

Buffalo Rocket

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Vol. LIV ISSUE No.22 • May 29th, 2025

Ride For Roswell 2025



Photo Courtesy Ride to Roswell.

Join us for the 30th anniversary of Ride for Roswell, taking place Saturday, June 28th.

The Ride for Roswell, presented by the West Herr Automotive Group, launched registration for the 2025 30th anniversary event, which will take place on Saturday, June 28th at the University at Buffalo.

Thousands of riders and volunteers will gather at

the University at Buffalo to participate in the 29th Ride for Roswell to raise funds for cancer research and patient care programs at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Routes from 3 to 100 miles start between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m., providing an option for riders of all



ages and skill levels. To give riders many opportunities to participate in their favorite route, the Ride has added additional start times for 2025.

For riders looking to create a DIY Ride Day experience, the Ride Your Own Way option is available again for 2025. This option allows individuals, families and groups to ride at their own pace and schedule. *Continued on page six.*

Mental Health Awareness Month Inspires Call From Erie County And Crisis Services

Mental health is an essential part of the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month this May, the Erie County Department of Mental Health, Erie County Department of Health and Crisis Services are calling on the community to unite in support of mental health, reminding residents: "We Are All in This Together."

"We want to reinforce the idea that connections with other people sustain us

during times of uncertainty, trauma, grief and the stresses of everyday life," said Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health Sarah Bonk. "Those connections have two sides: one, where people who may be struggling feel comfortable enough to reach out for help. The other side depends on all of us having the awareness and resolve to be a source of support for our family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers."

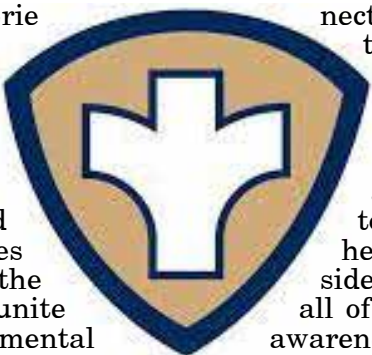
"Checking in on each other is an essential first-line

of mental health defense that we should get in the habit of doing every day. That practice can make changes in another person's behavior or emotional state easier to recognize," continued Bonk. "And our public health and mental health resources will keep educating on how to offer practical support and make a connection with professional resources if needed."

Ways to offer support (adapted from SAMHSA – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

Express your concern and support

Remind your friend or family member that help is available. *Continued on page six.*



Butterflies Are Coming To Buffalo!

The Butterfly Experience returns to June 7 - August 3, 10am-4pm at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens.

This summer, hundreds of butterflies will make their debut in our Tropical Orchard soaring high, low, here, and there! See the vibrant colors of species native to the U.S.



BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY

Botanical Gardens

like swallowtails, monarchs, painted ladies, red admirals, and so many more. Capture the magic of this special encounter with selfies and photos of these beautiful creatures, all while learning about the important role that these pollinators play in our ecosystem along the way.

The Butterfly Experience is expected

to sell out quickly, and pre-purchased tickets are required to maintain a safe and comfortable capacity. The experience is free for Botanical Gardens Members but all attendees must have a ticket. Don't miss out on this mesmerizing opportunity!

Included with general admission! Botanical Gardens Members receive free admission!

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. The Botanical Gardens welcomes all visitors and *Continued on page six.*

Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



May, 1992. PRO HOCKEY PLAYERS TEACH YOUNGSTERS TO SHOOT FOR GOALS...Children at a previous NHL Pro Set Youth Hockey Clinic learn that goals are important on and off the ice.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH



Cloudy
High 61°
Low 53°

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH



Mostly Cloudy
High 67°
Low 53°

SATURDAY, MAY 31ST



Showers
High 60°
Low 46°

SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST



Partly Cloudy
High 63°
Low 50°

SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND



Mostly Sunny
High 69°
Low 53°

MONDAY, JUNE 3RD



Mostly Sunny
High 73°
Low 60°

MONDAY, JUNE 4TH



Sunny
High 77°
Low 63°

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THE NIGHTOWL FILM FESTIVAL Sat 5/31: (11:30am)
THE PHOENICIAN SCHEME Thur 6/5: 7:00

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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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**SPORTS**
By Bill Snyder

"Over The Hump!"



Twelve year old Christian Cipolla takes a mighty swing at a homerun pitch.

Twelve year old Christian Cipolla won't ever forget the weekend he had earlier this month of May.

Back on Saturday, May 17th, playing for the North Buffalo Blaze Travel team at home in Shoshone Park, the team grabbed an early lead against the Buffalo Rake after just two innings. With the skies quickly darkening over North Buffalo, Cipolla watched as teammate Jack Kleeh got on base with a single after one out in the bottom of the third. Cipolla stepped to the plate and just wanted to knock his friend in to up the score.

"Their pitcher was throwing fastballs," said the Blaze third baseman afterward, "and I just wanted to get over the hump."

Christian Cipolla sure did. He took a mighty swing at the next pitch and blasted a two run homerun over the fence in leftfield in the friendly confines of the Park he has grown up in, his first ever homerun over a fence since he began

playing rookie baseball. Hwis Mom and Dad were thrilled and so was his older brother and sister, John and Julia. The homerun helped lead the Blaze to an 8-6 victory over the Rake.

Then, the next day, Cipolla and the Blaze traveled into Hamburg to face the Dawgs in a doubleheader against the tough team. With teammates Kleeh and Brady Roberts on base in the top of the fifth, Cipolla blasted his second homerun over the fence in two days with a three run dinger that won the game in a 12-10 victory for the Blaze.

"I would like to thank all my teammates for believing in me," said Cipolla recently. "They are Lucas Adamczyk Turkovich, Brady Roberts, Connor Gunnarson, Jack Kleeh, Vince Martin, Maddox Beale, Jace Petti, Brody Large, Brady Huard and Alex Felver. They know who they are. I want to thank my Mom and Dad and my brother and sister for helping me. I want

to thank my coaches, Mr. Huard, Mr. Gunnarson and Mr. Petti and everyone else who is a part of the Hertel North Park League."

A very light schedule of games played in the League over the past week due to the daily rain that hit the area over five days. Charlie Schutte hit two singles, a double and a triple for the Blue Jays in a big win over the Rays in Rookie Boys. The Mariners played the Rangers to a 3-3 tie on a bases loaded single that scored Jack Hassinger in the bottom of the sixth. The Rebels stayed undefeated at 5-0 with a big win over the Comets.

Jack Hawes of the Orioles had a walk off RBI double that scored the go ahead run in a 5-4 win over the White Sox in Rookie Boys. The Reds picked up their first win of the season in Major Boys with a 5-3 win over the Dodgers. The Cardinals defeated the Pirates, 8-1 and the Dodgers defeated the Phillies, 4-1, in Double AA.

In Triple AAA, the Athletics defeated the Twins, 6-2 and the Blue Jays topped the Royals, 16-10. The Buckeyes defeated the Hokies, 9-4 and the Griffs beat the Bruins, 19-12.

This week, the Senior Boys and Senior Girls Divisions are underway. These teams are made up of boys and girls who play for the various high schools in the area. That makes ten Divisions of House Baseball and Softball in Shoshone Park. There's a lot of Baseball and Softball still needed to be played. We can only hope for better weather ahead.

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The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

Video Liquidators Thief Walks Out With Over \$600.00 Worth Of Merchandise

North Buffalo
May 27, 2025
Tacoma Avenue - While following up on a 311 complaint of stop signs being run on Tacoma Avenue, officers observed a New York registered vehicle traveling west on Tacoma and failed to make a complete stop at Tacoma and North Park. Upon stopping the vehicle the defendant refused to identify himself and refused commands to exit the vehicle. The defendant did not have a seatbelt on and all windows had a tint measurement below the legal 70%.

May 27, 2025
Delaware Avenue - The complainant states that the defendant came into the store and got into an altercation with employee. During the altercation the defendant damaged goods and also broke the glass door that leads into the store during the altercation. The store has video footage of the incident.

May 26, 2025
Hertel Avenue - At approximately 1355 hours, officers observed did observe defendant riding a reddish tricycle westbound on Hertel Avenue from Hertel Avenue and Page Street. The defendant was stopped at 562 Hertel Avenue and was issued an appearance ticket. Tricycle was reported stolen on 5/15/25.

May 25, 2025
Delaware Avenue - Defendant did enter and remain unlawfully inside 2412 Delaware (EZ Wash Laundry). There is an active order of protection in place issued by honorable judge. Defendant apprehended at 2240 Delaware Avenue and taken into custody.

May 24, 2025
Hertel Avenue - Defendant was found sleeping in the vestibule of 8 Hertel. Complainant stated they asked him to leave multiple times. Complainant states defendant was banging on the door trying to get in. While in the back of

patrol vehicle defendant was kicking rear view driver window.

May 23, 2025
Hertel Avenue - Defendant did enter video liquidators store located at 1770 Elmwood Avenue and attempted to purchase \$687.53 of merchandise with his Visa Debit card that was declined. After being informed of the declined transaction the defendant did walk out of the store with the merchandise, passing all points of purchase without payment. Video footage available. Appearance Ticket issued.

West Side
May 25, 2025
Lafayette Avenue - Defendant did strike victim

in the face with a closed fist. Defendant did have a pocket knife in his striking fist. Victim did have a swollen face and 4 missing teeth from the punch. Defendant did then grab victim around the neck with both hands obstructing victims breathing. Defendant did have marks on her neck.

May 25, 2025
Tifft Street - Defendant did accelerate the all terrain vehicle he was operating with police detectives attempting to gain custody of defendant causing a severe risk of physical injury to aforementioned detectives. Defendant did cause more than \$1,500.00 in damages to Buffalo police vehicle by driving his vehicle into the passenger side of the patrol car.

Riverside
May 25, 2025
Bridgeman Street - Complainant stated defendant did assault him after a verbal altercation causing deep scratches across his stomach, back, and arms.

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: 16 OUNCES

Angel food	Layer	Red velvet	Wheat
Black forest	Marble	Rice	White
Funnel	Patty	Seed	Yellow
Johnny	Piece of	Upside-down	

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Answers on page seven.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sprint

5 Dalai —

9 Humorist

12 Twice cuatro

13 Done with

14 Here (Fr.)

15 Impulsive

17 Born abroad?

18 Sweetheart

19 Sequence

21 Freudian concept

22 Ersatz chocolate

24 Lascivious

27 "Wham!"

28 Rain-delay cover

31 MSNBC's Melber

32 Night before

33 "Gosh!"

34 Gasp for air

36 Scale members

37 Despot

38 Tub outlet

40 Battery size

41 Laugh track sounds

43 Author Lurie

47 "I love," in Latin

48 Tropical cooler

51 Writer Harper

52 Theater award

53 Length times width

54 "For shame!"

55 Frees (of)

56 Legendary loch

DOWN

1 Columnist Maureen

2 Massage target

3 Actor LaBeouf

4 Dreadful

5 Actor Rob

6 Bird (Pref.)

7 Gents

8 Passion

9 Motormouths

10 Frozen drink brand

11 Level

16 Cover

20 Hogwash

22 Witch group

23 Dazzles

24 Napkin's place

25 Geological period

26 Namibia's capital

27 Gilpin of "Frasier"

29 Actor Stephen

30 Apiece

35 — -la-la

37 East Asian country

39 Silents star Mary

40 Hearty brew

41 Sentry's cry

42 Iowa city

43 Citrus drinks

44 Beget

45 Small bills

46 Secret-protecting docs

49 Slugger's stat

50 Succor

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Answers on page seven.

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: Wall Amitra, 46 Taunton Ave., 14216

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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When Should My Wife Claim Social Security Benefits? – Ask Rusty

Dear Rusty: I turned 64 in July and my wife turned 62 in August. My wife has not worked for approximately 15 years but does qualify for Social Security on her prior work record. My wife is having some physical issues and would like to not return to work. Since she is eligible to collect Social Security, that would be an option to provide additional income, so she doesn't have to work. My question is how would it affect her future SS spousal benefits based on my record if she begins collecting her own benefit now? I plan to work until at least my full retirement age (67), and maybe longer, but plan to start collecting SS at 67 even I continue working.

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

Signed: Working Husband

Dear Working: If your wife has the required 40 SS quarter credits, she is eligible to collect reduced retirement benefits at 62 (for that needed extra income), but her age 62 benefit will be about 70% of what it would be if she waited until her SS full retirement age (FRA) to claim. That reduction would, in turn, carry over to her spousal benefit when you eventually claim your SS benefit. Here's why:

Your wife's spousal amount when you claim will be a combination of her own SS retirement benefit, plus an auxiliary

amount (a "spousal boost") that she is entitled to as your spouse. At age 62, her own benefit will be cut by 30% and she can collect that reduced amount until you claim, at which point her spousal boost will be added to make her benefit equal her spousal entitlement. So, her total benefit as your spouse (when you claim) will consist of her reduced age-62 amount, plus an additional amount as your spouse.

If you claim at 67, your wife will be about 2 years short of her own FRA, which means that her spousal boost amount will also be reduced for early claiming. That reduced spousal boost will be added to her already reduced (age 62) SS retirement benefit, which will make her total benefit less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, your wife claiming her own reduced SS retirement benefit at 62 also means her spousal benefit amount will be affected, and taking her spousal boost before her FRA means that the boost amount will also be reduced for early claim-

ing. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait

until she reaches her own FRA (67) to claim Social Security benefits.

Buffalo Gals of all ages are talking about this book!



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Michael P. Kearns

Erie County Clerk
Guest Columnist

Kearns Calls On Purple Heart Recipients To Be Honored

Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns will again honor veterans that have been bestowed the Purple Heart by adding their name to the William J. Donovan Purple Heart Recipients Book of Merit. Kearns is encouraging veterans who were awarded the Purple Heart or their surviving family members to submit their request to his office by August 1st in order to be added to the 2024 edition and be part of this year's ceremony.

Purple Heart veterans or their families must complete a short application that can be obtained online at erie.gov/clerk/PurpleHeartForm or by email at salutes@erie.gov as well as provide proof the award was issued. Those with additional questions can call the Erie County Clerk's office at 716-858-6787.

"I think it is important to honor the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Country. They deserve to be recognized and I am pleased we can maintain a record of our local military heroes at the Erie County Clerk's Office", stated Kearns.

Kearns established the William J. Donovan Purple Heart Recipients Book of Merit in 2018 and has committed to add to the book each year with new recipients, which is now in its sixth year. The book is named after Buffalo native and leading

advocate for the Central Intelligence Agency, William J. Donovan. Donovan would receive three Purple Hearts during his service in the military, and would go on to head the predecessor of the CIA, during World War II.

The complete volume of the William J. Donovan Purple Heart Book of Merit is on display year-round at the Erie County Clerk's Office in Old County Hall located at 92 Franklin Street, Buffalo. It presently holds five hundred forty (540) names of those honored with the Purple Heart from Erie County.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration awarded to members of the United States military who were wounded or killed while serving, on or after April 5, 1917. Originally called the Badge of Military Merit, the Purple Heart was created by George Washington on August 7, 1782. In addition to receiving a purple heart shaped award, the honoree's name and regiment were inscribed in a "Book of Merit" which was lost after the Revolutionary War and the award was largely forgotten until

over 100 years later.

Kearns will recognize the William J. Donovan Purple Heart Recipients and honor all Purple Heart veterans during a ceremony on Wednesday, August 7th which also serves as National Purple Heart Day annually. Complete ceremony details will be made available as the event date approaches.

In addition, Old County Hall will be lit up purple, August 5-11th, in honor of Purple Heart Appreciation Day and in solemn recognition of all service members injured or killed in action.

Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

- 1) What do the acronyms "AM" and "PM" stand for?
2. What is the name of the Jack Russell Terrier in the sitcom "Frasier"?
- 3) Which vice president went on to win a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007?
- 4) How many Infinity Stones are in "Avengers: Endgame"?
- 5) In which state would you find the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve?
- 6) What is Scotland's official national animal?
- 7) Which cities are the settings for Charles Dickens' novel "A Tale of Two Cities"?
- 8) Which two planets in our solar system have no moons?

Answers on page seven.

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Mini Pak.....	47.00
Large Cheese and One Item Pizza with Double Wings (20) and 1 Bleu Cheese. (add \$1.80 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Thirty Pak.....	53.25
Large Cheese and One Item Pizza with Triple Wings (30) and 2 Bleu Cheese. (add \$1.80 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Family Pak.....	78.75
Large Cheese and One Item Pizza with Bucket of Wings (50) and 3 Bleu Cheese. (add \$2.45 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Party Pak.....	89.00
Sheet Pizza or (2) Large Pizzas with Cheese & One Item with Bucket of Wings (50) and 3 Bleu Cheese. (add \$2.45 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Personal Specialty Pak.....	99.80
Personal Specialty Pizza with Five (5) Wings and 1 Bleu Cheese. (add \$.70 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Small Specialty Pak.....	33.90
Medium Specialty Pizza with Single Wings (10) and 1 Bleu Cheese. (add \$1.40 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Mini Specialty Pak.....	50.50
Large Specialty Pizza with Double Wings (20) and 1 Bleu Cheese. (add \$1.80 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Thirty Specialty Pak.....	60.75
Large Specialty Pizza with Triple Wings (30) and 2 Bleu Cheese. (add \$1.80 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Family Specialty Pak.....	82.25
Large Specialty Pizza with a Bucket of Wings (50) and 3 Bleu Cheese. (add \$2.45 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Specialty Party Pak 1.....	92.50
(1) Large Cheese and One Item Pizza and (1) Large Specialty Pizza with a Bucket of Wings (50) and 3 Bleu Cheese. (add \$2.45 for Barbecue and/or Specialty Wings)	
Specialty Party Pak 2.....	96.00
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All Paks come with Bleu Cheese, Celery and Carrots. Price Does Not Include Tax.	

The Grapevine

Afternoon Drive Host WEBR AM 1440 AND FM 105.3 is one of Buffalo's most iconic radio stations. We are celebrating our 100TH Anniversary in 2024 and would like you to join our family!! We are currently looking for an Afternoon Drive host to be on air from 2PM-6PM Monday-Friday. Bring your energy and ability to relate to our listeners. Experience preferred, but will consider someone who is willing to learn and take direction. College radio would be a big plus!! Great support with local ownership. Have fun, be yourself and grow at the same time!! Please email a recent air check to: Tony Venturoli, Program Director, WEBR AM 1440, FM 105.3. Email address is: ajthedj104@hotmail.com. Phone 716-481-8836.

Nativity BVM: A reunion for ALL YEARS of Nativity of the BVM School on Albany Street in Buffalo will be held July 20, 2025 at BUFFALO RIVER PAVILION (formerly FONTANA'S GROVE- 2299 Clinton Street, W. Seneca. Reservations are a must! Call Helen Brown Kurzdorfer at 716-400-7977 or Rosie DiLiberto Mendolera at 716-881-1306 before 5/15/25.

Hull House "History Camp for Kids" Set for July: The Hull Family Home; Farmstead will again host its annual "History Camp for Kids" during the week of July 21-25. The camp, located at 5976 Genesee Street in Lancaster, runs from 9:00AM to 4:00PM daily. Students entering grades four through eight in the fall are invited to register. Campers will learn about family and farm life in the early 1800s on the western New York frontier. Daily themes include food, textiles and fashion, indigenous people, trades, pioneer games and archaeology. Re-enactors from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 will provide additional history lessons. The cost per camper for the week is \$300. For further information or to request an application, please contact Suzanne Jacobs at sjacobs@hullfamilyhome.com or call 716-681-5494.

Submit Your Community Event to

The Grapevine

editor.buffalorocket@gmail.com

Ride For Roswell 2025

Continued from page one. lies, friends and teams to create their own ride experience by selecting a date, location and route that suits their schedule, location and experience level. Once again, there is no registration fee and no fundraising minimum for the Ride. To learn more about the locations, routes, rewards and to register, visit www.rideforroswell.org.

Butterflies Are Coming To Buffalo!

Continued from page one. is committed to creating an environment free of discrimination and harassment where all individuals are treated with respect. The Botanical Gardens strives to ensure that its collection, facilities, and programming are inclusive and accessible in order to provide a successful and engaging experience for all audiences. For more information please visit www.buffalogardens.com/events/butterfly-experience.

Mental Health Awareness Month Inspires Call From Erie County And Crisis Services

Continued from page one. is available and that mental health problems can be treated. Reassure your friend or family member that you care about them. Offer to help your friend or family member with everyday tasks. Include your friend or family member in your plans—let them know you are thinking about them. "Job loss, financial troubles and debt, unstable housing, food insecurity, social isolation, substance use and other serious or chronic medical conditions – these are common situations that can overwhelm and leave people living in crisis mode," said Erie County Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein. "Mental health has parallels with physical health. Some people can manage a health condition without the need for treatment and with no disruption to their activity; other people – most of us – can benefit from support."

"We have the capacity and the responsibility to watch out for each other, to prioritize meaningful conversations, and to have empathy for the people in our lives," said Crisis Services President and CEO Jessica Pirro. "Stigma around mental health conditions, barriers to mental health treatment and care, and perceptions that a person can 'tough it out' can lead to unnecessary and preventable suffering. Sharing reminders during Mental Health Awareness Month about the resources available to individuals can help keep this topic at the top of mind for our community."



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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is moved. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Purse in window is moved. 4. Hand is not showing. 5. Hat is different. 6. Letter E is larger.

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Bellamore Boutique.....	3086 Delaware Avenue	Parkside Community Center.....2318 Main Street
Bertha's Diner.....	1430 Hertel Avenue	Paul Wolf Agency.....2890 Delaware Avenue
Black Rock Beverages.....	538 Hertel Avenue	Plaka Restaurant.....2904 Delaware Avenue
Bob & John's Pizzeria.....	1545 Hertel Avenue	Price Rite Market.....1716 Kenmore Avenue
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Macy's Place.....	3100 Delaware Avenue	Dibble Hardware.....262 West Ferry Street
Joey's Place.....	83 Niagara Street	Elmwood Square Apts.....505 Elmwood Avenue
Johnny's Meats.....	1191 Hertel Avenue	Fast Stop Food Mart.....326 Military Road
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Korona Jewelers.....	1588 Hertel Avenue	First Niagara Bank.....Elmwood at West Utica
North Buffalo Community Ctr.....	203 Sanders Road	M&T Bank.....130 Grant Street
		Military Coin Laundry.....1134 Military Road
		Santasiero's Restaurant.....1329 Niagara Street

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