes sleep under the hood of the car where it's warm and comfortable. If you start the motor, cats could get caught in or flung about by the fan belt, causing serious injury or death. To prevent this, bang loudly on the hood and sides of your car before turning on the ignition to give the cat a chance to escape.

***Keep Outdoor Sessions Short:** Take your dog outside only for as long as it takes for him to relieve himself. Dogs, particularly small, short-haired breeds like Chihuahuas and terri-

ers, suffer from the cold despite their seemingly warm fur coats. Live within Buffalo city limits? Don't forget Buffalo's new laws pertaining to tethering dogs in inclement weather.

***Bathe Pets Only When Necessary:** Your pet runs the chance of catching a cold when wet, especially in cold weather. If you absolutely must bathe your pet, consult a professional groomer or veterinarian.

***Keep Pets Warm:** Limit the clipping of your pet's hair in the cold winter months, keeping your pet as warm as possible. Brush your pet daily in lieu of clipping to keep your pet's coat healthy, shiny, clean and mat-free. Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep far away from outside drafts.

***Hungry Pets:** Speak to your veterinarian about increasing your pet's supply of food, particularly protein, to keep his fur thick and healthy through the winter months. Inquire about vitamin and oil supplements.

***Antifreeze is poison to pets:** antifreeze, even in small doses, is a lethal poison for dogs and cats! Because of its sweet taste, animals are attracted to it. Be sure to clean up spills thoroughly, and consider switching to an animal-friendly antifreeze. Ensure that, if you store Antifreeze in a garage, shed, or other places accessible to your pets, it is well out of pets' reach.

If your pet becomes lost, be sure to visit YourSPCA.org's Lost and Found page for recommendations on where to post lost pet listings, and tips for finding your lost pets.

For more tips regarding keeping pets safe and healthy during the winter, please contact your veterinarian.



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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>

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380 N. Oak St. Buffalo
Buffalo_Shelter@yahoo.com **716-851-5694**

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

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Name of LLC: 208 Crestwood LLC . Date of filing of Articles of Organization with the NY Dept. of State: 12/27/2023. Office of the LLC: 78 Commonwealth Ave Buffalo NY 14216 , 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 process to the LLC at 78 Commonwealth Ave Buffalo NY 14216. Purpose of LLC: Real estate holdings . No specific duration attached to LLC. 6

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

Under §182 of the New York State Lien Law Lincoln Self Storage will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION all of the personal property stored by: GHD ROBSON WOESE, H122; JOSEPH FARRUGGIA, D216; ROSEMARY CSATI, I107; DOUGLAS TURNAGE, B102 & D228; ADONTE WILLIAMS, A206; TASHNEEN PRIM, J107; COURTNEY DUKES, B107; NOVIAR SAID, C112; CHRISTINE & SAKI SALAAM, E110; YOLANDA COLLINS, E140; JESSICA NIEVES, E144; PAOLA ALVAREZ, H101; CLAIRE GAY, C101; LISA BROWN, C204. Auction will be online at www.STORAGETREASURES.COM on JANUARY 16, 2024 at 1 PM EST and ending JANUARY 23, 2024 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. 1

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 sameis complete where service is madein any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. TheUnited States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action,may answer or appear within sixty(60)days of service. Your failure toappear or to answer will result in ajudgment against you by default forthe relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiencybalance 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 with-in 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

Notice of formation of The Hartley Clinic PLLC. Application of Authority filed with the NY Dept of State on 12/05/23. Office located in Erie County. NY Secretary of State (NYSS) is designated the agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the PLLC at 3400 Bissonnet Street, #270, Houston, TX 77005. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 5

Garageman's Lien Sale: 1700 Abbott Inc sells 12/29/2023 1700 Abbott Rd Lackawanna NY 14218 1:00PM 12 Cadillac 3GYFNDE39CS539827 Re: Reynolds, J 1

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Supreme Court, Erie County, on the 14th day of November, 2023, bearing index number 600642/2023, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 92 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 grants me the right to assume the name of Stephen Wilson Donnelly. Amherst, NY 14226; the month and year of my birth are Dec., 1966; the place of my birth is Buffalo, New York; my present name is Stephen Robert Termini. 1

Buffalo City School District
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Notice is hereby given that a liquor license application number NA-0370-23-351486 has been applied for by the undersigned to sell liquor, wine, beer and cider at retail for on premises consumption in a tavern under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law: THE FOXGLOVE PUB LLC DBA: THE FOXGLOVE PUB 20 S. BUFFALO ST. HAMBURG, NY 14 075. 2

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

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Puzzle on page three.

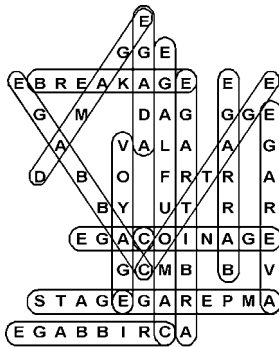
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Puzzle on page four.

ENDING IN "AGE"



Puzzle on page two.

FOR RENT

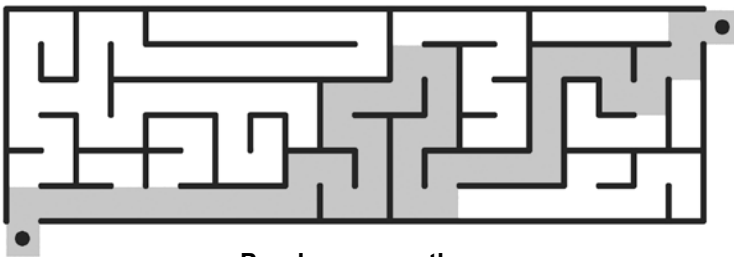
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Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page three.

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