



Buffalo Rocket

COMMUNITY NEWS

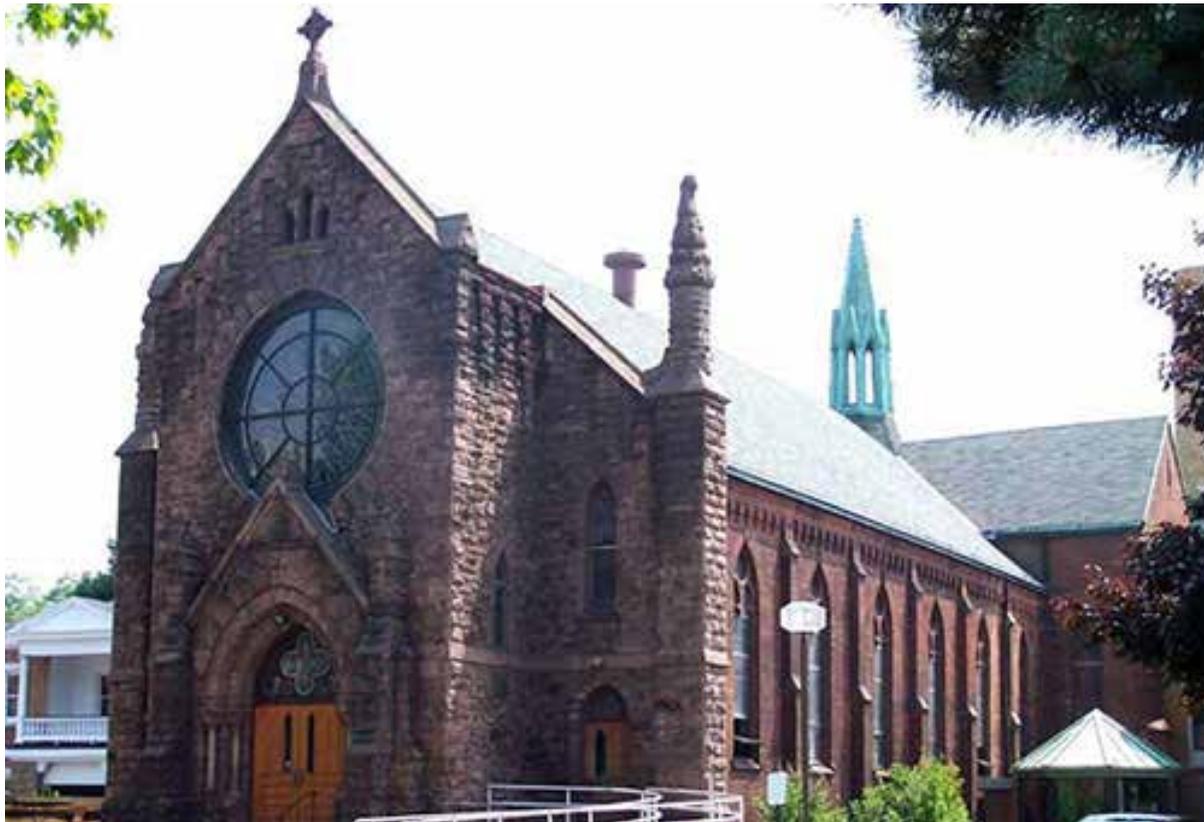
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www.buffalorocket.com

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

Vol. LIV ISSUE No.48 • November 30th, 2023

The Angel Tree Project



The annual Angel Tree project will be run by the Blessed Sacrament Church located at 1029 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY starting December 2nd and 3rd.

The Downtown Family of Catholic Parishes is pleased to announce two service projects that will take place during Advent: The Angel Tree and Boxes of Joy.

The Angel Tree project, a program of Prison Fellowship, will be run by Blessed

Sacrament Church located at 1029 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209. The Angel Tree project provides Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents.

To participate, come to the church starting December 2/3 and pick a gift tag

from the Christmas tree in the back of the church. Each tag will include gift ideas (with age of child). Wrap each gift individually and return the wrapped gift to Christmas tree in the back of the church by December 15/16.

Continued on page seven.

Buffalo International Film Festival To Host Award-Winning Film INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

The Buffalo International Film Festival will host a free encore screening of the award-winning documentary film INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. The screening takes place Saturday, Dec. 2 at 2:30 p.m. at Buffalo Central Public Library and is family and sensory friendly.

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT is a heartfelt story of how a script, a stage, and a theater program composed of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities celebrate their creativity, explore life's

complexities, and empower a community – in their own words and their own way.

Directed by Emmy Award-winner Thaddeus D. Matula, the film follows a Dallas-based theater troupe composed of individuals who are determined to write, rehearse, and perform their 11th annual original musical during the 2021-22 season.

Both on the stage and in the film, the documentary participants tell their story in their own voices.

This screening is a sen-

sory friendly event. The screening will feature dim lighting, a lower sound level, open captioning, and ability for audience members to get up and move around as necessary.

Reserve a seat online for this free family- and sensory-friendly event at buffalofilm.org/events/into-the-spotlight-encore. For more information, contact: info@buffalofilm.org To learn more about INTO THE SPOTLIGHT and follow the film's festival journey, visit intothespottlight-doc.com.

10 Safety Tips To Follow During The Cold Front For Your Pets

A cold weather warning has been issued that will likely affect 14 million people across the country this week.

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters by 2025, wants pet owners to be prepared as the cold front moves in. Best Friends released the below top 10 tips to help people and their pets stay as safe as possible:

Keep your pets inside during extreme temperatures. Once the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, pets are at risk of developing hypothermia or frostbite.

Dogs and cats' paws, ears, and tails are the most common areas that pets can develop frostbite – this increases if those areas are wet.

If a pet needs to spend time outside during extreme temperatures, keep both walks and potty breaks short.

Use plastic water bowls for outdoors. A pet's tongue may stick to metal, and they could injure themselves when trying to pull away.

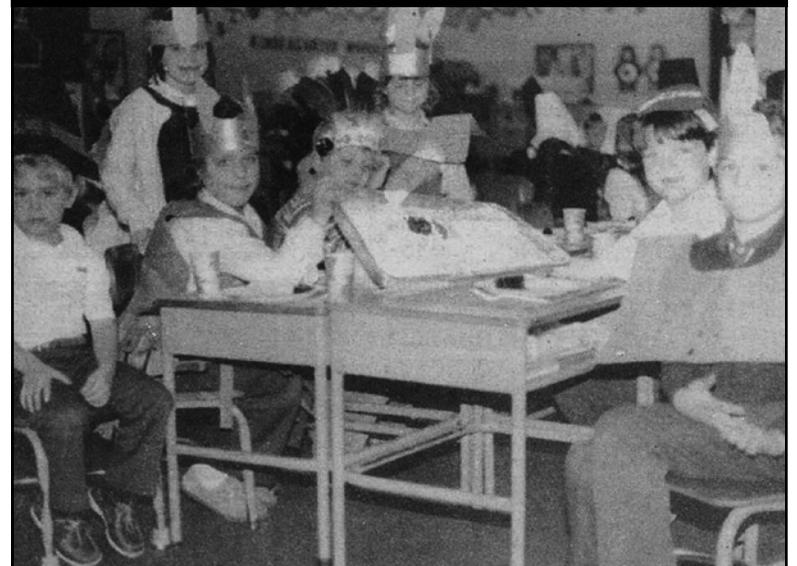
Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can injure or irritate the pads of pet's feet. Look for pet-friendly ice melt products and steer clear of anti-freeze which is toxic to pets.

Continued on page five.



Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



November, 1984. THANKSGIVING TIME...the first Thanksgiving was remembered and reenacted at Holy Spirit school last Wednesday when students dressed as Indians and Pilgrims for their turkey dinner. Pictured above are: David Braunstein, Sarah Gagliano, Aimee Madden, Samuel Rizzo, Cathy Fancher, Daniel Reilly, and Gene Kelsey.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD	MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
Mostly Cloudy High 47° Low 40°	Showers High 41° Low 35°	Rain/Snow High 42° Low 37°	Showers High 44° Low 38°	Showers High 47° Low 36°	Rain/Snow High 40° Low 30°	Cloudy High 36° Low 30°

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FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Prim Lakisha, 93 Homer Ave., 14216

FREE PIZZA: Leigh Tomczak, 16 Delaney Ave., 14216

NORTH PARK THEATRE
COMING FRIDAY
FALLEN LEAVES

FALLEN LEAVES Fri 12/1: (1:30), (3:30), (5:30), 7:30 Sat 12/2: (2:20), (4:15)
 Sun 12/3: (12:00) Mon 12/4: (1:30), (3:30), (5:30), 7:30 Tue 12/5: (1:30), (3:30),
 (5:30), 7:30 Wed 12/6: (2:00) Thur 12/7: (1:00), (3:00), (5:00)
 BRAZIL (1985) Fri 12/1: 9:30 Sat 12/2: (11:30am) Sun 12/3: 9:10 Mon 12/4: 9:30
 Tue 12/5: 9:30 Wed 12/6: (4:00)
 UN-BILL-IEVABLE (RED CARPET PREMIERE) Sat 12/2: 7:00 MONTY
 PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975): QUOTE-ALONG Sun 12/3:
 (2:00), 7:00
 MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975) Sun 12/3:
 (4:30) Wed 12/6: 9:45
 THE BOY AND THE HERON (SUBTITLED) Wed 12/6: 7:00
 Thur 12/7: 7:00
 THE BOY AND THE HERON (DUBBED) Thur 12/7: 9:45

1428 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216, (716) 836-7411

Wedding Invitations

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

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Botanical Gardens Selects Architect For Upcoming Expansion

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and Erie County Department of Public Works have selected Wendel, in partnership with lead architects: Bucholz McEvoy Architects, to design their multi-million-dollar expansion.

Over the past several years, the Botanical Gardens has been working on an expansion plan to meet the community's overwhelming requests to be able to utilize the Botanical Gardens in many ways it is not built for currently. Because of demand and high visitor volume, there is a great need for additional educational classrooms, a more accessible admission area, an expanded gift shop, larger event spaces, enhanced exhibits, and many more amenities that do not exist today. With the selection of Wendel, in partnership with lead architects: Bucholz McEvoy Architects, the project has begun to take shape.

The expansion and renovation is anticipated to add and recondition over 25,000 square feet on the Botanical Gardens' existing campus, maintaining and reusing as much of the existing buildings as possible. This project will also engage the current landscape to ensure the impact on the environment is minimal. The expansion and renovation will include many updated exhibits such as a seasonal



pollinator exhibit and family play space inside the existing historic conservatory. There will also be expanded outdoor gardens and a new building that will include a grand visitor entrance, state of the art educational classrooms, expanded event spaces, updated grow houses, a larger gift shop, and other much-needed visitor amenities. When completed, the expansion will

enhance the overall visitor experience to achieve a sustainable future for the Botanical Gardens for generations to come.

Erie County Executive, Mark Poloncarz, shared, "The selection of Wendel to work in partnership with Bucholz McEvoy Architects brings this project another step closer to getting underway and writing the next chapter in the rich history of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. This project will greatly enhance the Botanical Gardens and create spaces and experiences that will keep visitors coming back for generations."

"The engagement with Wendel has allowed us to relook at the building addition within the context of our overall master plan including the historic assets that we already have on site and our living museum exhibitions. The work ahead will address the needs of all these resources to provide a seamless and updated experience for our community, international

botanical gardens enthusiasts, and tourists visiting our region," said Botanical Gardens' President/CEO, Mark Mortenson.

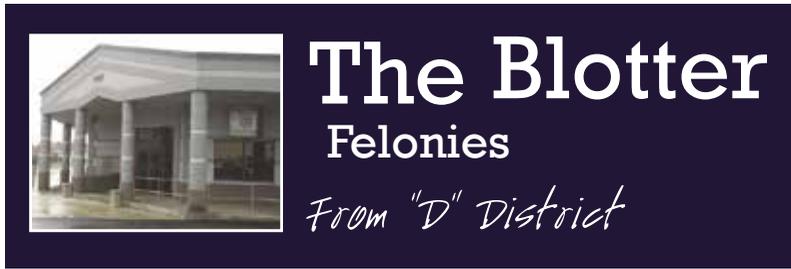
Wendel's Senior Landscape Architect, Dean Gowen, adds, "We are thrilled to be a part of expanding and enhancing the 'crown jewel' within historic South Park. This includes the opportunity to complete Olmsted's original landscape vision for the overall Botanical Gardens experience and integrate the new facility expansion seamlessly into the surrounding park setting."

Exhibit updates inside the existing conservatory will begin in spring 2024 and construction on the new building will begin in late 2024. The new building will open in late 2026 and the all-encompassing expansion is anticipated to be completed in 2027. The Botanical Gardens will remain open during all renovations and use of the historic conservatory will be minimally disrupted. The Botanical Gardens will keep the public updated as this exciting project progresses.

Use @BuffaloGardens when posting and tagging on social media. For more information, visit the Botanical Gardens' website at buffalogardens.com. The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with a mission to deepen the connection between people and plants through beautiful gardens and extraordinary experiences.

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

NORTH BUFFALO		WEST SIDE	
7-Eleven.....	460 Hertel Avenue	Baptist Manor	276 Linwood Avenue
Aspire Dental.....	476 Hertel Avenue	Buffalo Public Library.....	Niagara at Porter
Bellamore Boutique.....	3086 Delaware Avenue	BMHA Housing.....	245 Elmwood Avenue
Black Rock Beverages.....	538 Hertel Avenue	CWJ Lock & Key.....	183 Forest Avenue
Bob & John's Pizzeria.....	1545 Hertel Avenue	Corner Store.....	Forest & Grant
Caz Mini Mart	572 Hertel Avenue	Delaware Apartments.....	1217 Delaware Avenue
Century 21	1705 Hertel Avenue	Dibble Hardware	262 West Ferry Street
Corner Store.....	2815 Delaware Avenue	Elmwood Square Apts.....	505 Elmwood Avenue
Daddio's Pizzeria.....	1247 Hertel Avenue	Fast Stop Food Mart.....	326 Military Road
Dash's Supermarket	1770 Hertel Avenue	Frontier Liquor & Beverage Cr.....	121 Grant Street
Delaware YMCA.....	2564 Delaware Avenue	First Niagara Bank	Elmwood at West Utica
Enchanted Hair Salon.....	3030 Delaware Avenue	M&T Bank.....	130 Grant Street
Evans Bank.....	2670 Delaware Avenue		
Fig Tree Patissille.....	3062 Delaware Avenue		
Finishing Touches.....	2820 Delaware Avenue		
Frank's Sunny Italy.....	2491 Delaware Avenue		
Ginnane Funeral Home.....	3215 Delaware Avenue		
Gloria J. Parks Community Cr.....	3242 Main Street		
Gamma Mora's.....	1465 Hertel Avenue		
Great Clips.....	2678 Delaware Avenue		
Hertel Coin Laundry.....	1274 Hertel Avenue		
Hertel Park Senior Apartments.....	1631 Hertel Avenue		
Hertel Parker Liquors.....	1859 Hertel Avenue		
Home Taste (Chinese Cuisine).....	3106 Delaware Avenue		
Imagine Salon	1527 Hertel Avenue		
Macy's Place	3100 Delaware Avenue		
Joey's Place.....	83 Niagara Street		
Joe's Panini Grill	3024 Delaware Avenue		
Johnny's Meats.....	1191 Hertel Avenue		
Knights of Columbus.....	1530 Kenmore Avenue		
Korona Jewelers.....	1588 Hertel Avenue		
Marco's Deli	1518 Hertel Avenue		
North Buffalo Community Ctr.....	203 Sanders Road		
North Buffalo Dental	1600 Hertel Avenue		
North Park Library	975 Hertel Avenue		
Parkside Community Center	2318 Main Street		
Paul Wolf Agency.....	2890 Delaware Avenue		
Plaka Restaurant.....	2904 Delaware Avenue		
Price Rite Market.....	1716 Kenmore Avenue		
Salon Avanti	3086 Delaware Avenue		
Salon Coronado.....	2870 Delaware Avenue		
Salon D Capelli.....	3104 Delaware Avenue		
Scissors.....	1497 Hertel Avenue		
Studio Sophia	1094 Hertel Avenue		
Sunoco Gas Station.....	4505 Main Street		
Theater Apts	1065 Kenmore Avenue		
Terrie's Workout Center	1481 Hertel Avenue		
Vince's Pizza.....	1803 Kenmore Avenue		
Wesselman's Inc.....	564 Colvin Boulevard		
Wellington Pub	1541 Hertel Avenue		
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		



The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo November 26, 2023
 Delaware Avenue – Defendant did take without payment (1) 32 inch that screen Vizio TV (value \$129.99) and did flee out of fire exit door. Incident occurred 11/21/23 at 2026 hours. Video available from complainant.

November 24, 2023
 Homer Avenue – On 9/28/2023 at approximately 1830 hours while at 2626 Delaware Avenue (Target) in the city of Buffalo. The defendant did take without permission \$59.99 in merchandise and did conceal the item in a tote bag and did pass all points of purchase without attempting to pay for the item and did exit the store.

November 23, 2023
 Center Street – Officers responded to a violent domestic call where the defendant did enter the dwelling and started a verbal argument, which turned physical and defendant did lap and punch victim.

November 21, 2023
 Hinman Avenue – Defendant did kick in victim's front door and entered the home without permission. This is in violation of order of Buffalo City Court. Defendant did flee out the back door form officers refusing commands to stop victim's door valued at \$400.00.

West Side November 26, 2023
 Elmwood Avenue – The defendant matching description of larceny suspect, was stopped by officers at 2090 Elmwood Avenue. The defendant provided pedigree information of Terrance B. Hall 9/07/78 and was

advised that providing a false name was a crime; defendant repeated above information to patrol officer. Defendant was found to have active Buffalo warrants.

November 25, 2023
 Grant Street – Defendant did take (2) packs of Twinkies and (1) coffee from 171 Grant St. (7Eleven) without payment. Defendant does also have (2) active Buffalo warrants. Approximate value at \$10.00. Merchandise recovered and returned to employee.

November 23, 2023
 Grant Street – Defendant violated order of protection put in place by presiding judge by harassing victim and followed her around apartment.

November 24, 2023
 West Delavan Avenue – Defendant did strike sister following a verbal altercation, causing pain. Defendant also damaged victim's PlayStation 5 (value \$1000) and 6 drinking glasses. Physical altercation took place in front of defendant and victim's children.

Riverside November 26, 2023
 West Eagle Street – Defendant did enter 601 Amherst St. (Wegmans) and did steal \$301.15 worth of merchandise and did pass all points of purchase. Supporting Deposition completed with receipt of items stolen.

November 26, 2023
 Tonawanda Street – Defendant did leave 9mm Kimber pistol model #Micro9 with serial number unsecured on top of a cash register that got

stolen during a burglary. Defendant was issued appearance ticket on scene.

November 26, 2023
 Lamont Place – Victim stated that arrested did damage living room table, break bottle in house, throw kitchen chairs and did strike him in the face, neck, and chest.

November 22, 2023
 Isabelle Street – Victim states she asked the defendant to leave her apartment. Victim states the defendant refused and punched her in face with a closed fist. Victim reports no injuries.

November 22, 2023
 Philadelphia Street – Victim states defendant did flush his prescribed medication down the toilet. Defendant did admit to doing so to officers on scene. Victim states while on his bed with their two young children. Defendant did throw a children's walker at him and struck him multiple times to the face with a closed fist. Injuries reported.

November 21, 2023
 West Eagle Street – On 6/9/23 at approximately 1750 hours at 2232 Delaware Avenue "Kohl's" in the City of Buffalo defendant did select two pairs of Nike shoes worth \$180.00 total, passed all points of purchase with the items in his hands and made no attempt to pay for the items. Defendant was identified by the complainant from multiple other larceny's from the store. Video for detective.

November 21, 2023
 West Eagle Street – Defendant did enter store and take (\$1,915.00) in merchandise, passing all points of purchase rendering no payment.

Call our office at:
632-0808
 for details!
 The Buffalo Rocket

MAGIC MAZE ● FOR —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: FOR — NOR MONEY

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| A lifetime | Dear life | Instance | Sure |
| A song | Evermore | Keeps | The mean time |
| All the world | Example | Sale | The record |
| Certain | Free | Starters | |

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Answers on page seven.

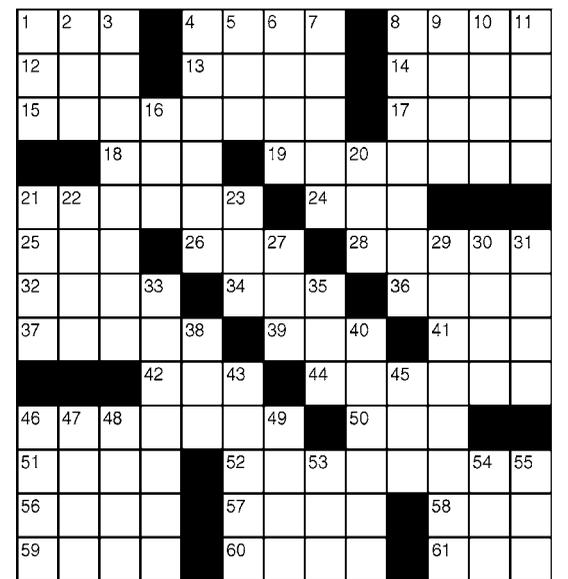
FREE PIZZA: Lillie Young, 162 Sanders Rd. Apt. 5, 14216

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Thomas Matheny, 63 Hobmoor Ave., 14216

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Microwave
- 4 Jubilation
- 8 Scruff
- 12 " — Believer"
- 13 Give temporarily
- 14 Big-screen format
- 15 Layered deserts
- 17 Refer to
- 18 Irrate
- 19 Breaks away
- 21 Stockholm's land
- 24 JFK's veep
- 25 Fleur-de- —
- 26 Cutting tool
- 28 Parlor pieces
- 32 Now, on a memo



- 34 Luau bowlful
- 36 Karate level
- 37 Prison-related
- 39 Atty.'s title
- 41 Mauna —
- 42 Soda
- 44 Steering device on a ship
- 46 Leaping antelopes
- 50 Hosp. hook-ups
- 51 Donald Duck's nephew
- 52 Like a good golf score
- 56 Greek mountain
- 8 "Great work!"
- 9 During
- 10 Top of the head
- 11 Former mates
- 16 Passing craze
- 20 "Survivor" aier
- 21 High-five sound
- 1 Energy
- 2 Docs' bloc
- 3 Italian cheese
- 4 Forest clearings
- 5 Tiki bar neck-lace
- 6 Tolkien creatures
- 7 '50s Ford
- 33 Tropical fruits
- 35 Leb. neighbor
- 38 Texter's chuckle
- 40 Calms
- 43 "Straight Up" singer Abdul
- 45 TIVO, for example
- 46 Denny's rival
- 47 Inspiration
- 48 Nuisance
- 49 Break suddenly
- 53 Chips go-with
- 54 Santa — winds
- 55 Crater part

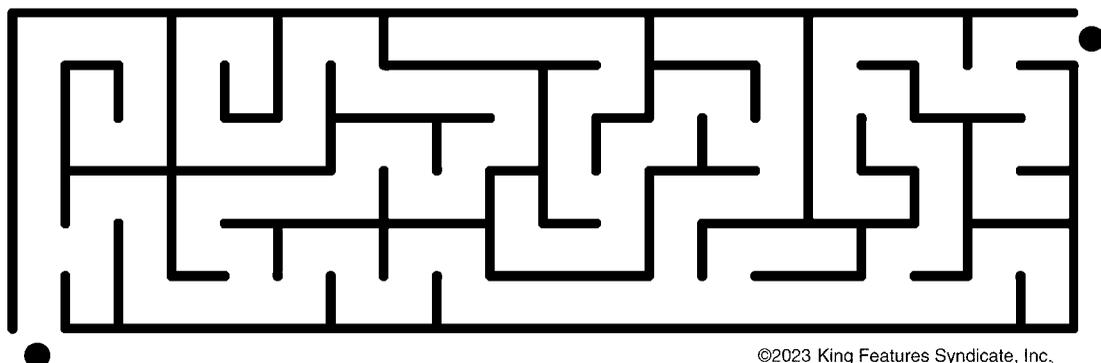
DOWN

- 22 Sagacious
- 23 Snooze
- 27 Misery
- 29 Crystalline mineral
- 30 Skin soother
- 31 Twinkler in the sky

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Answers on page seven.

Kids' Maze



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Answers on page seven.



Northwest Buffalo Beat

By Dave Gallagher AKA Joe Bortz

Florida.



My sunny Florida home.

If you live in Western New York, you are aware of the snowstorms we had in December last year. The last one in particular was the Christmas surprise. Everything was shut down for four days. It was a terrible time to be in that area. It was so bad the Buffalo Bills football team had to play their home game in Detroit. Usually, it does snow some in November and December but not like that. Just dusting or lake effect in the southern tier. Melts in a few days.

Personally, I was stuck in my house for the whole four days, in need of medication that I could not get. Even the Supermarkets and Pharmacies were closed. I had to shovel a path just to let my little dog out for her daily morning routine. She stepped off the last step and into the snow and only her little head was above the white stuff. The only help I could get was my next-door neighbor who shoveled a nice path for my little Angel. He had trouble just to get to my place from his. Snow was up to his waist, and he had to plow through it one step at a time.

The point is, if it is something you could avoid, why not? I have a home in sunny Florida and why fight the snow, cold and ice? Most of us "snowbirds", as we are labeled by the year-round residents, go down after the holidays. Around the first week of January. My wife and I did that for years, back in the day we waited till the Buffalo Bills play-offs were over as we had season tickets. Last year I went right after Christmas, so I was in the Buffalo area for the storm. Never again. Do not have season tickets so there is nothing to hold me in WNY.

Did not want to miss all the holidays so I decided to head south right after Thanksgiving. At least see some of the family before I leave. Usually I drive, but each year the trip seems longer and longer. My one son has been kind enough to drive us down for the last few years, but he had a massive heart attack and is not available at this time. Last May on my return trip, I managed to drive home alone. Would prefer not to do that again. Flying is a pain as it is like a

mini move. Lots of things to switch from one resident to the other. Driving again was the option. I was about to do it alone again, but my other son offered to go with me. So he did.

Driven the strip south so many times that I know every rest area and bottleneck there is on the route. I-90 to Erie, head south on the I-79 through Pennsylvania and W. Virginia. It is flat till you reach Pittsburgh and the mountains begin. Small to start but then become massive. The last ones in Virginia are so high there are tunnels through them. Breathtaking sights to behold but not fun in the winter or the rain. The last tunnel, the "Big Walker", seems to be the peak. Feels like you are going downhill into North Carolina. Our first stop is in Statesville as it is about halfway on a two-day trip. I-77 into South Carolina, I-26 to the nightmare. I-95 south. Only 86 miles in South Carolina but generally the worst part of the trip. This time it was so congested that traffic actually stopped dead for a while. It was stop-and-go that whole stretch. It is two lanes through South Carolina and opens to three in Georgia. The 100 miles through the peach state is great. However, reaching Florida does in no way mean it is over. Usually takes 6 hours from the border to where I am in SW Florida. Long way but knowing you are reaching your destination makes the adrenaline flow.

Going down, the weather is a factor, and the days are shorter than the return trip. You leave an area where everything is cold, bleak, and dead. As you travel south, the accumulated snow by the side of the road disappears. The dead looking trees become green, the temperature rises, and the sun shines. Once you hit Georgia, you start seeing palm trees. The Florida Welcome Center gives out free orange and grapefruit drinks. Like Alice in Wonderland, you are stepping into a different world.

This is the earliest that I have been in Florida. I had thought the "snowbirds"

had not arrived. Much to my surprise, seems everyone had the same idea to beat the winter as it is like "the season" here. "The season" is usually January, February, and March. The restaurants are already busy. Year-round residents seem to frown on "the season" as it adds to the congestion. Oh well, just have to make the best of it. Must learn how to cook so I do not

have to go out so much. I'll manage because it is worth it. See you in the Spring.

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



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Ask Rusty – We’re Planning To Claim At 62; What Do We Need To Know?

Dear Rusty: My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I’m wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated!

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

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about 3 months in advance and choose the option on the application which states “I want benefits beginning with the

earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction.” For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife’s first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife’s birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule. Then, when it’s time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal “my Social Security” account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it’s required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to request

an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method (you can link to the application process from your online account).

One important thing to be aware of: By claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) and that is a permanent reduction. If you expect at least average longevity – about 84 for you and 87 for your wife – and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the de-

cision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if

you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

10 Safety Tips To Follow During The Cold Front For Your Pets

Continued from page one

Gently wipe their feet with a damp towel once they are back inside to avoid a trip to the veterinarian. Wearing boots can protect paws from irritating salt on the street. Many dogs, particularly those with short coats, will be more comfortable if they have a sweater or coat on. If a dog frequently lifts their paws, whines or stops during walks, it is probably because their feet are cold.

Be particularly careful when taking older, arthritic animals and small pets outside. They may become stiff and tender quickly and often find it difficult to walk

on the snow or ice.

Don’t let dogs off the leash during a snowstorm. No matter how much they want to play in the snow, they can easily lose their scent and become lost.

Always make sure dogs are wearing ID tags and are microchipped before you take them out. Always check under the hood of a car’s engine - a favorite hiding space for community cats. Check underneath a car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to make sure a cat hasn’t taken up temporary housing there.

To learn more, visit best-friends.org.



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Monday-Friday

9AM-1PM

Saturday



Scan QR Code with Your Cell Phone Camera

Eastern Hills Office Hours:

10AM-6PM

Tuesday-Friday

8AM-3PM

Saturday

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

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

Use main entrance by Duff’s

ADOPT A PET Sponsored By The Buffalo Rocket

This Week’s Featured Friend: **PEPPER**

OUR SHELTER IS OVERFLOWING WITH DOGS!

Pepper is a young mom who spent her early shelter life raising 2 kittens who are now grown. Pepper does not appear to enjoy the company of other cats - whether that is related to her recent experience mothering or just her general attitude, we are not quite sure. We recommend Pepper go to a home without other cats (and probably without dogs) since she is very assertive in her dislike at the moment. Otherwise, she is an inquisitive and curious cat, just biding her time until her peaceful forever home comes around where she can relax and be the perfect companion to her future family.



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

Ten Lives Club Cat Adoption Group is hosting their Beer for Cats Christmas fundraiser on Friday, December 9. The event runs from 5pm to 7:30pm and will be held at Mr. Goodbar, located at 1110 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222. At this event, there will be a silent auction, basket raffle and so much more. Drink tickets for 10-ounce specialty drafts will be available for purchase with the option of 2 for \$12 or 4 for \$20. There is no admission fee for this event. During this event, attendees may choose between some of the best local Western New York drafts. For more information on this event, visit Ten Lives Club's website or call their Event Coordinator at (716) 646-5577 ext. 2.

during the week over the winter holiday Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29, 2023, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2024 (Monday, January 15, 2024) and Presidents Day 2024 (Monday, February 19, 2024). The Zoo is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. While the Zoo will be closed to guests Monday through Thursday, animal care teams and staff will continue their daily routines. On-site education programs are available for enrollment and will continue during the week as well. For details and information on Buffalo Zoo operating hours, to purchase tickets, donate, or enroll in an education program, visit buffalozoo.org.

Buffalo Arts Studio presents: Annual Studio Artist Show and Sale November 27-December 23, 2023. Artist Reception and Open House: Saturday, December 2, 5:00-9:00 pm The exhibition will be on display from November 18-December 23, 2023. The Artist Reception and Open House is 5:00-9:00 pm, Saturday, December 2nd, and will include light snacks as well as a donation-based bar with wine and beer.

Rich Entertainment Group (REG) and Funtime Presents announce Grammy-winning, country-rock artists Brothers Osborne will bring their "Might As Well Be Us" tour to Terminal B at the Outer Harbor on Friday, June 14, 2024, as part of the Seneca Casinos Outer Harbor Concert Series. Presale begins Wednesday, Nov. 29 for Artist Fan Club members, with a Spotify Presale going live on Thursday, Nov. 30. Tickets go on sale to the general public Friday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. Tickets may be purchased at www.seetickets.us/event/brothers-osborne/.

The Buffalo Zoo will be closed to the public every Monday through Thursday and open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. These seasonal operating hours will last until March 28, 2024. The Buffalo Zoo will be open

Buffalo Chamber Music Society: The 100th season continues on

Tuesday, December 5 with a performance by the Manhattan Chamber Players. The concert begins at 7:30 in the Mary Seaton Room of Kleinhans Music Hall and will be preceded by a talk with the musicians beginning at 6:45. The concert includes works by Schubert and Dvorák. They will be joined for the Schubert by Buffalo Philharmonic associate principal bassist Brett Shurtliffe. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the door. **STUDENTS ARE FREE.**

First Look Buffalo Theatre Company: New Play Reading Festival 2023-24 Vol. 1 December 8th-10th, 2023 Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center 705 Renaissance Dr, Williamsville NY 14221. Plays: Deconstruction By Adam Hahn Directed by Mike Doben Saturday, December 9th at 3pm, The Appliance Department By Bella Poynton Directed by Kate Powers Saturday, December 9th at 8pm, The Day I learned to Fly By Wendy-Marie Martin Directed by Jason Francey Sunday, December 10th at 1pm. No reservations necessary. Donations accepted at the door.

Submit Your Community Event to **The Grapevine** editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com

Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

- 1) What is the name of the captain in "The Love Boat"?
2. What is E.T.'s favorite candy in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"?
- 3) What is Hungary's national spice?
- 4) Which company's mascot is Elsie the Cow?
- 5) What fear is represented in the condition called plutophobia?
- 6) How many pawns are on a chessboard?
- 7) What is the name of the giant land mass that is believed to have existed on Earth 200 million years ago?
- 8) Which of the Great Lakes is southernmost?
- 9) What is an octothorpe?
- 10) Where are the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" set?

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

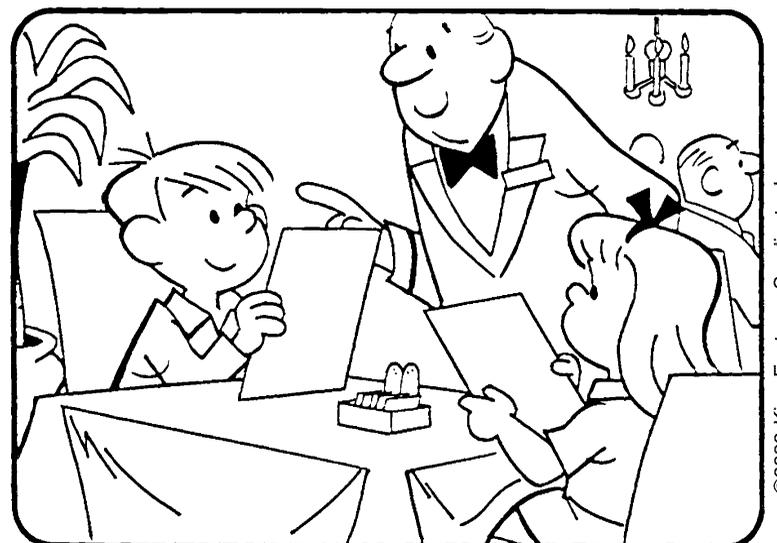
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Doors are missing. 2. Elbow is concealed. 3. Lamp is missing. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Light fixture is different. 6. Hair is concealed.



"Do you have a _____?
This may take a while!"

Answers on page seven.

SCRAMBLERS

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

- Throng **RHODE**
- Proof **CRATE**
- Lark **INACT**
- Vision **GAMIE**

TODAY'S WORD

The Angel Tree Project

Continued from page one.
The Boxes of Joy project will be run by St. Michael's Church located at 651 Washington St, Buffalo, NY 14203. The Boxes of Joy project gives a box filled with a variety of items to an immigrant family on the West Side of Buffalo. The project runs from now until Sunday, December 10th.

To participate, here's what to do:

- 1) Get a small moving

box from Lowe's or Home Depot (box size: 16" L x 12" W x 12"H)

- 2) Please put each of these items in the box:
 - \$25 gift cards from Target and/or - Bath towel - Peanut Butter

Aldi's OR cash in a Christmas card - Warm socks (16 oz. jar)

- Christmas candy or cookies - UNO card game

3) Suggested optional items to include to "fill the box":

- Dish cloths & towels - Potholders - Throw blanket

- Shower gel - Crayons/markers - Coloring activity books

- Scissors/glue sticks - Construction paper - Body/hand lotion

- Small craft items for kids - Dry soup mix - Ramen noodles

- Hats, gloves and scarves - Hot chocolate - Small sewing kit

- Religious items (pic-

ture, small statue) - Nail clipper kit/polish - Plastic cutting board

- Band Aids/first aid kit - Batteries (AA or AAA) - Food storage containers
- Light bulbs (60 watt) - Small toys/plush - Small umbrella/rain poncho

4) Please WRAP THE BOX and RETURN IT to a Sacristan at St. Michael's Church by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th.

This combined effort by our Downtown Family of

Parishes (Blessed Sacrament Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Anthony of Padua Church, St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Louis Church and St. Michael Church) is designed to bring the richness of the Advent Season to life through the participation of its members. Individuals and families of the community-at-large are also invited to participate.

CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Let's Go Buffalo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on October 5, 2023. 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 Shaun Jackson, Esq., 570 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 48

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): K.W.K. Contracting LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on October 16, 2023. 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 Kevin Kinney, Esq., 7978 Cooper Creek Boulevard, University Park, FL 34201. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 48

NOTICE OF FORMATION of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Hey-ey-ey-ey, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on October 6, 2023. 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 Shaun Jackson, Esq., 570 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 48

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

Notice of Formation of El Hava Designs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on April 13, 2023. Office Location: Erie County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 45 Hampton

Court, Buffalo, NY 14221. Purpose: any lawful activity. 48

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

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King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

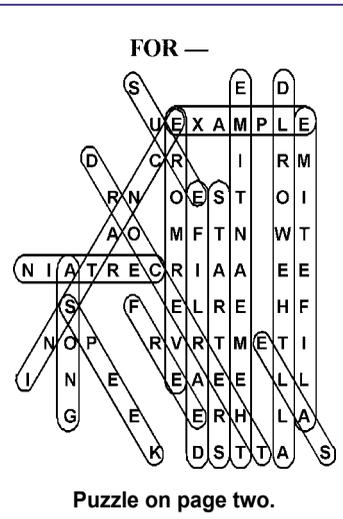
Z	A	P	G	L	E	E	N	A	P	E	
I	M	A	L	E	N	D	I	M	A	X	
P	A	R	F	A	I	T	S	G	I	T	E
M	A	D	S	E	C	E	D	E	S		
S	W	E	D	E	N	L	B	J			
L	I	S	S	A	W	S	O	F	A	S	
A	S	A	P	P	O	I	B	E	L	T	
P	E	N	A	L	E	S	Q	L	O	A	
			P	O	P	R	U	D	D	E	R
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H	U	E	Y	U	N	D	E	R	P	A	R
O	S	S	A	L	A	I	T	A	N	I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

Puzzle on page three.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

Puzzle on page four.



Puzzle on page two.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

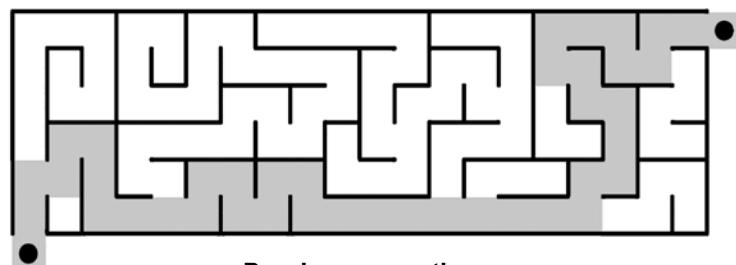
1. Horde
2. Trace;
3. Antic;
4. Image

Today's Word

CHAIR

Puzzle on page six.

Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page three.

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