

## 25th Anniversary of First Night Buffalo



Thousands turn out for First Night Buffalo. A schedule of family events are planned.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of First Night Buffalo this year, attendees will receive a commemorative gift, besides enjoying all the entertain-

ment that First Night Buffalo has to offer.

The schedule of events includes entertainer Kevin McCarthy performing renditions of popular songs.

Another event features a combination of precision acrobatics with intense knife and fire juggling. Without a single dull mo- (Continued on page 6)

## Deadline Fast Approaching for STAR Tax Exemption Registration

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance reminds homeowners to register for the Basic STAR property tax exemption by the December 31, 2013 deadline.

With 12 days remaining to register, more than 2 million homeowners have registered for their Basic STAR exemptions. The registration facilitates Governor Cuomo's 2013-2014 Budget initiative to save New York taxpayers millions by eliminating inappropriate exemptions.

The Basic STAR ex-

emption is available on the primary residence of homeowners with incomes under \$500,000. The registration stems from a Tax Department investigation that found thousands of taxpayers receiving STAR exemptions on more than one property.

The Tax Department has directly mailed all of the 2.7 million homeowners who claimed the exemption last year, participated in 225 local meetings, fielded more than a half million phone calls, and registered thousands

of people at local events including the State Fair.

Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not impacted by the new registration program.

To register, visit [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) or call 518-457-2036. Online information is available in six languages and translators stand ready to assist speakers of all languages via telephone. Extended STAR Hotline hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

## St. Joseph Cathedral's Christmas Schedule

St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin St., Buffalo, has scheduled a number of celebrations during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

On Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 4:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass of the Nativity. At 11:30 p.m. there will be music played by the choir and brass.

Wednesday, Dec. 25th, Midnight – Mass of the Nativity. Most Reverent Richard J. Malone, Th.D., will be the celebrant.

Wednesday, Dec. 25th, at 8 a.m. – Mass of Christmas Day. At 10:30 a.m. – Mass of Christmas Day, Bishop Malone will be the celebrant.

Saturday, Dec. 28th at 4:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family.

Sunday, Dec. 29th at 8 a.m. and also 10:30 a.m. – Mass for

the Feast of the Holy Family.

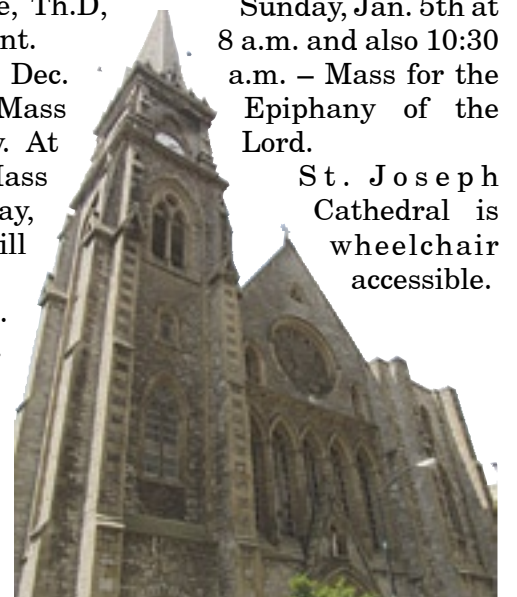
Tuesday, Dec. 31st at 4:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Wednesday, Jan. 1st at 10:30 a.m. – Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Saturday, Jan. 4th at 4:30 p.m. – Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord.

Sunday, Jan. 5th at 8 a.m. and also 10:30 a.m. – Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord.

St. Joseph Cathedral is wheelchair accessible.



## Parkside Luminaries Night to be Held This Saturday

Have you ordered your luminary kits yet? Join the PCA and your fellow Parkside neighbors in the 2nd annual Luminaries Night. Celebrate this winter season by lining the neighborhood with candle luminaries.

The Parkside event is this Saturday, December 21st and they've only got a few more available for purchase on their website, so be sure to get your order in before they're gone! The

weather was bad last year, but don't let that stop you from attending this year. The weather forecast is looking much better for this year's luminary event and they've extended their purchasing deadline so there is still time to

order your kits and enjoy the evening with your neighbors.

To order your luminaries, please visit their website at [www.parksidebuffalo.org/luminaries](http://www.parksidebuffalo.org/luminaries).



## Local Weather

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Cloudy  
High 37°  
Low 35°

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Showers  
High 41°  
Low 29°

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Cloudy  
High 39°  
Low 33°

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Showers  
High 36°  
Low 21°

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Few Snow Showers  
High 22°  
Low 4°

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Partly Cloudy  
High 25°  
Low 22°

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mostly Cloudy  
High 31°  
Low 22°



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The Adventures of...

# Rocket Man

by Doug Smith



## 'A Visit From Tony Orlando'

After Tony Orlando's concert last Wednesday afternoon at the Seneca Niagara Casino, someone in the audience left a walker behind.

Much as Rocket Man exaggerates, he is not making this up.

As Orlando retreated and the house lights rose, he delayed launch, waiting for the jam to clear in the lobby. And here comes this young woman, a Casino staffer, guiding this walker through the void and asking, "Anybody know who this belongs to?"

Surely there's a reasonable explanation, but there was so much revival meeting in Orlando's show that it seemed plausible that somebody came in lame and was healed.

We can't remember a better show, or cleaner, either.

Rocket Man covered Orlando at Melody Fair in the '70s, still has a picture of him with Little Booster Holly, which he passed backstage. He felt a little

sheepish — like, how many people have old Tony Orlando photos, five million? — until a bejeweled woman in red, no spring chicken she, rose during the show and handed him a gift bag and scrapbook.

Those '70s were Orlando's "Dawn Days." He's had a twilight or two since and a few years back we caught him at a Canadian casino, having recently shed many kilograms. Here, for \$35 each, peanuts in today's concert economy, we'd be happy to settle for Tony Orlando & Dusk.

But the Tony Orlando who walked on to open the show — just walked on, no intro, no nothing but a few wisps of smoke — was fiddle-fit, and it was easy to see how a soldier on Iraq deployment, as he would later recall, would mistake him for Geraldo Rivera.

A Tony Orlando doesn't have to do much. Just being there is enough. But what a cadre of musicians he has assembled. For

one, there's a keyboardist named Toni Wine who has been with him, he said, for 52 years. Fifty-two years, platonically, in showbiz? What does that say about him? It's not as if she needs the money — she's still lapping up residuals for "Meow Mix" commercials. "She's rich," he whispered in loud aside, more admiring than envious.

Then there was left-handed guitarist Kerri Cole, a mimic, it turns out, everyone from Led Zeppelin to Cher, and a Johnny Cash, mining those low, low notes the Man in Black found in Folsom Prison. He was unbelievable.

And speaking of belief, there was an odd-looking chap in the audience, bearded, long red flannels. He turned out to represent a Jolly Old Elf often seen along about now, who lectured Orlando on the meaning of the season in an exchange so professionally awkward it almost seemed real.

After nearly two hours they receded, to rest up for six more shows, all virtually sold out. Rocket Man has tied a yellow ribbon to his old fir tree. Knock three times. And don't forget your walker.

E-mail pollyndoug@hotmail.com

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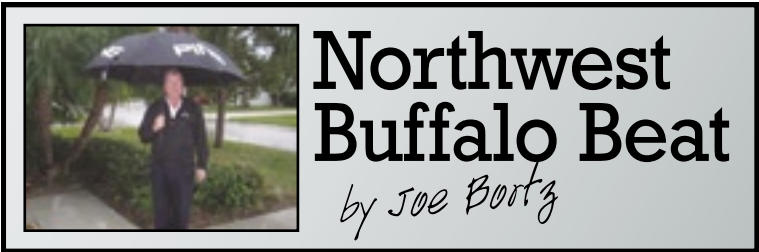
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## Buffalo Snow

Just in case you were out of town or never venture out of doors in the winter, you must be aware that we had an early dumping of snow in our fair city. My recollection is that it has been some time since we have had this much snow in December. I say that knowing I do go to Florida for the snow season which usually begins in earnest in January. It has been some time since I had to shovel, wear boots every day, heavy coat, and slip slide down the street. After experiencing this last week I realize even more I do not miss it. However, if you live in or around the city of Buffalo, snow is like a second language. The more of it you experience the more you learn to live with it.

Lake effect snow! How many times have you heard that phrase especially living in this area? We have to actually hope that it gets cold enough for Lake Erie to freeze in order for the natural snow making machine to stop making snow. Who the heck likes it that cold? Just in case you do not listen to the weather reports it seems that cold wind coming from the west across the open water of Lake Erie produces snow. Snow, snow and more snow.

Not like normal cities that measure in inches, we measure by feet. I remember one year we had seven feet in one week. Then how many remember the blizzard of '77. So much snow there was no longer any place to put it. The parking lots were full of huge piles. The sides of the streets where the plows shove it were so high, the stop signs barely stuck out the top. Finally after a week of not being able to move, the National Guard came in and trucked it to the parks and dumped it into the river. They had to do this to clear enough space to open the streets. Now that is really snow at its worst.

But let's look at the bright side. The first snow fall is usually a thing of beauty. Clean, fluffy white, soft, billowy, and usually it is not a bitter cold day. It covers everything on the ground, the trees take on a different look with the branches highlighted with a white trim. It is so magical and so breathtaking it makes you hear music as you gaze at it. We know nothing beats a white Christmas. Some people even dream of a Christmas with snow. They even wrote a song about it. One

of the most popular songs of all times. Imagine living somewhere where it does not snow on Christmas, where they are wrapping colored lights around a palm tree to get into the spirit. Now who would enjoy that? Not we snow birds. I mean snow lovers. Why else would you live in Buffalo? Like one fellow in Las Vegas said, two seasons in Buffalo, snow season, and the fourth of July.

So we have learned to live with the part of our fair city that we are known for, snow. Many look forward to the snow and the more there is, the more they like it. Usually younger people who ski, ice skate, snow mobile, toboggan, or just like to make snowmen. They wait all year for it to be cold enough to snow. Picture this if you will, a machine

that actually makes snow on purpose. Fortunately those are located in places where snow is desired. We have our own snow making machine, Lake Erie.

Now let's look at the down side of snow. Yes it is pretty on the first day, for about 30 seconds. Then you have to go out and shovel. Even if you have it plowed or a snow blower, you still have to do some shoveling. Welcome to heart attack haven. Once you get things shoveled and clean, we have another show fall. You get your driveway cleared and the plow goes by and seals the entrance. Not with the clean white stuff but dirty, salt and sand filled ice packed heavy gook. So you clean that and as soon as you are done, the plow goes by again. He is just doing what he is paid to do. Clear the streets and keep them

passable. So soon this dirty "snow" is piled on the sides of your driveway to remain till the spring. You wait through January and February hoping for a day that will be warm enough to at least get rid of some of this unsightly mess. It is not long before the "had enough" sets in and you long for the look of green grass. The smell of blossoms, the glorious happy chore of cleaning out what remains of winter and the snow, which by now has become nothing but hidden objects shoveled into a pile. You never know what you will find in those piles. No matter if you like the snow or not, spring is welcomed and looked forward to. Nobody hates spring, not so for winter. Personally, it makes no difference to me. I go to Florida where the sun shines every day. Boring.



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# The Grapevine

## Riverside Library Upcoming events:

**Holiday Party** – Saturday, December 21st at 1:00 pm. Stories, crafts, a holiday movie and a visit from Santa! Please call or stop by the library to register, 875-0562.

**Charlie & Checkers** – Saturday, December 28th at 1:00 pm. Holiday themed magic and comedy, with lots of audience participation! Please call or stop by the library to register, 875-0562.

**Computer classes** – start the new year with new skills!

**Computer Basics** – Monday, January 13th at 1:00 pm. Class is designed for beginners and includes an introduction to the hardware, software and mouse. Registration is required.

**Internet Basics** – Monday, January 27th at 1:00 pm. Learn the basics of

exploring the internet. Registration is required.

The Riverside Library will close at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

**The Buffalo Museum of Science (BMS)** announced today that they are making a call for "Makers" to participate in the upcoming Buffalo Mini Maker Faire on March 1st, 2014. The event will be held at the Museum from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Maker Faire events celebrate creativity, invention, and the do-it-yourself spirit. The Museum is looking to showcase a diverse mix of makers at their upcoming event, ranging from tech enthusiasts to crafters to home-steaders to scientists to garage tinkerers.

BMS is now accepting applications through Feb-

ruary 1st for those interested in showcasing their work at the event. To apply, visit [makerfairebuffalo.com](http://makerfairebuffalo.com). There is no minimum age restriction – young makers are encouraged to apply.

For more information, visit [makerfairebuffalo.com](http://makerfairebuffalo.com) or contact Doug Borzynski at 716.896.5200 x341 or [dborzynski@sciencebuff.org](mailto:dborzynski@sciencebuff.org).

**Holiday Gift Wrapping Booth for Autism Services, Inc.** – Now through Tuesday, December 24th, 10:00am - 9:00pm daily (9:00am - 5:00pm on Christmas Eve) at the Walden Galleria Mall (on the lower level by the Apple store) in Cheektowaga.

The gift wrapping booth has been a holiday tradition at Autism Services, Inc. for over 25 years. All proceeds from the booth go back to Autism Services, Inc.



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# 25th First Night Buffalo

(Continued from page 1) ment the show will end with a stunt performed over 20 feet in the air!

Juggling with a bowling ball? That's just one of the things Evan will do. Outfitted with a distinctive mix of quick wit and stunning juggling skills, Evan keeps audiences laughing, amused, and amazed.

The list of exciting events also includes Steven, a member of the Xpogo Stunt Team, the most talented and experienced extreme pogo performance team in the world.

Attendees are also encouraged to participate in a backyard circus. Enthusias-

tic children from the audience will be chosen to be part of the circus. A family puppet parade will take place at the conclusion of each show.

Back by popular demand, recently making appearances on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon", Jeff Musial keeps audiences smiling and laughing with his witty comments and fun facts on his scaly, furry and feathered friends.

Peter Boie, an aware-winning magician, is sure to entertain everyone.

Take your family and lots of energy with you to test your skills and knowledge. Run, jump and battle it out! Twenty-five lucky

families will win a prize.

Dance the night away at the tekno bubble dance party and/or there's also a place to check your blood pressure, cholesterol and percentage of body fat. Smokers also can have a special lung test performed and receive information on how to quit.

There also will be a unique distracted driving simulator and plenty for the little ones, ages 6 and under, to do, too, so don't forget to bring your camera!

First Night Buffalo is located at the Buffalo Convention Center, 153 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202.

Free parking is available at nearby Buffalo Civic Auto Ramps: Main Place Mall and Fernbach ramps. Additionally, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority has extended Metro Rail service to go past midnight on New Year's Eve. The last outbound train will leave downtown Buffalo at 2:00 a.m. Attendees using Metro Rail can park for free at either of Metro's two Park & Ride locations. For more information go to <http://metro.nfta.com/>.

To learn more and purchase tickets, go to [www.firstnightbuffalo.org](http://www.firstnightbuffalo.org).

Don't miss the grand finale countdown and the balloon drop!



## ADOPT A PET

This week's featured friend:

**BELLA**

Bella, as her name suggests is a beautiful calico with lovely markings. Our girl likes humans, but is not fond of other cats. Therefore she is looking for a home where she can reign in solitary splendor. The shelter stresses Bella out, and this sweet girl will be much happier in a forever home!

Bella's id number is 21290467

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>

Free Pizza from Bob and John's LaHacianda: Jeffrey Douglas. 381 Starin Ave., 14216

1503 Hertel Ave, Buffalo

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*...or dine early to go to your favorite party.*

Dinner & Drink Specials, Party Hats & Noisemakers,  
Entertainment by The Freshwater Four  
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Champagne Toast at Midnight.

Casual Dress. Reservations Required.

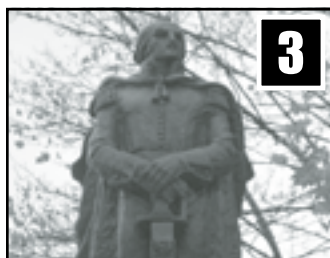
## How Well Do You Know Buffalo Trivia Contest...

Can you name the five monuments found in the City of Buffalo that are pictured below?\*

The first entry received with all 5 correct answers wins a prize package including

- \$25 in Cash
- a Sterling Silver Buffalo Charm from Korona Jewelers
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Johnny's Meats
- \$10 Gift Certificate from Bob & Johns

**HURRY... YOU JUST MIGHT BE A WINNER!!**



Submit your answers along with your name and address and phone number either in person at 1249 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 or by email at [editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com](mailto:editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com) or by fax at 716-873-0809.

\* Entries must include where and when statue was erected

- ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON -

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CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Buffalo Walden Dick Rd, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on November 30, 2012. Office location is Erie County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served upon him/her to David H. Baldauf, Esq., 7978 Cooper Creek Boulevard, Suite 100, University Park, FL 34201. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of a Domestic Limited Liability Company, Name of LLC: 422 Moselle St., LLC, Date of filing of Articles of Organization with the NY Dept. of State: November 25, 2013, Office of the LLC: 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: 471 East Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14215, Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose permitted for LLC's under NY Limited Liability Company Act.

SECTION #206 - FOR FORMAT OF AFFIDAVIT. AL-T UNITED, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 7/17/13. Office location: Erie County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process Ebrahim Taghadom, 18 Fairchild Pl., Buffalo, NY 14216. General Purpose.

\*\*Sealed proposals will be received in Room 816 City Hall On: Monday, January 6, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. for BID #13-14-059 Audio Visual Equipment & Supplies for Service Center Repair Technicians On: Friday, January 17, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. for BID #13-14-060 RFP for PBX Maintenance On: Friday, December 27, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. for BID #13-14-061 Food Service Equipment Specifications and bid forms are available at www.buffaloschools.org/PurchaseDept.cfm Craig A. Koeppel Director of Purchase

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North Buffalo, Commonwealth – 3 bedroom, stove, fridge, dish washer included. Hook-ups available. Enclosed front porch, open back porch. Landlord lives downstairs. 876-2140.

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**MISSING FOR OVER 15 WEEKS**  
**German Shepherd**  
Our German Shepherd is a male, pure breed, neutered, with black back and nose/snout. Brown sides. Light tan belly. Average height for a male German Shepherd. He went missing around supper time Friday, 8/30/13. If you have our dog, please return him. If anyone has seen him or has any information, please call 886-5544. There is a \$100 reward for his safe return.

**Lost/Missing**  
**October 6th, 2013**  
Stone Buddha, approximately 70 lbs, 18" high, taken from yard on Ontario St. near Tonawanda. Please call 818-7219. Reward for information leading to recovery.

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