

Buffalo Zoo: Breakfast With Santa



Photo Courtesy of Buffalo Zoo.

The Buffalo Zoo invites you and your family to celebrate the holidays with Santa and the Zoo animals! The Zoo will host its annual Breakfast with Santa events on December 14, 15, 21, and 22.

'Tis the season for one of Western New York's favorite holiday traditions: Breakfast with Santa at the Buffalo Zoo! Families are invited to kick off the holidays with a festive morning of food, fun, and unforgettable memories on December 13, 14, and 20. Guests can enjoy a hot



breakfast buffet, seasonal activities, and a special meet-and-greet with Santa Claus and some of the Zoo's incredible animal ambassadors. Each ticket also includes full-day admission to the Buffalo Zoo, allowing families to continue the magic long after breakfast ends.

This year, the Zoo is adding something extra special. For the first time ever, a very limited number of behind-the-scenes animal encounters will be available as add-on experiences. These exclusive opportunities are open to groups of six guests or fewer, and all participants must be at least four years old. *Continued on page six.*

Seeking Submissions Of Original Artwork For Garden Walk Buffalo 2026

Garden Walk Buffalo, America's largest garden tour, is looking for submissions of original artwork to promote the 2026 event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 25 & 26, 2026. Entries are due Saturday, January 31, 2026. This is an opportunity to share your artwork with hundreds of local gardeners and tens of thousands of visitors from around the U.S. and beyond. Submission guidelines:



You may enter any form of painting (any medium, any style – traditional to contemporary), drawings, photography, illustrations, sculpture or mixed media work. Submissions are limited to five entries per artist. Portrait (vertical) orientation is preferred. Keep artwork simple; it needs to reproduce well on a variety of materials. Do not put any type/logos on the artwork. All details of the event will be added later.

Artwork should be considered "wearable and saleable" for both men and women. Artwork will be reproduced on a variety of mediums and sold to promote Garden Walk Buffalo. All use of the artwork will be at the discretion of Garden Walk Buffalo. Submit a digital file of your artwork, not to exceed 25 MB. Please zip/compress large files. The preferred size of the file is 8"x10" inches at 300 dpi. Include a short biography of yourself and an explanation of why your artwork was chosen. *Continued on page six.*

First Night Buffalo Kicks Off 2026 Celebrations

The New Year's Eve countdown is on, and the Independent Health Foundation is ready to help Western New Yorkers celebrate. The Foundation's signature program, First Night® Buffalo, returns with its popular Family Party Pack and free online family-friendly show. Available now for \$25 (\$80 value) at select Tops Friendly Markets locations and online at www.firstnight-buffalo.org, the Family Party Pack includes festive items and activities for a family of four to celebrate New Year's Eve at home, including: Party hats



Glow accessories
Balloons
Noisemakers
Confetti poppers
Disco spotlight
Temporary tattoos
Face paint palette
Coloring banner with crayons
Juggling scarves
2 free kids' admissions to Explore & More
And more!
Now in its 37th year and sixth year in an online format, First Night® Buffalo also includes a robust online entertainment lineup with music, dancing, animal shows, and more. All performances will be available for free at www.firstnightbuffalo.org starting *Continued on page six.*

Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



December, 1993. SADD PRESENTATION A HIT AT LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL...From Left: Annette Naples (WNY SADD Coordinator), Dr. Jean Kilbourne, and Maria Martens (Erie County Stop-DWI Program).

Local Weather

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH	MONDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
 Snow High 27° Low 22°	 Snow High 31° Low 21°	 Snow High 27° Low 25°	 Snow High 22° Low 12°	 Snow High 24° Low 17°	 Mostly Cloudy High 30° Low 26°	 Snow High 38° Low 34°

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SPORTS
By Bill Snyder

A Legend Remembered



Thomas More Wolf. January 21, 1963 – December 4, 2024.

It's Christmas time. The most wonderful time of the year when families gather and share the love for the season. The spirit of giving and receiving grabs a hold of us now and reminds us all of just how blessed we are to be able to show our love for others.

Last weekend, hundreds of families shopped the many small businesses along Hertel Avenue while they waited for the lighting of the giant Christmas tree at St. Margaret's Church. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived to greet all the children and songs from a choir filled the air.

On a Bills Victory Monday, Mike Schopp and the Bulldog from Sports Radio WGR 55 were broadcasting live from Dash's Market at Hertel and Starin, asking for donations of non-perishable foods and warm hats, scarves and gloves for the needy at the Buffalo City Mission.

"We have always tried to give back and support our community any way we can," said Dash's Store Manager Joe Catalano over the air, inside the Market. "We've been in business over 100 years and we have this community to thank."

But the biggest gift to North Buffalo this year has to be the new Thomas Smith Athletic Center that's now open and being used for several sports events including football. This past Monday night, while teams from the Delaware Soc-

cer Club were practicing for their season, one North Buffalo family gathered on the anniversary of the sudden death of Thomas More Wolf.

A former board member of the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League and longtime coach in Shoshone Park, Tom Wolf passed away on December 4th of last year and his loss has been greatly felt by anyone who has ever played or coached in the League since the early 1980's. He was 61.

A fierce advocate for the League, Wolf assured everyone of fair play and equal opportunities for both boys and girls in the Park. A lover of the game of baseball and the St. Louis Cardinals MLB team, he coached his three sons, William, Matthew and Hugh all play the game he loved and then stayed on to assist the HNPYBL board of directors carry out the duties of running this almost 70 year old League until just before the Covid season of 2020.

A huge plaque has been created with his name and contributions to the League to be displayed inside the Athletic Center for all to read. The Plaque reads:

He leaves behind a legacy, defined by loyalty, generosity and an unwavering belief in the power of youth sports. As a devoted coach of the Cardinals, Tom poured his heart into every practice, every season and every young player he mentored.

His leadership extended far beyond wins and losses- he built confidence, fostered teamwork and created an environment where kids felt valued both on and off the field. To many, he wasn't just a coach; he was a steady presence, a role model and a source of encouragement who inspired players to give their best in everything they did.

Tom's dedication to the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball organization ran deep. As a passionate advocate and long-time board member, he worked tirelessly to strengthen the program and ensure that every child, regardless of circumstance, had the opportunity to experience the joy of baseball. His commitment to the community was rooted in a simple but powerful belief: the game he loved could shape lives, build character and bring people together.

Through countless hours of service, planning and hands-on involvement, he helped the league grow into a place where families felt supported and young lives thrived. Though he is no longer with us, Tom's spirit lives on in the fields he tended, the players he mentored and the families he uplifted. His legacy of compassion and dedication will continue through ongoing efforts to help families financially, allowing more children the chance to play the game that meant so much to him.

May he rest in peace, knowing that his influence will echo through generations. And may every crack of the bat, cheer from the stands, and every smile on a young player's face serve as a tribute to the remarkable man he was.

January 21, 1963- December 4, 2024

A very jovial and cheerful man, Tom was a friendly face to everyone who came in contact with him. He took an interest in all his players on the diamonds and in their schoolwork. He worked with all boys individually, helping improve their swing of a bat or a pitch thrown. He taught thousands of young athletes in the Park and stayed in touch with them once they attended high school. He helped shape the young life of Alexander "Gator" Johnson as a 12 year old before he went on to attend Hutch Tech and get drafted by the Cincinnati Reds.

A moment of prayer was given by Father Richard "Duke" Zajac, a longtime family friend, in remembrance of Tom before the Hertel North Park Youth Baseball League was presented with a check from the Wolf family. "We thank Tom Wolf and his entire family for his dedication and contribution to this League and this Park," said Scott Gallivan, vice-president of Hertel North Park, representing the League. "He will always be remembered."





The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

Thief Steals 8 Christmas Trees From Family Dollar On Niagara Street

North Buffalo
December 9, 2025
Amherst Street - The defendant entered Wegmans, 601 Amherst Street, selected merchandise and proceeded past all points of purchase without rendering payment. Property taken was valued at approximately \$185.64. The defendant was identified by the detective from previous encounters. Report taken by patrol officer.

West Side
December 7, 2025
Grant Street - Defendant did resist complainant restraining to stretcher during transport to hospital. This resistance did cause complainant, who is an AEMT on AMR, damage to her glasses in the amount of at least \$150.00.

December 5, 2025
Norwood Avenue - Officers responded to a criminal mischief complaint. Upon arrival, officers observed the defendant wearing the same clothing described in the 911 call. Officers then detained the defendant, then spoke go the complainant. The complainant stated in a sworn statement that he observed defendant slash two tires with a knife. Officers did find a pocket knife on defendant.

December 4, 2025
Niagara Street - Defendant did take eight Christmas trees, valued at \$45.00 each, past all points of purchase from Family Dollar at 2213 Niagara Street. Defendant was apprehended in Minnesota registered vehicle, where defendant and co-defendant were in possession of stolen merchandise from store. Also recovered from defendant's purse was 2.0g of a white powdery substance believed to be cocaine.

Riverside
December 9, 2025
Crowley Avenue - Complainant stated that defendant did push her in throat, strike her with his hands, drag her

down the stairs and to the driveway by her hair causing pain and bruising. Complainant states suspect did then wave a firearm around threatening to shoot anyone that came to the house causing her to fear for her life. A black ABC-15 AR-style rifle was recovered unloaded with a fixed magazine on scene.

December 8, 2025
Lamont Place - Defendant did violate stay away order of protection issued by presiding honorable judge. Victim states defendant did yell at victim calling her a, "dirty b***h."

December 7, 2025
Upper East Lane - The defendant, along with already apprehended co-defendant broke the rear door of 2 Upper East Lane and began squatting inside of the apartment. The apartment was already being used for criminal activity including drug use

and theft. The defendant and co-defendant created a significant health risk to the surrounding apartments by leaving raw food to rot as well as feces and urine throughout the apartment. While inside the apartment, an active copper water supply line was cut and stolen causing significant flooding and damage. The damages caused throughout the apartment are estimated to exceed \$1,500.00 according to victims statement. The victims statement was taken by detective and photographs of the scene were taken.

December 7, 2025
Germain Street - Victim was driving suspect (defendant) home from ECMC when suspect suddenly started to attack victim from the back seat, climbed over and started to hit victim, then pulled her out of the car and continued to hit her on the ground.

December 4, 2025
Ontario Street - Defendant did strike victim about the head with the leg of a wooden chair causing a contusion and laceration to her forehead. Victim did also have 2 lacerations to right forearm. All injuries required stitches.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tousele

5 Resistance unit

8 Prego rival

12 Bickering

13 Zodiac animal

14 Pub orders

15 Tabula —

16 Sheer fabrics

18 Santiago resident

20 Playful sea critter

21 Mormon church, for short

22 Top card

23 Army bigwigs

26 Scolding

30 "Humbug!"

31 Cooking fuel

32 French pronoun

33 Upbeat

36 Rose protector

38 Weeding tool

39 Spanish gold

40 Parlor pieces

43 Bar exercises

47 Trailblazing congresswoman Shirley —

49 Power co. supply

50 Suffix for million

51 "Levitating" singer Lipa

DOWN

1 Artist Chagall

2 Beehive State

3 Spanish ayes

4 Stable enclosures

5 Killer whales

6 Virtuoso violinist Hilary

7 2001, to Cato

8 Traveled the rapids

9 Oodles

10 Hereditary unit

11 Cold War initials

17 Central points

19 Asner and Harris

22 Sounds of relief

23 Telly network

24 Fan's cry

25 Sashimi fish

26 Automobile

27 "As I see it," in a text

28 Fish-fowl insert

29 Tom Collins liquor

31 "My word!"

34 Stages

35 Ritzy

36 Part of TNT

37 Truthful

39 "Holy cow!"

40 Con job

41 Columbus' home

42 Evergreens

43 Crossword hint

44 — Bator

45 Lima's land

46 "Shool!"

48 Quirky

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Answers on page six.

MAGIC MAZE

Q W T S Q N K I F C Z W U R P

M J H E N C N Z X U S Q N L H

J G E C Z I X O V T R P N S O

L J H E S P O R D N O D N O L

C A Y A W (M A C A R O N) V T L

T R P N K H H L E S E K I N Y

G M E N A L S C B T E B Z E W

X W U T U S I R P L A N U M O

O P M K L J E M M I G R A C O

S R A M O E G U T A K T I K D

D B A Y X L D W U T S Z E P A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Unlisted clue hint: Home of the U.S. Film Industry

Akanes	Kit Kat	Mars	Pirate Coins
Cuberdon	Lokum	Mentos	Rahat
Dumle	London Drops	Milka	Spunk
Geisha	Macaron	Pez	

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Answers on page six.

FREE PIZZA: Christop Wrisley, 87 Rand Ave., 14216

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Seniority

About Remarrying And Benefits From An Ex-Spouse - Ask Rusty

Dear Rusty: I am almost 57, divorced after a 14-year marriage. My former spouse is 15 years older than I and made significantly more money than me. I am required to retire from my job at age 60 but expect to keep working in some capacity.

I have a girlfriend of a similar age to me. She did not earn as much as her former husband as she mainly raised their children. She is also divorced from an older spouse who made more money than she did. I am trying to figure out if we will be penalized if we marry, or if it matters if we wait until after we reach 60 years of age. Can I claim my own benefits when I become eligible at 62, then claim survivor benefits later, whenever my former spouse passes? Is that affected if, or when, I remarry? I do not want to give up my potential survivor benefits from my ex-spouse. Are those affected if I remarry?

If I understand correctly, if I remarry even after 60, we would both forfeit divorced spousal benefits, is that right? Given that my girlfriend's former spouse probably made more money than I, would she be forfeiting her former spousal benefits if we were to marry, even after age 60?

Lastly, I am considering retiring abroad as an expat. Any suggestions about how that would affect our Social Security benefits? **Signed: Start-**

ing Over

Dear Starting Over:

With certain exceptions, benefits from a living ex-spouse cannot be collected if you remarry (regardless of your age when you remarry). So, from what you've shared, whenever you remarry both you and your new wife will forfeit eligibility for benefits from your respective ex-spouses while they are living (FYI, there are exceptions for those who are disabled).

However, the rules are different for a surviving ex-spouse: if you remarry before age 60, you will forfeit your surviving ex-spouse benefit. But if you remarry after age 60, you retain eligibility to collect survivor benefits from a deceased former spouse. So, if you and your girlfriend remarry after you are both age 60, you will both still be able to claim survivor benefits based on your former spouses' records.

And, yes, it is possible for you to initially claim your own SS retirement benefit at 62 and claim your surviving ex-spouse benefit later (after your former spouse dies). Provided you remarry after age 60 you do not lose that option, but if you were to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit before reaching your full retirement age (FRA), the monthly payment amount would be reduced (all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced).

Note too, that if you plan to continue working after you are first eligible for SS benefits, Social Security has an "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early benefits. The limit changes yearly (for 2025 it is \$23,400) and if exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, as you likely know, claiming at age 62 will also mean a benefit payment of about 30% less than available at your FRA of 67. So, if you plan to work after age 62 and plan to claim early SS, you should take the "earnings test" into consideration. FYI, the earning test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Now, regarding retiring overseas, be aware that Social Security has limits on where you can collect U.S. Social Security benefits. I suggest you use Social Security's Payments Abroad Screening Tool to find out if benefits are payable wherever you plan to retire abroad.

Senior TRIVIA

Pop Quiz

Test your knowledge!

1) What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom

"The Beverly Hillbillies"?

2. Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?

3) Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?

4) Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?

5) What's another name for the patella?

6) What is the capital of Chile?

7) Who perfected the Champagne method?

8) What are the national flowers of Japan?

9) Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?

10) Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

Answers on page seven.

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Michael P. Kearns

Erie County Clerk

Guest Columnist

Kearns Warns Drivers of Major DMV Point System Overhaul

As 2026 approaches, Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns is urging motorists to prepare for significant and far-reaching changes to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver point system. These reforms, adopted in late 2024, are designed to more quickly identify high-risk motorists and improve road safety across New York State (NYS). “With these new rules taking effect, it’s important for every New York driver to understand how points work and how they can affect

your driving privileges,” said Clerk Kearns. “If you accumulate too many points, it can cause your license to be suspended or revoked. And points on a license can also impact what you pay for insurance.” Currently, drivers face a possible suspension if they accumulate 11 points within 18 months. However, under the new rules, drivers can face suspension with 10 points within 24 months. This means drivers will have a lower point threshold limit, before facing penalties or possible sus-



pension. Many common violations will now carry more points, making it easier to reach the 10-point threshold: Speeding 1–10 mph over limit: increasing from 3 to 4 points Using a cell phone while driving: increasing from 5 to 6 points Failure to yield to a pedestrian: increasing from 3 to 5 points Reckless driving or passing a stopped school bus: will now result in 8 points, up from 5. Speeding in construction zones is a particular focus under the new law. Violators who exceed the speed limit in a construction zone will now result in 8 points regardless of speed. “This is one of the most dramatic changes in the new law,” Kearns noted. “Construction workers deserve to be protected, and the state is sending a clear message.” Drivers will also see points added for violations that previously never carried none: Equipment violations: 1 point each

Illegal U-turns: 2 points Obstructing traffic: 2 points Failure to move over for emergency vehicles: now 3 points These changes originate from Governor Kathy Hochul’s 2023 State of the State initiative, were formally proposed in the July 2024 New York State Register, adopted in November 2024, and will take effect in February 2026. A major key change took effect in January 2025a for impaired-driving reform. The number of impaired driving convictions that result in a lifetime license revocation has been reduced from five DUI convictions to four. “If you’ve been convicted of driving drunk four times, what the state is saying is you shouldn’t have a

license and shouldn’t be on the road,” said Kearns. “And to every innocent victim of a drunk driver — I don’t know anyone who disagrees with that.” These reforms aim to identify dangerous driving behavior earlier, increase accountability for repeat offenders, and strengthen protections for families on New York’s roadways. “Driving is a responsibility,” said Kearns. “Understanding the rules of the road as well as the new point system helps keep your license in good standing and helps keep our roadways safer for everyone.” Motorists can find full details on point values, violation explanations, and how to review their driving record by visiting the New York State DMV website.

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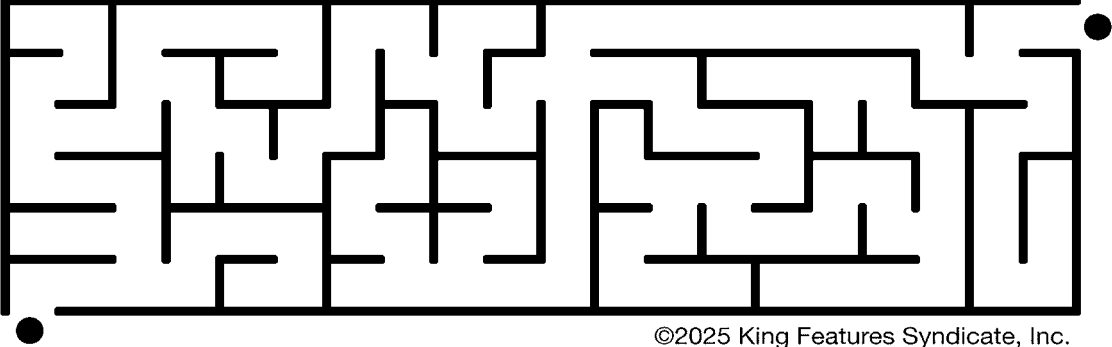
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Kids' Maze



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Answers on page seven.

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Bob & John's Pizzeria.....1545 Hertel Avenue
Caz Mini Mart.....572 Hertel Avenue
Century 21.....1705 Hertel Avenue
Dash's Supermarket.....1770 Hertel Avenue
Delaware YMCA.....2564 Delaware Avenue
Enchanted Hair Salon.....3030 Delaware Avenue
Evans Bank.....2670 Delaware Avenue
Fig Tree Patisserie.....3062 Delaware Avenue
Finishing Touches.....2820 Delaware Avenue
Ginnane Funeral Home.....3215 Delaware Avenue
Gloria J. Parks Community Ctr.....3242 Main Street
Gramma Mora's.....1465 Hertel Avenue
Great Clips.....2678 Delaware Avenue
Hertel Coin Laundry.....1274 Hertel Avenue
Hertel Park Senior Apartments.....1631 Hertel Avenue
Hertel Parker Liquors.....1859 Hertel Avenue
Home Taste (Chinese Cuisine).....3106 Delaware Avenue
Imagine Salon.....1527 Hertel Avenue
Macy's Place.....3100 Delaware Avenue
Joey's Place.....83 Niagara Street
Johnny's Meats.....1191 Hertel Avenue
Knights of Columbus.....1530 Kenmore Avenue
Korona Jewelers.....1588 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

WEST SIDE

Baptist Manor.....276 Linwood Avenue
Buffalo Public Library.....Niagara at Porter
BMHA Housing.....245 Elmwood Avenue
CWJ Lock & Key.....183 Forest Avenue
Corner Store.....Forest & Grant
Delaware Apartments.....1217 Delaware Avenue
Dibble Hardware.....262 West Ferry Street
Elmwood Square Apts.....505 Elmwood Avenue
Fast Stop Food Mart.....326 Military Road
Frontier Liquor & Beverage Ctr.....121 Grant Street
First Niagara Bank.....Elmwood at West Utica
M&T Bank.....130 Grant Street
Military Coin Laundry.....1134 Military Road
Santasiero's Restaurant.....1329 Niagara Street
Timon Towers.....1015 Delaware Avenue
Trinity Tower Apartments.....33 Linwood Avenue


WEST MARKET

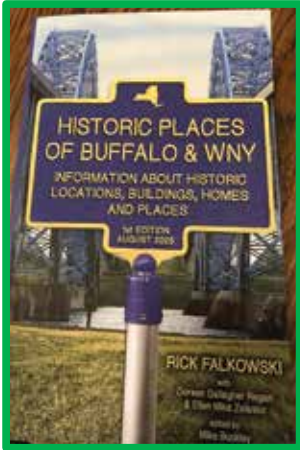
West Market.....1032 West Avenue
West Side Community Center.....Vermont at Fargo

RIVERSIDE

AmVets.....25 Review Place
Black Rock Pharmacy.....431 Tonawanda Street
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D District Police Station.....669 Hertel Avenue
Doyle's Deli.....1981 Niagara Street
Faso Restaurant.....2126 Niagara Street
Fast Stop Food Mart.....236 Military Road
First Niagara Bank.....2141 Elmwood Avenue
First Niagara.....201 Amherst Street
Hearts Thrift Shop.....890 Tonawanda Street
House of Sandwich.....800 Tonawanda Street
M&T Bank.....788 Tonawanda Street
Niagara Deli Pizzeria.....2043 Niagara Street
Nickel City Bottle Return.....2209 Niagara Street
Northwest Buffalo Community Ctr.....155 Lawn Avenue
Pat's Pizzeria.....544 Ontario Street
Pizza Bella.....1133 Tonawanda Street
Riverside Market.....740 Tonawanda Street
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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.



Shea's Performing Arts Center announced registration is now open for "Sing Your Story," a camp for students ages 10 – 17 running during the February school break. Through a song of their choice, students in this camp will explore their unique life experiences to create a personal monologue and sing their story. Under the guidance of Shea's lead teaching artist Alejandro Gómez, participants will develop their own ideas, lighting, and costumes, culminating in a one-of-a-kind performance where they are the star! Sing Your Story concludes with a community showcase on the Shea's Smith Theatre stage, celebrating each student's creativity and voice. The week-long camp will run February 16 – 20 from 9:00AM – 4:00PM daily. Space is limited. The cost of the camp is \$250 for the week, with assistance available to those in need. To register, visit: <https://www.sheas.org/camps/sing-your-story/>.



Solitary Walks Along the North Sea At the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Dec. 11. 2025 5:30pm On Thursday, December 11 at 5:30pm, Ann C. Colley, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Emerita, will present a

screening and talk on her recent work, Solitary Walks along the East Anglia Coast at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo State University. This book is a significant departure from Professor Colley's academic books. Professor Colley's talk will include both audio and visual components, including magnificent windswept visuals of the Anglia Coast in England. Professor Colley has thoughtfully chronicled her weekend walks along the coast, while she was living in Cambridge, England. At the time, she was working on her 2023 literary study, Coleridge and the Geometric Idiom: Walking with Euclide. As a respite from her work in Cambridge, Professor Colley, would board a train destined for one of England's seaside towns. These historic towns reflect memories of a former time when these coastal communities were popular destinations for the British. Today, they see far fewer visitors, leaving the coastal beach – at times – near empty. Thus, according to Professor Colley, the deserted shores of the North Sea make for a near perfect walk. Please join us for this beautiful audio-visual event in the Burchfield Penny Art Penney Art Center. Free and open to the public. For More information, please contact: Susan McCartney, Buffalo State University: 716.878.4030 | Mccartsa@buffalostate.edu.



M&T Bank Presents Third Thursdays at the Buffalo Zoo will continue for one more Thursday in 2025 – December 18 – and three Thursdays in 2026 – January 15, February 19 and March 19. To participate, guests will need to reserve their free tickets online before arriving at the Zoo. Tickets can be reserved at mtb.com/ThirdThursdays. There will be a limit of 10 tickets per group, with timed ticket entry still available between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. While tickets are honored all day, visitors are asked to arrive at the time they

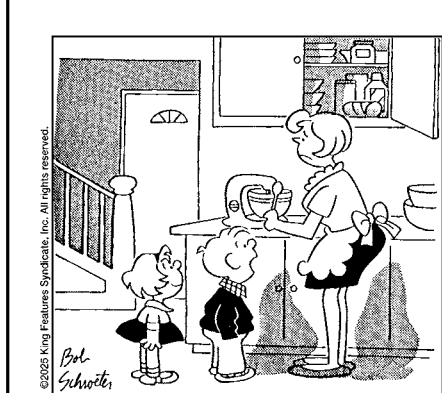
signed up for. Special programming on November 20 will feature several Zookeeper Talks including: 11 a.m. – Snow Leopard Keeper Talk at the Vanishing Animals North Exhibit 12 p.m. – Tawny Frogmouth & Wallaby Keeper Talk at the EcoStation Exhibit 2 p.m. – Bison Keeper Talk at the Bison Exhibit Current members of the Zoo are always admitted, even in the event of a "Third Thursday" sellout. Please note that rides, concessions and parking are not included in the free admission. As the Buffalo Zoo marks its 150th anniversary this year, the M&T Bank Presents Third Thursdays at the Buffalo Zoo program adds to the Zoo's ongoing celebrations, which are taking place through December 2025. M&T is a longtime partner of the Buffalo Zoo and remains the lead sponsor of the M&T Bank Rainforest Falls exhibit. To learn more about the Buffalo Zoo and its latest special events, visit buffalozoo.org.



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



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"Is this the night we give Daddy the big welcome-home routine, or is tomorrow _____?"

Buffalo Zoo Breakfast With Santa

Continued from page one.

old.
Event Details:
• Dates: December 13, 14 & 20
• Sessions: 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
• Location: Children's Resource Center

(seating is first come, first served)



• Tickets: Advance registration required. Spots fill quickly so it is encouraged for guests to reserve their tickets today at buffalozoo.org.

Seeking Submissions Of Original Artwork For Garden Walk Buffalo 2026

Continued from page one.
artwork would be particularly appropriate to Garden Walk Buffalo.

See more information here.

To see past posters, visit GardensBuffaloNiagara.com/past-posters

Email your entry to aclark@gardensbuffaloniagara.com. Include ART ENTRY in the subject line. If possible, zip your

files or use a service like Wettransfer.

One winner will be selected to be featured on the 2026 Garden Walk Buffalo poster. That winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium. The contest is open to US residents only.

For more information, email aclark@gardensbuffaloniagara.com or call (716) 247-5004.

First Night Buffalo Kicks Off 2026 Celebrations

Continued from page one.
December 31, and includes:

Jeff the Animal Guy of Nickel City Reptiles & Exotics

DJ Milk
Jim the Balloon Guy
Drawing with Mallory
Squiggly Art Face Painting

Storytime with Kristine
Master Khechen's Tae Kwon Do

Characters from Emmalee's Memories

And more!

"For over 35 years, we've been on a mission to help families create unforgettable New Year's Eve memories, and we are thrilled to keep the magic alive with this year's First Night® Buffalo programming," said Carrie Meyer, Executive Director of the Independent Health Foundation. "This initiative is a true collaboration, bringing together amazing partners, along with entertainers like DJ

Milk and Jeff the Animal Guy. We're excited to deliver high-energy performances for families across Western New York."

A portion of the proceeds from Party Pack sales will benefit Oishei Children's Hospital, helping fund critical programs, lifesaving technology, and advance care to achieve the best possible outcomes for moms, kids, and babies in Western New York.

First Night® Buffalo 2026 is brought to you by the Independent Health Foundation and is sponsored by Independent Health, Tops Friendly Markets, Compu-Mail, LLC, EyeMed, Greyline Outdoor Advertising, NationsBenefits, Prime Therapeutics, The Buffalo News, NTT Data, Jamestown Container Companies, 7 News WKBW, and Explore & More, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum.

FREE NORTH PARK PASSES: John Jaime, 37 Frontenac Ave., 14216

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!

God	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
TIDEY	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Fold	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
PLATE	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Rouse	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
WEAKO	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Hint	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
LIMPY	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

TODAY'S WORD

Answers on page five.

CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

Notice of Formation of Buffalo Digital Press, LLC, LLC Articles of Org. filed with the Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/25. 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 David Pinero: 188 W. Ferry St. Upper, Buffalo, NY 14213. Any lawful purpose. 2

Under §182 of the New York State Lien Law Lincoln Self Storage will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION all of the personal property stored by: Lukas Ramos, A313; Archie Cox, H105; Larysa Drappo, B207; Eric Stainbrook, B109; Kaylia Wilson, H112; Jake Boye, D205. The Auction will be online at www.STORAGETREASURES.COM starting on December 18, 2025, at 9:00 PM EST, and ending on January 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST. Owner reserves the right to bid at auction, reject any/all bids, cancel or adjourn sale. To resolve this claim contact Lincoln Self Storage, 716-874-1380. 50

Buffalo City School District
Request for Bid/Proposal

RFP 26-0627-045 NY Protein for the 2026-2027 School Year

RFP 26-0627-046 NY Protein Processing for the 2026-2027 School Year

RFP 26-0627-047 USDA Processed Food Commodities for the 2026-2027 School Year

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Jennifer LoTempio,
Director of Purchase 50

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Request for Bid/Proposal

RFP 26-0632-043 Leased Dark and Lit Fiber Services

BID 26-0627E5-044 Network Switches

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Jennifer LoTempio,
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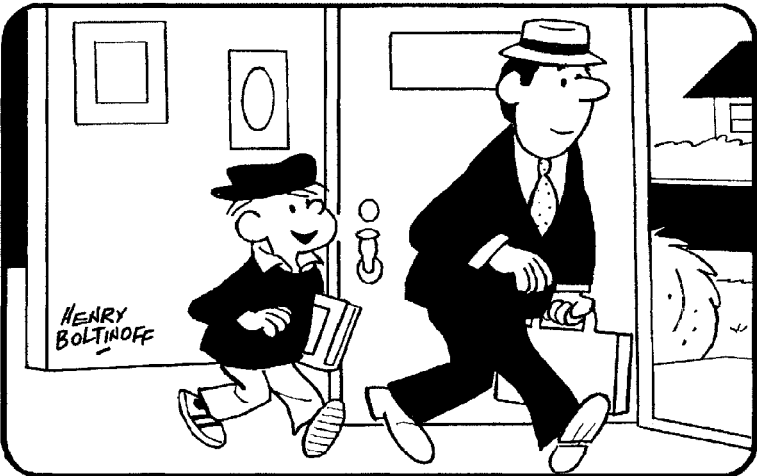
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

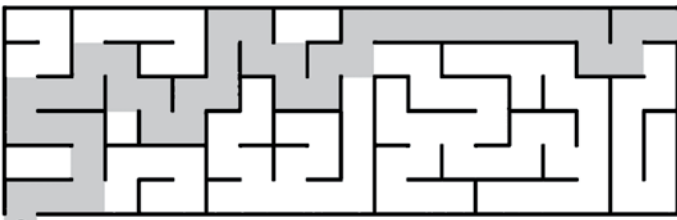


Differences: 1. Picture frame is higher. 2. Doorknob is larger. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Collar is missing. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Book is smaller.

GAMES

1. Duke. 2. The Ming dynasty. 3. "Holes." 4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. 5. Kneecap. 6. Santiago. 7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon. 8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum. 9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez. 10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits.

Kids' Maze Solution



Puzzle on page five.

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.
MUSSES OHM RAGU
ATIT RAM ALES
RASA CHIFFONS
CHILEAN OTTER
BRASS CHITING
BAHNS GAS MOI
CHIPPER RHORN
HOE ORO
SOFAS CHINUPS
CHISHOLM ELEC
ATRE DUA SARA
MOSS DEN TNUIT
Puzzle on page three.

EUROPEAN CANDY
S P O R D N O P N O L
M A C A R O N
T N E
E S E
M M R A C
P K E M M R A C
S R A M O G U T A K T I V
Z E P A
Puzzle on page three.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer
6 8 4 3 2 1 7 9 5
7 1 3 5 4 9 2 8 6
5 9 2 8 6 7 3 1 4
8 7 1 9 5 6 4 2 3
9 3 6 4 1 2 5 7 8
4 2 5 7 8 3 1 6 9
1 4 9 2 3 8 6 5 7
3 6 7 1 9 5 8 4 2
2 5 8 6 7 4 9 3 1
Puzzle on page three.

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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Deity; 2. Pleat;
3. Awoke; 4. Imply

Today's Word

PAYDAY

Puzzle on page two.

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